Husker gymnasts' tumbles fail to shake Coach Allen

By Jeff Goodwin

Nebraska gymnastics coach Francis Allen said he is disappointed that his team lost last week to Iowa State and Oklahoma but he isn't disheartned.

"We hadn't planned on losing a match this year and we did," Allen said, "We've only lost two meets in three years and we're not used to it. But I'm glad we lost when Bob Devaney was out of town."

Allen blamed himself in part for last

weekend's defeats.

"We had ESPN (cable TV's Entertainment and Sports Programming Network) come in last Monday and Tuesday to film some instructional clinics. We lost two

days of practice that we could have used."

Allen said the Huskers were also hampered by injuries to Chris Riegel and Jim

"We had our number three and four all-arounders out," Allen said, "But we took a team down there that could have won. We just didn't perform well."

Allen said there was a positive note to Nebraska's loss.

"I think it will be good for us," he

said. "It will be a motivational factor for

Mikus should be ready to perform Sunday when the Huskers travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to meet Michigan and Ohio State in a triangular meet, but the date

of Riegel's return is in doubt, Allen said. "We're going to let the doctors take care of that," he said. "We don't know

yet when he'll be back." Allen said this weekend's meet should

"Ohio State has scored a 277, almost a 278, and with us going 275 last weekend it'll be interesting," Allen said.

The week after the triangular, Nebraska travels to Penn State, site of this year's national championships, to take on the Nittany Lions.

"That'll be a big meet for us," Allen said, "Penn State is doing very well this year. There's a lot of rivalry involved with

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Penn State because of football and we'll want to beat them, I don't think they'll be able to beat us but I didn't think Oklahoma would be able to beat us either."

Allen said he was optimistic about Nebraska's chances of repeating as na-

tional champions. "When we get Mikus and Riegel back in the lineup and get some experience under our belts we'll be a good team,"

Allen said he is also interested in the possibilities of chartering a bus for Husker fans to follow the team to Ames, Iowa, for the Big Eight Championships in March.

Track and field team face challenge of weekend Pentathlon, triangular

By Barry Trevarrow

Cornhusker track fans will get a double dose of excitement this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Nebraska women's indoor track and field team will compete in the Husker Pentathlon Friday at 5 p.m. and take on Iowa State and Iowa in a triangular meet at 1:30 Saturday.

The Pentathlon will feature seven athletes from the midwest competing in the 60-meter hurdles, shot put, high jump, long-jump and 800-meter run. Sophomore Marion Goedhardt and junior Cathy Seybold are entered for Nebraska. Goedhardt, an All-American last year, finished second in the Big Eight Invitational last year while Seybold, a junior, was the 1981 Big Eight indoor champion.

All-Americans Cathy Gillespie and Chris Davenport, both from Iowa, are entered as well as Wichita State's Rene Baumgardener. Three-time All-American shotputter Cecil Hansen and Jill Lancaster, both unattached graduates from Oklahoma, complete the confirmed entries. Kangaroo Track Club member Rene Nickles, a member of last summer's U.S. National Team.

also might compete.

"Our two girls are really anxious for this. They've worked very hard because there is only two such events all season," said Nebraska Coach Gary Pepin.

Saturday's meet marks the first home appearance for the Huskers, Iowa and Iowa State will pose different problems for the

"lowa State is a traditionally strong distance and mid-distance team," Pepin said. "They are one of the better cross country teams in the nation. They're not real strong in the field events, though."

Pepin said Iowa will challenge the Hus-

"They always have a real strong dual meet team," he said. "They're well-balanced and should make it a good meet for our kids."

Iowa features one of last year's fastest high school sprinters in Vivian McKenzie.

Pepin said the absence of Pam Schubarth, Janice Ohrt, Sue Nelson and Rhonda Blanford, all of whom are nursing injuries, could hurt the Huskers.

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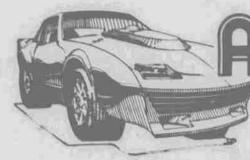
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