

Sports

Gymnastics teams face challenges

Women's gymnastics coach likes team in underdog role

By Jeff Goodwin

Nebraska women's gymnastics Coach Rick Walton said he likes the underdog role his team finds itself in heading into this weekend's Big Eight championships in Norman, Okla.

"It's nice not being favored," Walton said. "Oklahoma is favored and the pressure is going to start building on them. That may put some pressure on a few individuals on their team and cause their performances to fall off a little."

Walton said he expects a very close meet, with Oklahoma, Missouri, and Nebraska all having a chance at the title.

"All three teams are pretty evenly matched," he said. "The key really for us is not having a bad night on the (uneven) bars."

Walton said he was pleased by Nebraska's performance of late in the balance beam, an event that has been troublesome for the Huskers all year.

"It's looking a lot better," he said. "They're doing better on their recovery moves which means they're not falling off the equipment. They're losing a tenth of a point or two, but they're staying on."

Walton said that Nebraska's role as defending champions gives them an edge.

"We've been through the pressure before," he said. "We're not going down there to give it away. They're going to have to take it away from us."

The Huskers will have one advantage, Walton said.

"We got an excellent draw," he said. "We drew a bye on the first rotation. That means we know what we have to beat."

Walton predicted the winning team would need a score of at least 180.5, a score the Huskers have yet to achieve this year.

"We've got to have the best meet we've had all year," Walton said. "That's the only pressure we're really under."

Walton said vaulting was the Huskers' strongest event.

"I think we're about as strong as we can be on vault," he said. "But bars is an area we can come up in and we're still far from our maximum effort on floor. And we can always improve our beam score a point or two."

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Chris Medley/Daily Nebraskan

Huskers meet Bruins in dual of season

By Patty Pryor

The nation's top two collegiate gymnastics teams meet head-on this weekend in what Husker Coach Francis Allen is calling "a real lulu."

Nebraska takes on the No. 1-ranked UCLA Bruins at 7 p.m. Sunday in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"This is definitely the dual meet of the season," Allen said. "It'll be every bit as good as last year's."

The Huskers won that meet with a 285, but lost to the Bruins in their last meet, the UCLA Invitational Feb. 10, by a five-point margin.

"We were ahead the first three events that meet," Allen said, "but we had a major fall on pommel horse — we broke four horse routines."

Allen said his Huskers have since regrouped and are looking in much better shape.

"I think this will be our peak performance," he said. "The guys have been putting in a lot of effort and they look tremendous. It's nice to be 100 percent again."

UCLA Coach Art Shurlock said he was anticipating good performances from both teams.

"I think it's going to be a real good meet," he said. "I know our guys are looking forward to it."

Shurlock said the Bruins, who hit 282.85 against Nebraska in their last competition, have seen their best season ever this year.

"It's the first year we've had some depth," he said. "We've been able to rest (Tim) Daggett and (Mitch) Gaylord, and we've never had that luxury before. It's been nice to have a little extra depth."

Gaylord and Daggett will compete in the all-around this weekend, along with Mark Caso and freshman Tony Pineda.

The all-around competition will feature four potential Olympians — Nebraska's Chris Riegel and Jim Mikus and UCLA's Daggett and Gaylord, Allen said.

"There's going to be a lot of pressure on the all-arounders," he said. "This'll be like a small version of the national all-around championship."

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Rec Scoreboard

(Sportsmanship ratings in parentheses)

Men's Water Polo Championship Game

One More Time (4.5) 11, Titanic Reaction (4.5) 6

Co-Rec Wiffleball

Phi Delta Theta 10, The Revengers 8
The Revengers 15, Lambda Chi Alpha/Gamma Phi Beta 4
America's Team 10, Pi Phi and Hashers 7
Bases Loaded No One Out 11, Cather Three B 1
Phi Delta Theta 11, Cather Three B 1

Men's Indoor Soccer

Grateful Dead (3.3) 7, Delta Tau Delta B (3.5) 1
Acacia (3.8) 4, Abel Ten (3.8) 1
Beta Theta Pi A (3.5) 3, Tau Kappa Epsilon A (3.5) 0
Caspian (3.0) 4, Alpha Tau Omega A (3.0) 2
Phi Delta Theta A (3.8) 3, Sigma Nu A (3.0) 0

UNL's rowing club is having a row-a-thon this weekend to raise money to compete this spring and next fall the team announced Tuesday.

The row-a-thon is from 5 p.m. today to 5 p.m. Saturday at the NBC Building, 13th and O streets.

As a club sport, rowing does not receive funds from the Athletic Department. Most of the money from the row-a-thon will be used to send the team to the Intercollegiate Rowing Championships in Syracuse, N. Y. this May, said club fundraising chairman Brad Kuhn.

Men's Basketball All-University Playoffs

Independent A league champion Norgas outscored Sigma Chi C 38-17 in the first 15 minutes of the second half to win 76-45 in semi-final all-university tournament action at the Coliseum Thursday night.

Norgas will play the Shrooms in the all-university final Tuesday. The Shrooms gained the finals by defeating Beta Theta Pi A, 54-53, Thursday night.

Led by the shooting of Nate Udofia and Greg Iba, the Shrooms stretched a two-point halftime lead to eight points late in the second half. They then held off a late Beta rally for the victory.

The Office of Campus Recreation is organizing men's and women's soccer and women's and co-rec softball leagues for this spring.

Entries are due for both sports March 20. There will be a managers' meeting the next day. The meeting is scheduled for March 21 at 6:30 p.m. in a room to be posted at the Nebraska Union.

The Office also announced that it needs officials for its soccer leagues. There will be two rules meetings and a clinic for anyone interested before the season starts.

Big 8

While Nebraska's basketball team sits around and awaits word from the selection committee of the National Invitation Tournament, four Big Eight schools will play for the post-season tournament championship this weekend at Kemper Arena in Kansas City.

The sixth-ranked Oklahoma Sooners play Colorado in one semifinal game tonight. Colorado upset Iowa State in Ames 65-62, to earn the berth. Colorado at 16-12 is being considered for an NIT berth. Oklahoma defeated Missouri 62-56 in its first-round Big Eight game.

Nebraska's conqueror, Kansas State, plays rival Kansas in the other semi-final. The 19-9 Jayhawks are considered to be good picks for the NCAA tournament selection committee.

In women's action at Kemper, regular season co-champions Kansas State and Missouri will try to advance to the finals and assure themselves of NCAA tournament berths.

Missouri, 24-4 and seeded second in the tournament, plays Oklahoma State, an 84-82 victor against Nebraska last Tuesday.

Kansas State's Lady Cats will play Oklahoma in the other semifinal. The women's games will be played this afternoon and the men's games will be played tonight. NCAA tournament bids will be extended for both men and women on Sunday.