Divers qualify for championships

By Kema Soderberg

Three Nebraska divers qualified for the NCAA Championships at the Zone D qualifying meet Friday and Saturday.

Eric Ognibene and Reynaldo Castro placed first and second respectively in the men's three-meter diving. Marcia Heaton ranked sixth in the women's three-meter event. Ognibene scored 543.6 points, and Castro followed with 501.5 points. Heaton racked up 419.3 points to earn her position.

Castro will also represent the Big Eight at the NCAA one-meter competition. He finished first with 491 points, 45.35 points above second-place finisher Kevin Evans from Houston, Texas.

Ognibene will join Castro at the NCAA one-meter event. Ognibene placed first at the men's Big Eight Championships March 2 and wasn't required to compete on the one-meter board at the zone meet.

The three Nebraska divers join three other Big Eight divers in representing the conference at the NCAA meets. Jim Rainey and J. D. Estes from Missouri qualified on the one- and three-meter boards, respectively. Hilery Barber, also from Missouri, qualified for the three-meter event.

Jeff Huber, diving coach at UNL, said this is the best representation the Big Eight Conference has had in the NCAA's. He said there were "definitely some good divers that didn't qualify" from the conference.

Women divers will meet Thursday, Friday and Saturday for the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis, Ind. The men travel to Cleveland, Ohio, March 22-24 for the national collegiate meet.

Huber said it is difficult to tell how Nebraska will do at the NCAA meets because "you don't know until that day how the diver can perform." He said, however, that the three team members have set up a pattern this season of competing well.

"If we don't try to impress (the judges) and just go out and dive, we'll do well," Huber said. "We have been preparing for this from the beginning of the year. We've laid our foundation. I know that what we've been doing is good enough. We've just got to continue to do what we've done and stay loose."

He said he expects the men to place in the top six and Heaton to place in the top 16.

Huskers second in Big Eight meet

Oklahoma gymnasts finished first, second and third in the balance beam and OU's Amy Priest took the all-around as the sooners won their first ever Big Eight women's gymnastics championship over defending champion Nebraska Friday and Saturday in Norman, Okla.

Nebraska finished second with a score of 176.70 to OU's 179.05. The Huskers' Renee Gould and Kim Grabowski finished third and fourth in the all-around. Gould scored a 35.9 and Grabowski a 35.85.

Priest's score of 19.0 on the vault, the only event she won, propelled her to the all-around title. That score and the three top balance beam performances by Oklahoma's Julie Ousby, Dayna Rose and Kim Goggins spelled victory for the Sooners. Ousby scored an 8.75 on the beam, while Rose scored an 8.55 and Goggins scored an 8.40.

Nebraska's Grabowski scored an 8.25 on the balance beam to take fourth. Grabowski also won the uneven parallel bars, scoring 8.75.

Nebraska's Terry Furman won the floor exercise with a score of 8.65, and Nebraska's Renee Bosle took second in the even with a score of 8.30.

Nebraska's Gould placed second in the vault behind Priest, with a score of 8.75.

Missouri placed third in the meet with a score of 176.25. Oklahoma State took fourth with 174.35 and Iowa State with 168.55.

Scherr brothers place first as Nebraska captures fourth

By Kirk Zebolsky

It seemed a fitting way for Jim and Bill Scherr to end their careers.

The senior identical twins from Mobridge, S.D., became the second and third Cornhuskers ever to win individual titles while leading Nebraska to an all-time high fourth place finish at the NCAA Wrestling Championships Saturday in East Rutherford, N.J.

The Scherrs each won five consecutive matches in the three-day tournament to cap off their 100-win careers. Nebraska heavyweight Gary Albright won four matches and lost in the finals, 3-1. Nebraska just missed winning three consecutive titles after Jim Scherr beat No. 1-ranked Duane Goldman of Iowa in the 177-pound finals and Bill Scherr defeated Jim Baumgardner of Oregon State, 13-4.

The Scherrs' two firsts and Albright's second were good enough to give Nebraska 61 points, behind Iowa's 123¾, Oklahoma State's 98 and Penn State's 70½. All five Big Eight wrestling teams finished in the top 10. Oklahoma finished fifth, Iowa State seventh and Missouri 10th.

Nebraska's previous highest finish was sixth place the past two years.

Individually, former Husker Mike Nissen won at 163 in 1963.

In the voting for the meet's outstanding wrestler, Bill Scherr finished second, behind Iowa's Jim Zalesky. Bill scored two pins and two superior decisions among his five wins in raising his career record to 133-18 and his season mark to 36-1. His final win, by nine points, was his closest match. Bill finished third at last year's NCAA tournament and fourth in 1982.

Bill was seeded first in the tournament, while Jim was seeded second and Albright sixth.

Jim defeated the top seed, Iowa's Duane Goldman, 3-2, in the finals. Jim scored an escape in the third period to help him defeat Goldman, who had won an early-season match between the two in an overtime referee's decision.

Jim was 35-2-1 this season, making his career record 110-25-4. Jim finished sixth in the 1982 NCAA tournament.

Sophomore Albright, weighing 351 pounds, went against No. 1-ranked 447-pound Tab Thacker of North Carolina State in the finals. In the 1982 NCAA tournament, Albright pinned Thacker on his way to a seventh-place finish.

This year, Thacker won 3-1 on the basis of a third-period escape and one point awarded for riding time. Albright finished the season with a 29-5-1 record. On his way to the finals he scored three pins.

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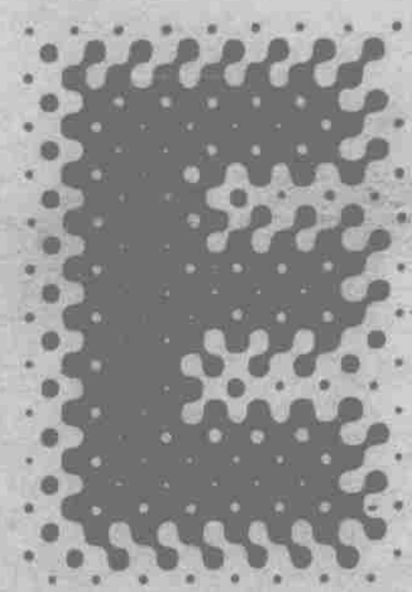

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