

Gymnasts to vie for second

The big question in this weekend's Big Eight Gymnastics Championships is not whether Nebraska will win but who will finish second.

Iowa State Coach Ed Gagnier is one of Nebraska's strongest boosters.

"It's no disgrace being second to Nebraska," Gagnier said. "There's no way I can see Nebraska losing if they're at full strength. They're the most impressive team I've seen in 20 years of coaching."

Gagnier said he hopes the Cyclones, currently ranked third in the country, will be able to defeat Oklahoma for second.

"It would be important for us to do well against Oklahoma," Gagnier said. "They've been very close to us all year."

The Sooners defeated Iowa State at Ames and the Cyclones returned the favor a few weeks later by beating Oklahoma in Norman.

Gagnier said he is hopeful about his team's chances in the national meet in Lincoln next month.

"I think we have the potential to chal-

lenge UCLA for second place," Gagnier said. "But I don't think UCLA has any better chance of beating Nebraska than we do."

Oklahoma Coach Paul Ziert also conceded the conference title to the Huskers.

"Our chances are zero," Ziert said. "I don't think there's any question about that. It's certain that Nebraska will win."

Ziert said the meet was important to Oklahoma's chances of qualifying for the nationals.

"If we score around 272 points we would move into a position where we could qualify for the national championships," Ziert said.

Ziert agreed with Gagnier that competition between Iowa State and Oklahoma should be close.

Ziert was optimistic about the Sooners' chances at the nationals.

"We've got a few injuries and I think the time between the Big Eights and the nationals would give us time to get some guys healthy," Ziert said.

Women swimmers, divers fly to Florida for nationals

By Mark Quandahl

Coach Ray Huppert and his women's swimming NCAA qualifiers left Lincoln early Monday to fly to the national swimming and diving tournament which runs Thursday through Sunday in Gainesville, Fla.

"We wanted to leave early so we could get there in enough time to get accustomed to the pool," Huppert said.

Swimming for Nebraska will be freshman Melody Barker, who qualified in the 500-yard freestyle and junior Sherri Hayward, a 100-yard and 200-yard backstroke qualifier.

Diving Coach Jeff Huber said freshmen Wendy Lucero and Marcia Heaton returned late Sunday from the NCAA diving preliminaries in Dallas, Texas.

In Dallas, Lucero qualified for the NCAA contest by winning top honors on the low board and second place on the high. Heaton just missed qualification by placing fourth on the low board. Only the top three positions qualify.

Lucero had little time to relax, as the Husker men's and women's diving contingent were to leave for Florida early Tuesday.

"We'll fly down, rest up, and maybe have a light workout Tuesday night," Huber said. "Then we'll have practices all day Wednesday and we dive on Thursday."

Huber said Megan Neyer of Florida will be one of Lucero's toughest opponents, he said he thinks Lucero "has a really good chance of going all-American."

This will be the third straight NCAA contest for two-time all-American Hayward. In 1980 she placed 12th in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:06:08, and in 1981 she placed 14th with a 2:05:84.

"I feel she's trying to shoot for her best time," Huppert said. "She'd really like to crack the top six."

Although this will be Barker's first NCAA, Huppert said she would be able to hold her own against the competition.

"She is young," Huppert said, "but she probably has more experience, next to Sherri, than anyone on the team."

"Both are good quality athletes and both are ranked in the top 25 in the U.S., so they're accustomed to this caliber of competition," he said.

"It will be an extremely tough meet," Huppert said.

He said the NCAA Tournament will contain about 85 percent of the top teams in the country, as opposed to the AIAW meet, which chiefly is composed of weaker teams.

With only three athletes practicing (Husker Elisabeth Brudvik was readying herself for her native Norwegian nationals), Huppert said the workouts lose their team concept. He said the focus was on keeping loose and keeping the emotion going.

"The important thing is to get in the water and get that good feeling," he said.

"I honestly feel they know what they have to do to score," Huppert said.

Intramurals

Bill Goa drove in Jeff DeBoer from third base in the bottom of the fifth inning to allow the Baseball Furies to defeat Lambda Chi Alpha and Gamma Phi Beta 11-10 in the championship game of the co-recreational intramural indoor wiffleball league.

Lambda Chi Alpha and Gamma Phi Beta, last year's champion, staged a rally in the top of the fifth inning as they scored five runs to tie the score. In the bottom of the fifth, DeBoer singled, Sara Lockwood followed with a double sending DeBoer to third and then Goa stroked his game winning hit.

The Baseball Furies advanced to the finals with a 11-10 win against Beta Theta Pi and Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Members of the winning team are: Goa, DeBoer, Lockwood, Lois Fiala, John Pritchard, Debbie Due, Turner Beard, Mary Pritchard and Shawn Olsen.

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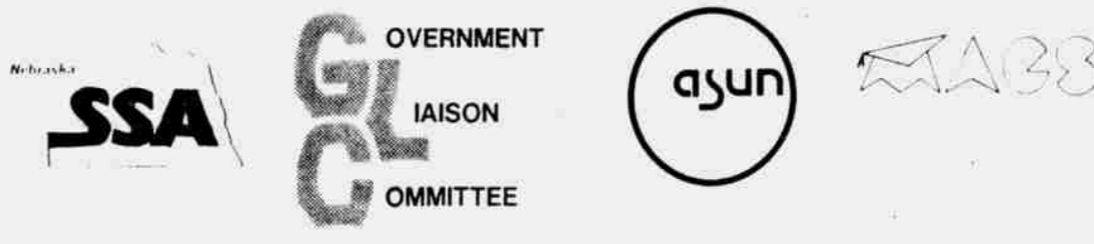
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