Competitors cross swords at kendo championships

By Mark Hansen

Two competitors, clad in armorlike protective gear, crossed swords in the center of the marked-off area that served as an arena.

They struggled against one another for a few seconds, then separated with a shout and a loud crack as one of the wooden swords struck a competitor's helmet.

The sixth annual Rocky Mountain Kendo Championships were being held at the UNL Coliseum Sunday.

Kendo means "way of the sword" in Japanese. It is the Japanese counterpart of western fencing.

Kendo competitors are separated into classes according to their levels of experience. Experience is measured by rank; either sixth through first "kyu" (sub-black belt), or "yudansha", (black belt holders). Classes for women and youngsters also are provided.

UNL students involved in kendo, either through UNL's Nippon Shobukai martial arts club or the kendo offered through the physical

education department, made a good showing.

In the round-robin style of scoring used for Sunday's meet, each opponent must face every other competitor in his division. The winner then is decided according to the total points scored by each competitor throughout the day.

In the fifth and sixth kyu combined class, UNL kendo competitors won the top three positions.

Hiroshi Miyata, a junior journalism major from Japan, took first with 17

Doug Dygas, a UNL computer services computer operator, placed second, with 16 points.

Tarn Davis, a freshman psychology major, tied with Rick Hobusch of Denver, Colo., for third place with 15 points.

In the fourth through first kyu combined division, Brad Holmes, a member of the UNL's Nippon Shobukai martial arts club, finished in second place behind Joe Kato of Denver, Colo.



Creighton scored three times in the first inning with a walk and three singles defeating UNO 3-1 Sunday. The victory gave Creighton the championship of the fall version of the Husker Invitational Softball Tournament held Saturday and Sunday at Memorial Stadium.

Ann Coughenour picked up the win for Creighton, which won all four of its tournament games. Jenny Pullen was the loser for UNO.

After splitting its two games Saturday, Nebraska was knocked out of the tournament Sunday by Northwest Missouri State 1-0 in eight innings.

Although the Huskers produced base runners in all but one inning, the game remained a scoreless tie until the bottom of the eighth. The Bearkittens loaded

the bases with two singles and a Husker fielding error, setting up the game-winning single by Bev Wimer.

Paula Rutherford was the winning pitcher for Northwest Missouri State, while Husker Sandy Wolterman was tagged with her fifth loss in eight decisions this season.

Saturday, Wyoming took advantage of four Husker errors to score two unearned runs en route to a 3-1 win. Nebraska also committed three more errors against UNO, but won 3-2 with two runs in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Nebraska, whose record now stands at 7-7, will meet Creighton in a doubleheader Tuesday in Omaha. The Oklahoma State Invitational this weekend will complete the fall season.



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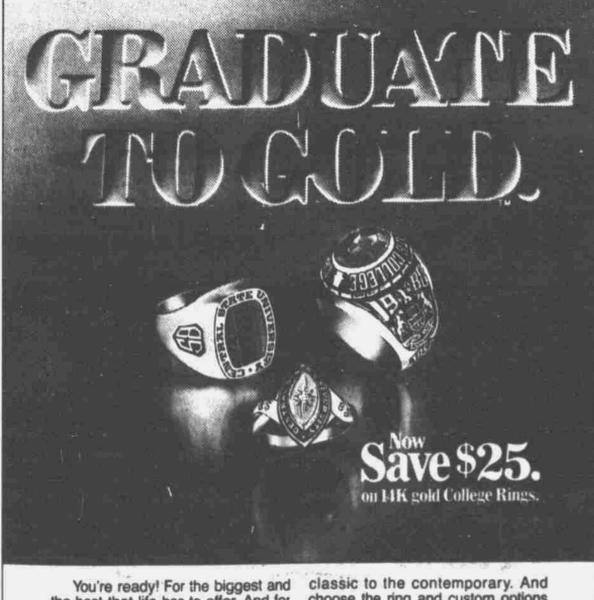
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