

Sports



Staff photo by John Zoz

For the last time at home, senior Scott Johnson performs on the parallel bars in Thursday night's dual with UCLA. Johnson won the all-around honors and helped Nebraska to win 285.45 to 281.25.

NU gymnasts defeat UCLA

By Jeff Goodwin and Patty Pryor

In their last home meet at Nebraska, Scott Johnson and Phil Cahoy went out the same way they came in — as winners.

The Husker gymnastics team avenged an earlier defeat by UCLA and handed the Bruins a 285.45 to 281.25 defeat Thursday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"It was a little bit too much to beat the second-place team by," Head Coach Francis Allen said. "I would just as soon not have done this well and saved it for later."

Despite the defeat, UCLA Coach Art Shurlock was pleased with his team's score.

"A 281 score is not anything to be displeased about," Shurlock said. "This was our second- or third-best total ever. We just had some broken routines. Nebraska was just a lot cleaner in their routines."

As usual, Johnson and Cahoy led the Huskers.

Cahoy placed third in the all-around with a score of 57.9. Johnson won the all-around, edging out UCLA's Peter Vidmar by a score of 58.35 to 58.15.

En route to his all-around title, Johnson won three individual events, scoring a 9.7 in the floor exercise, 9.8 in the rings, and a 9.75 with the parallel bars. Cahoy won two individual titles. He won the

pommel horse with a 9.8, and his score of 9.9 in the high bar barely edged Vidmar's 9.85.

However, Allen was not without disappointment, despite the Huskers' impressive showing.

"We had four major breaks we shouldn't have had," Allen called two of these breaks coaching mistakes.

"We had (Wes) Suter on the wrong rings routine, and we changed (Chris) Riegel's horse routine."

Riegel suffered two other major breaks on high bar and pommel horse. On high-bar, he missed his grip going into a handstand.

"He slid out the back way (on his handstand) and all you can do then is get off and save your life," Allen said.

Riegel suffered a slight shoulder irritation in the fall.

"He'll take tomorrow off and be fine. He's pretty tough," Allen said.

"It's a little sore, but it scared me more than anything," Riegel said. "I dislocated it in the handstand and then landed on it when I fell."

"When I fell off the pommel horse earlier, I decided to put everything on the line. That dislocation in the handstand was something I've never done before."

Riegel came back and finished the event with a 9.45. He also used a new dismount.

Mizzou's Cavener: Nebraska will be tough challenge

By Kevin Warneke

His credentials speak for themselves.

He held North Carolina's Sam Perkins to 16 points, Virginia's Ralph Sampson to 21 points, Oklahoma's Wayman Tisdale to 19 points, Oklahoma State's Leroy Combs to 11 points (twice) and finally Nebraska's Dave Hoppen to less than 12 points twice.

Yet nobody knows his face (or name, for that matter.)

Greg Cavener needs an American Express card.

"The reason why we have him guard the big men of opposing teams is that he is a good defensive player," Missouri assistant coach Gary Filbert said. "Keeping (Missouri center) Steve Stipanovich out of foul trouble is another factor."

Having Cavener guard the opposing team's center allows Stipanovich to guard someone like Claude Renfro, Filbert said, and enables him to help Cavener guard his man.

"We actually have two centers and one forward the way our offense works," Cavener said. "Stipo and I are always inside."

Missouri, Cavener said, will be ready for Nebraska when the two teams meet in semifinal action of the Big Eight Tournament tonight in Kansas City.

"It will be a tough challenge, though," he said. "They

think they can beat us."

One of the keys to defeating Nebraska, Cavener said, will be his shutting down center Dave Hoppen.

"If he has a big night, the team has a big night," he said. "But their other players are good, too, and we just can't key by shifting down on Hoppen."

Although he said his role on the team is for defensive purposes, he still manages his share of rebounds and points.

Cavener currently averages 10.7 points a game while retrieving 8.5 rebounds per game.

"I just take what comes to me," he said. "When I get points, it's a bonus for our team. Most of my points come off of layups and crib shots."

But according to Filbert, Cavener has many strengths outside the realm of scoring and rebounding.

Cavener's quick feet, determination and hands are other strong points of his game, Filbert said.

"He also takes the ball to the hole really well with his left hand," Filbert said.

Of all the talented players whom he has guarded this season, Cavener said, he ranks Tisdale at the top, even over Sampson.

"Scoring-wise, Tisdale would have to be the best," Cavener said. "When he gets the ball, he can score in so

many different ways. He was a lot more active than Ralph.

"Sampson's a great player, but he didn't move around as much. But when he does get the ball, he can do anything."

As for Missouri's chances of capturing the NCAA crown, Cavener said he is optimistic, yet reserved.

"It's hard to say," he said. "There are so many teams that can win it all. There's not one clear favorite."

"We must be prepared every game or we could get beat."

"But I do feel that we have a good chance of getting to the finals."

Looking down the road to next year, Cavener said he probably will play center unless Missouri can recruit a big man who can step in and play.

What Cavener is worried about is losing Stipanovich and guard Jon Sundvold to graduation.

"It's going to be rough going to practice and not having them to kick us around," he said. "It'll be a tremendous loss to our team."

But Cavener said he won't be alone next year.

"We've got other players on our team," he said. "Ron Jones and Prince Bridges have done a super job this year and they'll be back."

Kansas crashes Big Eight tournament

By Tim Woods

The biggest news of the first round of the Big Eight Conference post-season tournament came as little surprise to coaches of the remaining four teams in the tourney.

Kansas' 87-77 upset victory over Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., may have been unexpected by officials of CBS — which is televising the Big Eight final on Sunday nationally, and no doubt was hoping for an OU-Missouri matchup — but was "waiting to happen," Kansas Assistant Coach Bob Hill said Wednesday.

"It was a really emotional situation," Hill said from Lawrence, Kan. "Oklahoma had four seniors playing their final home game, and Wayman (Tisdale) had just been named conference player of the year."

"They came out strong early, and we had to take an early time out," Hill said. Oklahoma jumped out to a 10-2 lead, he said.

"But we came back out and concentrated on defense," Hill said. "David Little and Tisdale are too good of scorers to be

shut down, so you have to make them work for their shots instead."

Kelly Knight did a "great job" defensively on Tisdale, Hill said, holding the freshman sensation to just six field goals in 18 attempts.

Freshman Calvin Thompson, meanwhile, held Little to just six of 14 from the field, while making 15 of 20 attempts himself.

"Calvin just did a tremendous job on Little," Hill said. "For a young player to take a veteran like Little out of his offense is just tremendous."

Hill said the absence of Oklahoma Coach Billy Tubbs, who is still recovering from injuries suffered in a jogger-automobile accident nearly three weeks ago, affected the Sooners.

"In a game of this importance, it's really difficult for an assistant coach to act as head coach," Hill said. Sooner assistant Mike Newell has been acting head coach since Tubbs' accident.

"We tried to get into situations where Mike would have to react like Billy would," Hill said. "Oklahoma seemed a

bit frazzled when things started to go wrong, maybe because of Mike's being put into Billy's shoes."

Kansas thus advanced to tonight's second semifinal game against Oklahoma State in Kansas City, Mo. Oklahoma State Coach Paul Hansen said from Kansas City that he doesn't expect much of a letdown by his players since they will not be facing their intra-state rivals.

"I think our players really wanted to play Oklahoma again," Hansen said, "but we're a veteran club. We know that if we take Kansas for granted, especially in Kansas City (which is Jayhawk territory), it will certainly be a long night for us."

Somewhat pushed into the background by the Kansas victory was Nebraska's semifinal contest against Missouri, which precedes the Kansas-Oklahoma State game.

The Cornhuskers have an opportunity to avenge a 54-51 loss to Mizzou in Lincoln Feb. 26, which eliminated the Huskers from the Big Eight regular-season title race.

"It's tough to beat any team three times in one season," Nebraska Assistant Coach Randy Cipriano said. "Our players think

they can beat Missouri, and that's half the battle."

Cipriano said Missouri comes into the contest as a better team than the one which defeated the Huskers in Lincoln last month.

"Earlier, they had just two players (All-Big Eight performers Steve Stipanovich and Jon Sundvold) who were looking to shoot," Cipriano said. "But recently, they've had more people getting involved in the offense, which is just going to free Stipo and Jon all the more."

The Huskers, however, will have little trouble getting psyched up for Missouri, Cipriano said.

"It's never difficult to get up for playing a team as good as they are," he said.

Missouri Assistant Coach Gary Filbert said, meanwhile, that the Tigers are well aware of the problems Nebraska presents.

"We were fortunate to beat them in Lincoln," Filbert said. "They play the tough, deliberate type of game which makes it hard for us to get our offense moving."

Tipoff for the Mizzou-Nebraska contest is at 7:10 p.m.