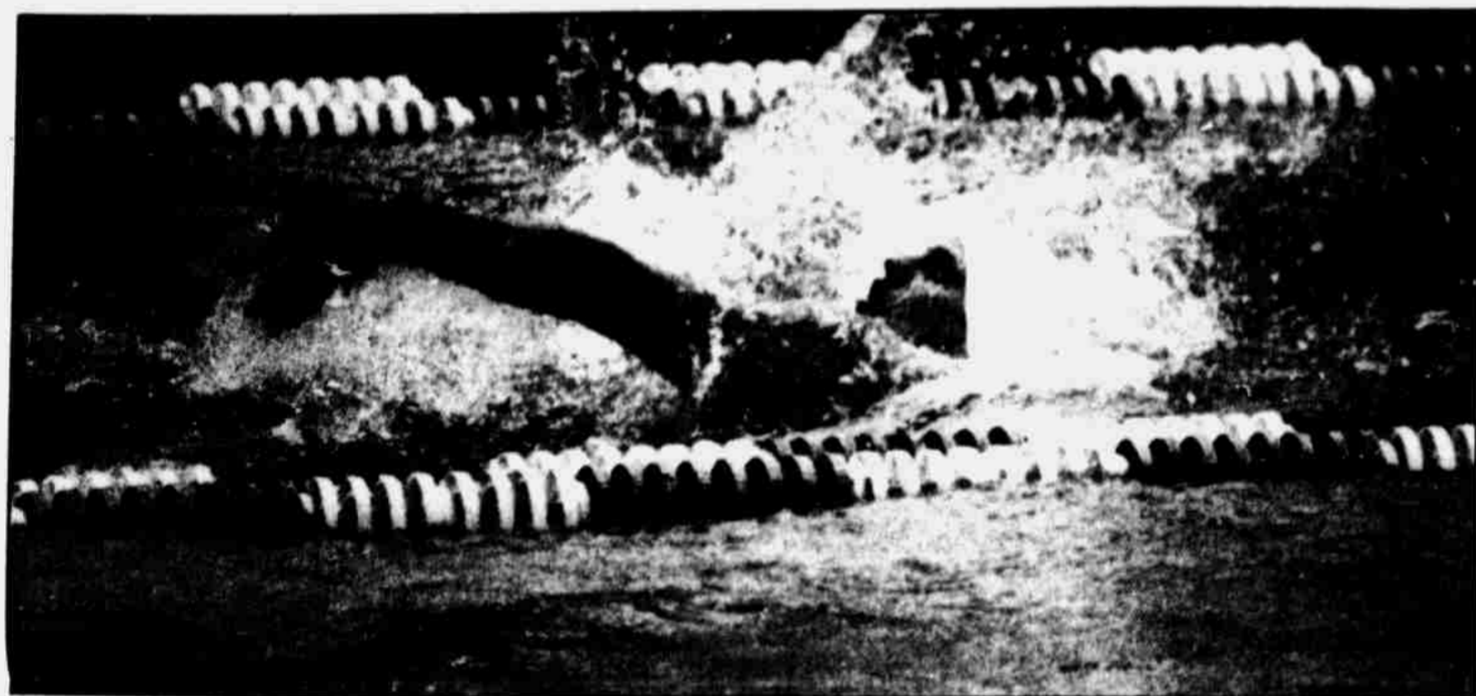


Sports



Huskers make splash, win third consecutive Big Eight championship

A third consecutive Big Eight championship capped a perfect conference season for the Nebraska men's swimming and diving squad this weekend.

The Huskers outscored second-place Iowa State, 542.5-392.5, in the championships Thursday through Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool.

Missouri finished third in the meet with 372.5, Kansas was fourth with 326.5 and Oklahoma fifth with 113.

"Everytime we swam it was a highlight," Nebraska Coach Cal Bentz said after the meet. "I'm just real pleased with the way everyone performed."

One of the highlights for the Huskers was freshmen Cliff Looschen. Looschen was named the outstanding contestant of the meet after garnering six gold medals and setting six Big Eight records.

Looschen won the 50-yard freestyle, the 100- and 200-yard backstroke and swam on all three winning Husker relays.

Junior Kevin Weires aided the Husker cause with four gold medals. Weires was part of two winning relays and won both the 100- and 200-yard freestyle events. Jim Korff and Tim Boyd finished second and third.

After Missouri diver Steve Braun took first in the one-meter competition Thursday, the Husker diving quartet of Lance Green, Reynaldo Castro, Dave Goodwin and Scott Hinrichs swept the first four places in Saturday's three-meter competition. All four divers met the national qualifying mark.

Matt Rye also captured a gold medal for the Huskers in the 200-yard breaststroke. Rye's time of 2:03.26 was a new meet record and a national qualifying time. Rye also finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Nebraska qualified eight competitors in individual events and two relay teams for the NCAA championships. The national meet will be March 25 through 27 in Madison, Wis. Bentz said the Huskers will have time trials to try and qualify more individuals for the meet.

In addition to Looschen and Rye, Rick Gilbertson met the qualifying standard in the 220-yard breaststroke.

"We had our ups and downs this season," Bentz said. "But our guys came back. These guys are great."



Clockwise, starting upper left: Nebraska swimming Coach Cal Bentz takes a dive in the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool after the Huskers claimed their third straight Big Eight title Saturday; Diver Scott Hinrichs competes in the three-meter competition; Husker diving Coach Jeff Huber, far left, and third-place finisher Dave Goodwin, first-place finisher Lance Green, second-place finisher Reynaldo Castro and fourth-place finisher Scott Hinrichs celebrate a 1-2-3-4 sweep in the three-meter event; Kevin Weires, Tim Boyd and Jeff Korff celebrate their first through third place finishes in the 100-yard freestyle; Husker Cliff Looschen swims to a new Big Eight record in the 200-yard backstroke.



Photos by Dave Bentz
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