

Sports

Cornhuskers dominate UCLA in gymnastics meet

By Jeff Goodwin

The top two gymnastics teams met Thursday night in the Bob Devaney Sports Center and, just as they did earlier this season, the Cornhuskers defeated the UCLA Bruins, but by an even greater margin. The score was 283.95-277.20.

Nebraska dominated the meet from the start as they won the floor exercise event and proceeded to capture victories in the rest of the evening's events.

Husker Coach Francis Allen was happy with the results.

"I couldn't be more pleased," Allen said.

The Huskers were once again led by Jim Hartung who captured the all-around with a score of 57.75.

Hartung placed first in the floor exercise, pommel horse and rings. He was followed in the all-around by UCLA's Peter Vidmar who scored 57.45.

Vidmar tied Hartung for first place in the floor exercise and won on parallel bars.

Nebraska's Scott Johnson was third with a score of 57.25.

Allen was pleased Hartung was able to come back after a subpar performance at Oklahoma last week.

"At Oklahoma we tried a few new things and they didn't work," Allen said. "That was the coaches fault."

Allen had nothing but praise for the Bruins.

"I was impressed with UCLA," Allen said. "I have a lot of respect for them. We got 47 in every event. When you do that, it's going to be hard to lose, no matter who you're playing. The older Caso (Mark) isn't at full strength and when he's hurt it takes a lot out of their vaulting and floor exercise."

Allen said he thought Nebraska's win in the UCLA Invitational was a big factor.

"When we went out there, they (UCLA) felt they had us at their mercy," Allen said. "But we put it all together and beat them. Realistically, they had to come in here thinking about that."

UCLA Coach Art Shurlock discounted the effect of the teams earlier loss.

"I don't think that was much of a factor," Shurlock said. "We're still coming back from a lot of injuries."



Photo by Jodie Fields

Nebraska's Jim Hartung performs on still rings in Thursday night's dual against UCLA. Hartung placed first on rings, as well as pommel horse, floor exercise and all-around. The Huskers beat UCLA with a score of 283.95.

The Huskers travel to Carbondale, Ill., this weekend to meet Southern Illinois University in a dual meet. Then they start to prepare for the Big Eight championship which will be held in Lincoln March 19 and 20.

Allen said he would use some new people in this Sun-

day's meet.

"We want to make sure everyone's ready for the Big Eight championships," he said.

"We'll probably score a point or two lower than usual, but we expect that."

Senior forward reminisces on past dreams, best games

By Bob Asmussen

As Kansas State senior forward Ed Nealy was growing up in Bonner Springs, Kan., he dreamed of playing basketball for the University of Kansas.

"Kansas State and Yale were the only two big schools that recruited me," Nealy said. "Kansas didn't recruit me, not a bit."

Nealy said he was disappointed at first that Kansas failed to recruit him. But after his four years at Kansas State as a starter, Nealy said he has no regrets.

"I really like Kansas State," Nealy said. "I have no second thoughts about coming here. This is a really good school and Manhattan is a nice community."

Nealy will play his last regular season game in Ahearn Center Saturday against Nebraska and his final game at home will be Tuesday's Big Eight tournament.

Meaningful game

"It's sad but it sort of pumps you up," Nealy said. "It's going to be the last time I get to play in front of the home crowd. Tuesday's going to be an emotional game."

"We haven't talked about it much because we were in a slump," Nealy said of the seniors' last game. "We definitely want to go out winners."

Kansas State has come out of the slump in its last few games. Saturday, the Wildcats defeated Kansas 63-53, and Wednesday they defeated Missouri 57-56 in Columbia.

Nealy leads the Big Eight in rebounding with 9.4 rebounds per game. Nealy stands 6-7 but usually out-rebounds players taller than him.

"Positioning is the key to rebounding. You don't have to be a great jumper or be real tall to be a good rebounder. I've worked pretty hard at it," Nealy said.

With the graduation of all-American Rolando Blackman, Nealy said he has had to look to score more this season than in the past.

"At the beginning of the year, I was ready when the shot opportunity came," Nealy said. "In the middle of the year I

had some tough luck with my shooting. Coach Hartman asked me what was wrong. He told me I needed to shoot the ball more than I was."

No. 3 scorer

Nealy said two games he has played against Nebraska stick out in his mind: A 61-60 overtime Wildcat win in the 1979 Big Eight post-season tournament, and the Wildcat's 60-59 victory in the 1980 Big Eight semifinals.

"Nebraska has always played us tough," Nealy said. "They're never very tall but they are always quick and they play aggressively."

Nealy said Saturday's game will be the same as the other games the teams have played in recent years.

"It's going to be tough," Nealy said. "We can't take Nebraska lightly. They've got quite a team if they can beat Missouri by 16 down there."

Nealy said winning the Big Eight tournament is the team's main objective.

"If we don't win it we feel we would still deserve a spot in the NCAA tournament," Nealy said. "We think we're going to win the Big Eight, so hopefully we won't have to worry about that."

Last season Kansas State advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament. They were defeated by eventual runner-up North Carolina. Nealy said his team was never really in the North Carolina game.

"I think we went out with the attitude that we were happy to be this far," Nealy said. "We got caught up in how well we'd done up to that point."

Office selling tickets

The Nebraska Athletic Ticket Office, South Stadium 117, is selling student tickets for next Thursday's Big Eight basketball tournament game.

Students can buy a general admission ticket for \$2. They must present their student ID card when they buy the ticket and when they enter the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The bleacher seating on the arena floor will be reserved for students.

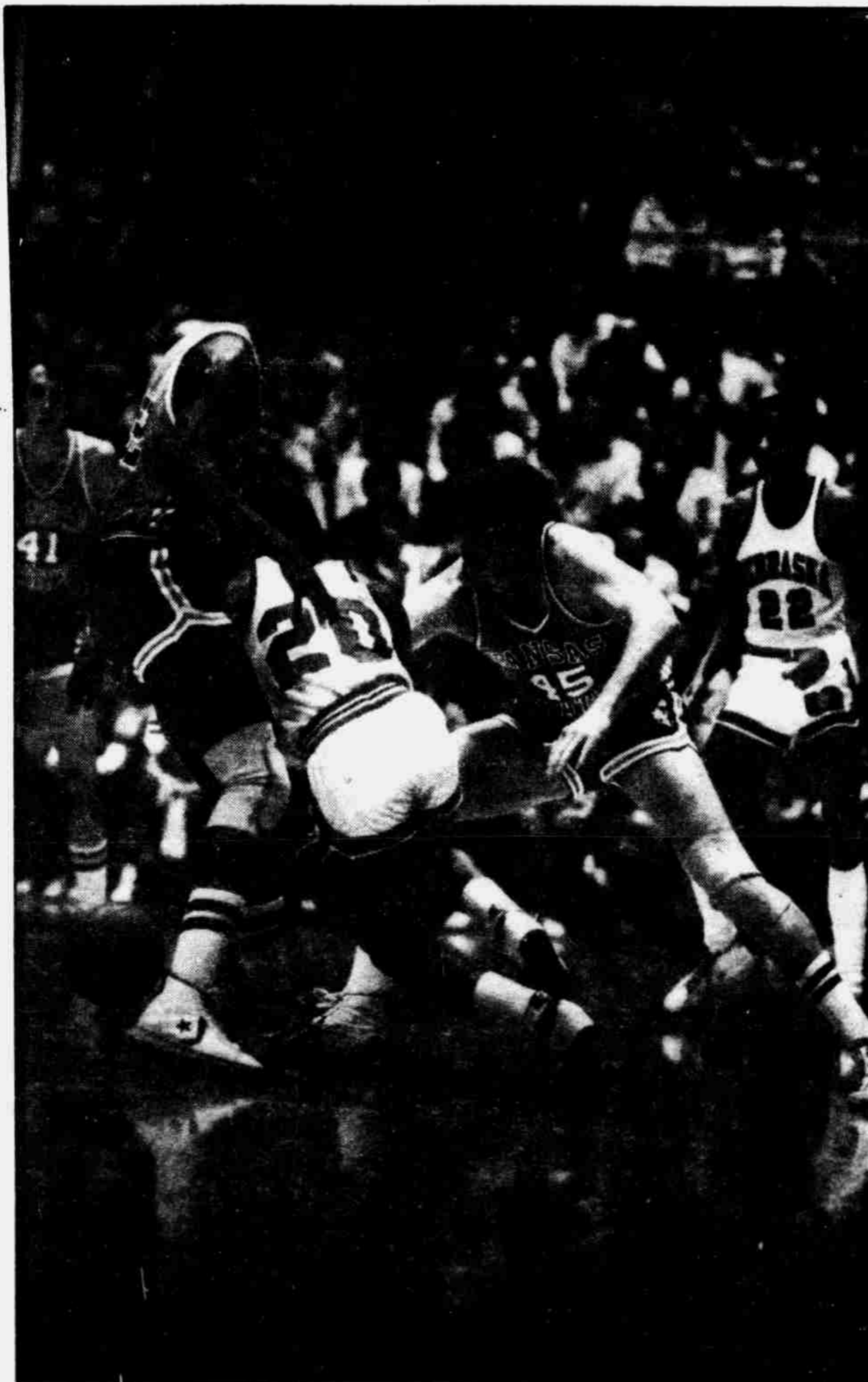


Photo by Dave Bentz

Kansas State's Ed Nealy (45) puts defensive pressure on Nebraska's Handy Johnson (20) in the Wildcat's 75-64 win last month at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.