

# Sports

## Olympic hopefuls to battle for women's swim crown

By Mark Quundahl

A once in a lifetime opportunity. Coach Ray Huppert of the Nebraska women's swimming team spared few words in describing the NCAA Women's Championship meet scheduled for March 17-19 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool.

"We are anticipating great crowds because it's an opportunity for people to see our 1984 Olympic hopefuls and perhaps to see some future Olympic gold medalists," Huppert said.

He said he sees no team as a runaway favorite. He predicts that Florida will repeat as champion, augmented by superstar Tracy Caulkins, who nabbed seven gold medals at last year's NCAA meet.

"Florida has the franchise," Huppert said, referring to sophomore Tracy Caulkins and her older sister Amy, who won two gold medals of her own last year.

"Tracy is really good," Huppert said. "She could really throw a wrinkle in the

meet; because she's good in so many events, nobody knows where she's going to swim."

After Florida, Huppert said he sees Stanford as the next closest team, followed by Texas.

"It's going to be an awfully fast meet," Huppert said. "There will be a number of American records set."

He said the time of the year, the fast Bob Devaney pool and the fact that the 1984 Olympics are not that far away will be factors in record-breaking performances.

"The ladies are ready to swim fast," Huppert said.

Participating qualifiers for the Cornhuskers will be former NCAA All-American Sherri Hayward in the 200-yard backstroke, the 800-yard freestyle relay team of Hayward, Linda Sebesta, Shauna Gilmore and Emily Ricketts, and the 200-yard freestyle relay of Gilmore, Ricketts, Sebesta and Rene Sullivan.

Senior captain Hayward said the meet was "gonna be tough," but she said she'll be satisfied with matching her sixth place

finish time of 2:02:8 in the 200 backstroke in last year's meet.

Hayward said the three freshmen that swim with her in the 800 freestyle relay may be nervous in their first NCAA meet, but she said she wasn't worried.

"They're really good under pressure," she said.

Coach Huppert agreed and felt the Huskers' 800 freestyle relay team was really strong and had a good chance of gaining All-American status.

Hayward said that senior co-captain Rene Sullivan would do well in the 200-freestyle relay because "she has experience."

"Last year we finished 20th," Huppert said, "and we'd like to improve on that. But we have to be real sharp and perfect."

"Anything can happen . . . the kids are looking good," Huppert said.

Huppert also said that other Big Eight teams could improve their standings in the nation.

"Kansas is stronger than ever, and they could quite possibly move into the top

10," he said. He added that Oklahoma and Iowa State would send one qualifier each to the tourney. The fact that the Big Eight participants may know the pool better than others would be a definite plus, Huppert said.

"When you're familiar with the facility, when you know where the walls are and when you've been on the starting blocks before, there's some advantage," he said.

Huppert also had praise and high hopes for sophomore Husker diver Wendy Lucero.

"Lucero is a beautiful diver," Huppert said, "and (diving) coach Jeff Huber feels she is going to do well."

"Her chances are really good," Huber said. "But I'm more concerned that she goes out there with a smile on her face and enjoys the high level of competition, and the rest will take care of itself."

"We're estimating that 80 percent of the next Olympic team will be here," Huppert said. "So we're hoping we can show our girls a few more Nebraska fans."

## Hartung's achievements reap Olympia Award

By Patty Pryor

Former Nebraska all-around gymnast Jim Hartung was awarded the new Southland Olympia Award at a luncheon Monday.

The award, sanctioned by the U.S. Olympic Committee and presented by the Southland Corp., which operates the 7-Eleven stores, is aimed at recognizing the achievements and contributions of athletes in the 31 summer and winter Olympic sports.

"Most of the past winners have all been Olympic medalists," Hartung said. "It's a little surprising why I would get it."

"I would like to make it to that group of Olympic medalists some day, though," he added.

Hartung was a member of the 1980 Olympic team, but did not compete be-

cause the United States boycotted the Games.

The Southland award is a distinctive museum-piece reproduction of a Grecian vase presented to outstanding athletes more than 2,500 years ago in Athens. The vase was usually filled with olive oil as part of the honor.

At the presentation ceremonies Monday, Hartung asked, "If I stop by 7-Eleven later, will they fill it up for 39 cents?"

The award is "definitely one of a kind," he said afterward. "I had no idea it was as beautiful as it is until I got here."

In brief remarks, Nebraska Head Gymnastic Coach Francis Allen called Hartung a "gymnastics fanatic, both in the way he performs in the gym and in the community."

"Jim has done more for the sport of gymnastics not only in our part of the country but all over," he said. "More dem-

onstrations, more exhibitions, more clinics — if you asked him, I don't think he could count the number he's done."

In his four years at Nebraska, Hartung won a record-tying seven individual championships and Nebraska won four team NCAA championships.

He was also named the U.S. Gymnastics Federation's "Athlete of the Year" in 1981, and last March received the Nissen Award, considered the Heisman Trophy of gymnastics.

Hartung joins UNL track star Merlene Ottey as a Southland recipient. Rene Henry, of the Southland Corp., said besides Nebraska, only the University of Indiana boasts two athletes that merited Southland recognition.

Hartung is now a graduate assistant coach at Nebraska, where he's training for his "ultimate goal," the 1984 Olympics.



Staff photo by Craig Andresen  
Jim Hartung

## Cavener, Andrews are surprise picks for All-Big Eight

Two surprise choices appear on the Daily Nebraskan's All-Big Eight Conference basketball team for 1982-83.

Based on their strong performances this season, Steve Stipanovich and Jon Sundvold of Missouri and Wayman Tisdale of Oklahoma have deservedly appeared on both wire service all-conference teams, and similarly deserve a spot on ours.

But you may not have noticed Greg Cavener of Missouri and Lorenza Andrews of Oklahoma State on

We've selected three squads which represent this quality.

Mizzou's Cavener earned a first-team berth largely on his defensive work. His ability to cover opposing teams' centers allowed Stipanovich to play, in effect, a one-man zone which made the Tigers' middle defense one of the most difficult to penetrate.

Andrews, meanwhile, showed his ability to produce in the clutch Sunday against Missouri in the Big Eight tournament final. Whether scoring on a twisting layup or a jump shot off the glass, Andrews gave Oklahoma State a bona fide outside threat while averaging 17.3 points per game in Big Eight play.

The second team is led by Oklahoma State center Leroy Combs, who dominated Stipanovich in the Cowboys' win Sunday. Combs has been red-hot lately; his continued strong play could make OSU one of the sleepers in the NCAA West Regional.

Oklahoma forward David Little had another strong season (18.1 ppg in conference games), but had two off games against Missouri when the Sooners could have shared the regular season title by winning either one.

Oklahoma State's Matt Clark was a solid point guard all season, averaging 6.4 assists per game in Big Eight play. Much of OSU's success in the NAAs, however, could depend on whether the physical Clark can stay out of foul trouble; he scored only five points Sunday against Missouri before fouling out.

Kansas' Carl Henry, a transfer from Oklahoma City University, was one of KU's few bright spots, averaging 17.6 ppg in league play. The 6-5 guard should be one of the Big Eight's top players next year.

Nebraska's Claude Renfro earned the other forward spot, largely because of his inspirational play in sparking the Cornhuskers to their best record in five years.

While other forwards had higher "numbers" — Renfro averaged only 9.0 ppg in Big Eight play — the 6-6 senior epitomized Nebraska's scrappiness, coming up with crucial baskets and rebounds time and again over taller, more "talented" opponents.

Before we discuss the third team, one factor used in our selection process is worth mentioning.

How much consideration on an all-conference team should one give a player who carries a high scoring average, yet whose team still finishes toward the bottom of the league standings?

Colorado guard Jay Humphries, a third-team selection, is one such player. The 6-3 junior led the nation in steals and averaged 16.0 ppg in league play.

But the Buffaloes still finished last; Humphries' presence apparently had little effect on CU's finish. We therefore bumped Humphries down to the third team.

Iowa State forward Barry Stevens is in the same situation as Humphries. The 6-5 sophomore averaged 17.8 ppg in Big Eight games, but might not have received so many post-season honors had he not scored 40 points in the Cyclones' upset win over Missouri in February.

Two freshmen, Nebraska center Hoppen and Kansas forward Boagni, possess all the skills necessary to become two of the nation's top players.

Oklahoma guard Bo Overton, who led the Big Eight in assists with 6.9 per game, rounds out the third team.

So there are the DN All-Big Eight squads. Some miscellaneous awards follow.

**COACH OF THE YEAR:** Paul Hansen took Oklahoma State to the championship of the Big Eight tournament — against Missouri in Kansas City, no less. State, at 24-6, is enjoying its winningest season in 17 years.

**NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:** In a word, Wayman. With apologies to several others.

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** This one was tough. I like Stipanovich; he showed this season the all-around skills that many Big Eight observers (right, Joel?) doubted he possessed.

Asmussen likes Sundvold. "Any guy who can fight off a pick so easily," he said, "is good enough for me."

Sports staffer Randy Wymore, in Warneke's absence, chooses Tisdale. "He's brought more national attention to the Big Eight than any one player in recent history," Wymore said.

There are the nominees. To find the winner, check out Bill Allen's column in Thursday's Daily Nebraskan.



Tim Woods

either the AP or UPI squads.

Still, Cavener and Andrews were vitally important to their respective teams this season, and if the wire services don't want them on their all-league teams, well, we'll take them.

Kevin Warneke, DN Sports Editor Bob Asmussen and I have been able to cover what might have been the most competitive Big Eight season in recent years.

An influx of top-notch freshmen — Tisdale, Nebraska's Dave Hoppen and Kansas' Kerry Boagni leading the way — plus the maturity of some younger, returning players and the expected strong play of the league's veterans all brought the caliber of the Big Eight to a higher level than in years past.

Three teams — Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and four-time regular season champion Missouri — are headed to the NCAA tournament.

Nebraska, meanwhile, was invited to the National Invitation Tournament and could be one of the sleeper choices to take the NIT.

So with four strong teams, and an upgraded second division, the Big Eight this season had many quality players from which to choose an all-conference team.