

Gymnastics coach: Don't count us out

By Jim Rasmussen

Quality athletes, no depth.

That's how first-year coach Rick Walt described his Nebraska women's gymnastics team, which will open its season Dec. 9-10 at the Rocky Mountain Open in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"The team doesn't look too bad," Walton said. "We've got some quality athletes, but no depth. A couple of the Big Eight teams should be pretty deep. But, if we stay healthy, I don't see any reason why we can't be right in there (in the conference race)."

The Cornhuskers won the Big Eight championship last year, their fifth in Coach Judy Schalk's seven-year tenure. Schalk resigned after last season, and Walton inherited several of last year's top performers.

Kim Grabowski, a three-time All-Big Eight performer, is back for her senior season. Grabowski was the all-around champion at last year's Big Eight meet, and won the NCAA parallel bars regional championship in 1982. Grabowski heads into the 1983-84 campaign as the team's top all-arounder.

Joining her as an all-around competitor is junior Terry Furman, a two-time All-Big Eight selection.

Furman was last year's Big Eight floor exercise champion.

The Huskers' third all-arounder heading into the season is Jody Twoey, a sophomore who earned All-Big Eight honors as a freshman and was the vaulting champion at the Midwest regionals.

Walton said junior Annette Madigan also has been doing a good job in pre-season drills, and is a possible all-arounder. She certainly will compete in the floor events, Walton said, and is a good bar swinger.

Walton said he thinks Missouri will be the favorite to win the Big Eight this year.

"Missouri is very deep, and Oklahoma should be improved," he said. "Oklahoma State had a good recruiting year, and should be improved."

Walton said he thinks some people may overlook Nebraska this year.

"People may be counting us out because of the coaching change," he said. "They're not sure what kind of program we're going to have. But I think we'll surprise some people."

"We have a lesser amount of people than some of the other teams, but I think that allows us to give more quality time to each individual. Besides, no matter how many people those teams have, they can

only put a certain number of people on the floor at one time."

Nebraska will compete in the Mountain region this year, and not the Midwest as in the past. Walton said the Mountain region is tougher because it contains Utah and Arizona State, No. 1 and 2 in the 1983 NCAA championships. Nebraska finished 10th at that meet.

"It's going to make it tougher to go to the NCAA meet, because we really can't expect to beat those teams," Walton said. "We'll hope for an at-large bid, and I think we'll stand a good chance of getting one."

Injuries have contributed to the lack of depth on the Nebraska squad, Walton said. Freshman Renee Gould and junior Char Hageman have been sidelined with ankle injuries, but should return to action early in the season, he said.

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Entries due for January intramurals

If you plan on playing any early intramural sports next year, the time to form a team is now. Entries for the majority of January intramural sports is Tuesday.

Among those sports is men's basketball. A \$25 entry fee plus a \$10 forfeit fee must accompany each entry. Leagues will be offered for fraternity A, B and C teams; residence hall A, B and C teams; independent A, B and small-fry teams (5 to 10 members or smaller) and light-weight teams (160 pounds or less). Games will be scheduled Sunday through Thursday beginning at 6 p.m. at the Coliseum, Men's Physical Education Building or Mable Lee Hall. Play will begin Jan. 18, 1984.

Other sports with a Tuesday deadline include women's basketball, co-rec volleyball and faculty-staff basketball.

Managers' meetings for those sports will be Jan. 17, 1984.

Entries will be due then for men's, women's, and co-rec snow softball tournaments. A new event, the softball tournaments will be played Jan. 20 through 22 at the 19th and Vine street intramural field. A lack of snow, however, may force cancellation of the tournament.

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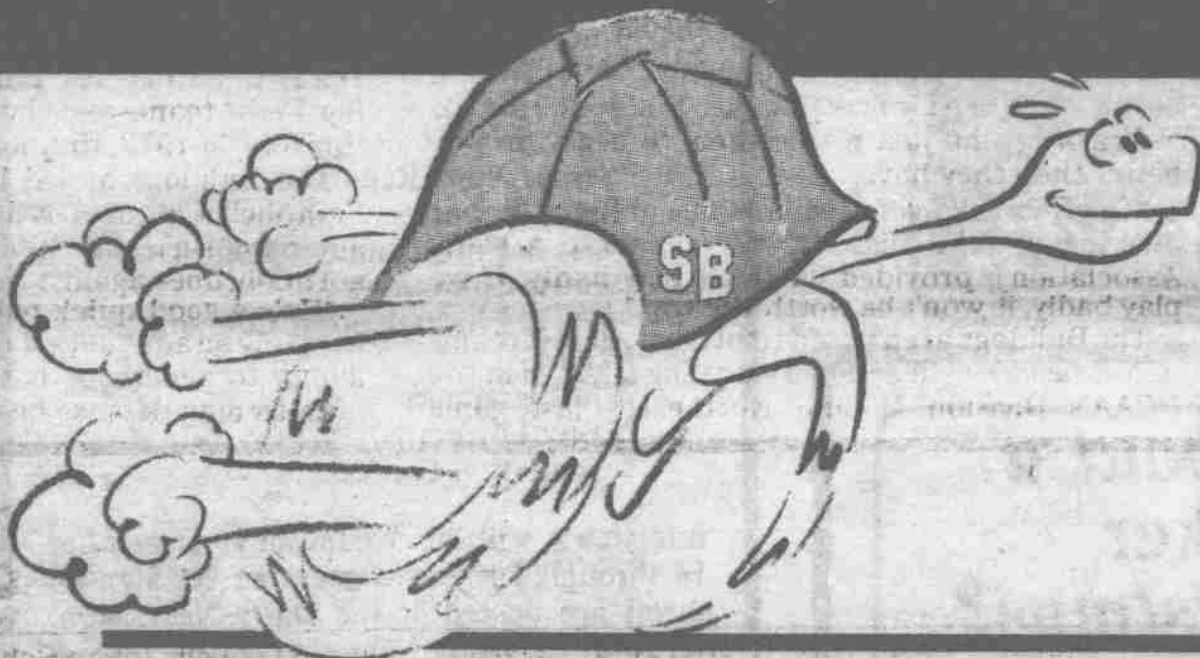
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