

UNL crew set for Kansas River Regatta

By Kirk Zebolsky

The UNL crew, after an excellent month of practice, according to novice Coach Roger Holmstedt, rows in its first competition of the year Sunday.

The crew will row against Kansas, Kansas State, Washburn and possibly Wichita State and Creighton at Lawrence, Kan., in the Kansas River Regatta. UNL will row in seven 2,000-meter races, the first of

which begins at 1:00 p.m., Holmstedt said.

The crew will shoot for winning each race it is entered in, rather than the team title, he said.

"Winning (the team title) is difficult when you don't have boats in every race," Holmstedt said. Other teams will have multiple entries in each race.

The varsity rowers should do well, coxswain Fred Gibson said.

"The women will have a really good chance to place well. They're down to four good rowers. They've got their technique down."

Gibson said the men's four-man boat team "has a good chance of placing" but the eight-man boat team is "questionable" and "untried."

The varsity men have no coach, Gibson said, while the varsity women are coached by former national team coxswain Pam Shotkoski.

The novice rowers are all lightweights, Holmstedt said, and will race against heavyweights, which will be a "definite disadvantage."

Holmstedt said his novice rowers need the experience of competition, and the Kansas River Regatta may be their only chance this fall.

"We've spent a lot of time training, and it's all for a boat race that will last seven minutes," Holmstedt said.

Holmstedt said the Kansas crew is consistently strong.

"They've got some big strong guys and they can really make a boat move," he said.

The crew has been working out early mornings and some afternoons, varsity oarsman Doug Weiss said. Once the weather turns cold, Weiss said, the team will stop rowing at Capitol Beach Lake and concentrate on rowing indoors at their indoor tank, heavy weightlifting, and running.

At the crew's meeting for new rowers last month, Weiss said, the turnout of about 40 was smaller than last year. The crew picked up 17 new men and women novice rowers this fall and is still looking for new members, he said.

Gymnastics team aims for 6th title

By Jim Rasmussen

Nebraska men's gymnastic coach Francis Allen said that until last Sunday, he wasn't sure whether his team had the stuff to challenge for the NCAA championship in 1983-84. But after viewing the intrasquad match held that day, Allen said he is now sure.

"I really think we'll put together a national contender," Allen said.

That could be bad news for the rest of the NCAA, as Nebraska has won the last five national titles. The Cornhuskers open their season in Lincoln Nov. 5 against Oklahoma and Iowa State.

Although the Huskers no longer have all-Americans Scott Johnson and Phil Cahoy, they do have some experienced gymnasts. Sophomore Chris Riegel returns, as does senior Jim Mikus. Both earned All-America recognition in 1982-83. In addition, the Huskers have sophomore Wes Suter on hand, while junior Mike Bowers, and freshman Neil Palmer could be this year's "secret weapons," Allen said.

"Mike's stronger this year, and is developing a more positive identity as a gymnast," Allen said. "He was one of the best gymnasts in the country coming out of high school... I expect him to help us a lot this year."

Allen said more help should come from senior pommel horse specialist Frank Hibbitta.

One of the keys to the NCAA race this year will be the eligibility of UCLA star Mitch Gaylord, Allen said. The NCAA declared Gaylord ineligible to compete last season because he traveled with a professional gymnastics tour, and received a stipend for his ser-

vices. Allen said the NCAA may declare him ineligible again this season.

"If he's eligible, it should be between us and UCLA for the championship," Allen said. "If he's not we should be a shoo-in."

Allen said he expects Penn State, Ohio State and Iowa State to field strong teams this year.

Rich Bergolucci, assistant sports information director at UCLA, said he knows of no reason why Gaylord would not be eligible for the upcoming season.

"He was given a one-year suspension by the NCAA, that was the ruling," Bergolucci said. "I can't think of any reason that Francis Allen would think he won't be eligible."

"We've got the horses this year, in contrast to Nebraska, who has a young team," Bergolucci said. "Nebraska should be strong, and so should Penn State. I think we'll be right up there."

Although the Bruins lost two-time NCAA all-around champion Peter Vidmar to graduation, the Bruins return several experienced gymnasts, Bergolucci said. In addition to Gaylord, who is a senior, the Bruins return all-around performers Tim Daggett, Mark Caso and Chris Caso.

At Penn State, things are looking good, graduate assistant Randy Jepsen said.

"We look to be very strong," Jepsen said. "We've got a lot of depth, and people seem to be pretty hungry."

Jepsen said he thinks the Nittany Lions have a chance to win the NCAA title.

"UCLA should be very strong, and so should Nebraska, but we've got the capabilities to do it," he said.

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