

UN-L's Allen says judging unfair

BY PAT MASTERS

Unfair judging in gymnastics has spread from the Communist countries into the United States. And it has angered Francis Allen, coach of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln team.

Allen said his gymnasts may soon boycott a national meet—they will show up as if to perform and then sit along the mats and watch.

The Nebraska team is powerful enough that people will notice and maybe it will force the United States Gymnastics Federation to start using unbiased judges, Allen said.

Nebraska has won the NCAA gymnastics title the last four years, tying Illinois for consecutive championships.

Allen said that boycotting a meet is a last alternative, though.

"I want to present my ideas to top people, get to top people without making a stink," he said.

At Princeton University, Allen recently talked to a top gymnastics judge who agreed with Allen that unfair judging exists, but Allen said once his back was turned he doubted the judge's concern.

At the USA gymnastics championships this year in Syracuse, N.Y., Peter Vidmar, the NCAA all-around champion from UCLA slipped on a dismount from the parallel bars and was still awarded a 9.65 score. Hartung scored a 9.7 and had no noticeable flaws, Allen said.

The federation is pushing Vidmar as the number one gymnast in the nation because he would be the hometown boy during the 1984 Olympics, Allen said. That's fine, he said, as long as Vidmar isn't pushed in front of another American (Hartung).

If Hartung doesn't go into the Olympics as the number one gymnast he has no chance of winning a medal, Allen said. Gymnasts from

Russia, China and Japan will make it very tough, he said.

The top six gymnasts of each country perform beginning with their sixth best. Judges expect the best to be last and they often award points on reputation alone, he said.

At the World Cup in Toronto this year communist judges were pushing for a soviet gymnast to finish at least second.

"They were just plain giving him scores in Canada," Allen said.

In one routine the gymnast didn't even perform a basic requirement—a difficult move into a C position under the parallel bar—and he was awarded a 9.7 score. That was a "flagrant violation of rules," Allen said.

Two judges from Canada and the United States argued to no avail with the head Soviet judge who said the gymnast had fulfilled the requirement. U.S. judge John Scheer had scored a 9.4 for the soviet gymnast. He said he talked with other judges not in the compe-

tion who would have scored it a 9.3 or a 9.4.

Scheer, a professor of physical education and recreation at UN-L, has judged international meets for six years and national meets for 12.

He said the soviet gymnast was awarded a 9.7 score in another event that wouldn't have been above a 8.7 in the United States. The Soviet head judge was caught cheating once when he changed scores of the other judges after the competition.

"Communist judges just don't care. In big international meets rules are just thrown out," Scheer said.

Gymnastics judging has also become more political in the United States. Allen said there isn't a U.S. coach who doesn't want fair judging.

The United States is the land of the free, but that hardly applies to gymnastics when cheating exists, Allen said.

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Fireworks sales limited for safety

BY PAT MASTERS

Those early pops, bangs and screeches you hear days and weeks before this country's Independence Day are still illegal. People still shoot fireworks off early and Lincoln Police haven't noticed any change in the problems even though the sale and shooting of fireworks has been limited to Saturday and Sunday.

Officer John Grubb said anyone caught shooting fireworks illegally can be charged with a misdemeanor possession of illegal fireworks. The fine is left to a judge's discretion.

Firework sales started Friday and last until Sunday across the state.

Chief Deputy Sheriff for Lancaster County, Merl Hesser, said fireworks are traditionally shot illegally. He said he doesn't expect any new problems just the usual "kids blowing up mailboxes."

The story was different for four Unadilla people about 12 years ago.

Nebraska State Patrol Captain R.J. Syslo said the four died when their car "literally blew up" from an explosion of m-80's they were carrying.

The State Patrol can't make periodic checks of cars for illegal fireworks unless they first have probable cause for stopping the car, Syslo said.

He said anyone caught with possession of illegal fireworks can be charged with unlawful possession of explosive material—a class three misdemeanor punishable of up to three months in jail and/or a fine not exceeding \$500.

Legal fireworks in Nebraska include sparklers, spray fountains, vesuvius fountains, colored fire cones, stars and comet type area shells, color wheels and ladyfingers not exceeding seven-eighths of an inch. Fire works banned in Omaha

The ladyfinger is illegal in Lincoln and

fireworks are completely banned in Omaha. In nearby Bellevue there are 45 stands in the limited nine block area.

People can buy fireworks in Eagle, Hickman or Raymond, but firework stands can't be set up.

Stands must be set up in a incorporated village or a municipality according to Pat Egan who has 16 stands in Lincoln and 19 in smaller towns outside of Lincoln.

The banning of ladyfingers in Lincoln and the restriction to only two days of fireworks sales have cost Egan to lose nearly two-thirds of his business. The state isn't collecting as much sales tax on fireworks and jobs are being lost, especially by teenagers, Egan added.

But that isn't Egan's main gripe. He is concerned about the children who might not experience the Fourth of July.

"Imagine a little boy, 10 years-old, with a punk in his mouth, sitting on a street curb with a strip of lady fingers," Egan said.

Tuesday in Raymond, Egan said he saw a boy fitting that description sitting in front of a grocery store. That is why the government should stop regulating fireworks—so all children can enjoy them, he said.

In Lincoln children under 18 must have adult supervision to buy and shoot fireworks.

The manager of Duffy's Fireworks, Bob High, said the new law is putting a strain on his business, but "he will hold up under it."

The new law will make it safer for Lincoln only if everyone cooperates. High said he would prefer fireworks be sold for at least seven days in Lincoln.

Sunday night at Holmes Park, 70th and Van Dorn streets, fireworks will be displayed beginning at sundown. Admission will be charged for this years display at the park.

Fireworks can be set off in designated areas at Branched Oak Lake, 18 miles northwest of Lincoln and at Wagon Train, 15 miles southeast of Lincoln by Hickman.

Fireworks for the 4th

BY JEAN TIMMERMAN

You can expect more 'oohs' and 'aahs' this year at the Holmes Park Fourth of July fireworks display.

The display play is scheduled to last nearly a half an hour this year as compared to last years sparse 15 minutes.

The public will also be footing part of the bill for this years light fantastic. Be prepared to hand over \$1 to watch the display from inside Holmes Park. Although there was no fee charged last year, city officials seem to think that the public won't mind paying for the

extra quality of this years display. The display at Holmes Park will begin at 10 p.m.

Other Holmes Park 4th of July activities include:

- Noon — sailboat races.
- 1:30 p.m. — softball game between KFOR radio and the event's sponsors.
- 2 p.m. — canoe races.
- 3 p.m. — model airplane flying exhibition by the Lincoln Sky Knights.
- 6 p.m. — Kawasaki Jet Ski demonstration.
- 7:30 p.m. — Lincoln Municipal Band.
- 8:30 p.m. — parachutists from the Lincoln Sport Parachute Club.



Photo by Kris Mullen

Michelle Stark of Lincoln examined the fireworks being sold by the Waverly Jaycees Tuesday. Lincoln law prohibits the sale of fireworks until Saturday but those wishing to purchase fireworks early can find them in several surrounding communities.

Court rules Nebraskan is disabled because of 'inadequate personality'

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Overturning a lower court, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Wednesday ordered disability benefits to a Nebraska man suffering from an "inadequate personality."

Wayne L. Tennant filed for the Social Security benefits Jan. 26, 1979, contending that he suffered from corns and calluses on his feet, nystagmus of the eye, and a personality disorder termed inadequate personality.

He backed his claim up with testimony of a Creighton University psychiatrist, Dr. David R. Franks.

The psychiatrist termed Tennant "an inadequate personality with limited intellectual and physical resources which renders him pretty inept at dealing with everyday things both interpersonally, socially and vocationally. This is compounded by a chronic anxiety which impairs him further."

"I do not see how it can be argued that a personality disorder such as this is not seriously and permanently disabling," Dr. Franks concluded.

An administrative law judge disagreed, saying Tennant could hold less demanding jobs.

That finding was upheld by the Social Se-

curity Administration's Office of Hearings and Appeals and by a federal judge in Nebraska. But a three-judge panel of the 8th Circuit said there was no evidence that Tennant could hold any job.

"The most compelling evidence relates to Tennant's work history," it said. "Tennant has held 46 jobs in his 12 years of employment. His longest tenure at any job was six months.

"It appears that he has been fired from most of these jobs," said the appeals panel.

The panel said Tennant was discharged from his last job in September 1978, denied unskilled labor jobs by five firms in the next three months, and refused assistance by the state employment agency in Hastings because "you give us a bad reputation," according to testimony.

"His attempts at self-employment such as cutting lawns, have been similarly doomed," said the panel.

"There is virtually no evidence in the record to support a finding that Tennant can engage in substantial gainful employment," said the appeals court, ordering the Secretary of Health and Human Services to pay Tennant disability benefits dating back to Aug. 26, 1976.