

Promising gymnasts mark Husker squad

By Mike Reilley
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

With no seniors on this year's squad, Nebraska gymnastics coach Francis Allen hopes that a mixture of experienced underclassmen and promising young talent will vault the Huskers to their sixth NCAA title in seven years.

Nebraska gymnastics fans should expect to see some new bodies twisting and tumbling about the Bob Devaney Sports Center when the Huskers host the Big Eight Invitational Nov. 2-3.

All-Americans Scott Johnson and Jim Mikus completed their eligibility last year, while Chris Riegel, another top performer, was declared academically ineligible at the end of last year.

A solid recruiting year could make the loss of the trio less painful.

"This is probably the best recruiting year we've ever had based on number and quality," Allen said.

"It may not be as good as the Cahoy-Johnson class, but we got three of the best freshmen in the country," Allen said.

The freshmen Allen was speaking of were Kevin Davis, Mike Epperson and Tom Schlesinger.

Davis, a 5-6, 140-pounder from Lithonia, Ga. specializes in the floor exercise, high bar and pommel horse while Epperson, a 5-5, 130-pounder from Bartlesville, Okla. is a potential all-around threat.

Allen said both Davis and Epperson are possible Olympians for 1988.

Schlesinger, a 5-6, 133-pounder from Colorado Springs, is recovering from a knee injury and isn't expected to see action until January.

Gary Railsback, a freshman walk-on from Weatherford, Texas, will bolster Nebraska's vaulting and floor exercise with his strong tumbling skills.

Another new addition is Paul Engle, a transfer student from Indiana, who will compete on the rings.

The team's leadership role will fall on the shoulders of returning lettermen Wes Suter, Neil Palmer and Mike Bowers.

"I expect our leadership to come from our unity," Allen said. "We won't have one particular leader."

Bowers, a junior from Omaha, returns to the squad after red-

shirting last year because of a back injury.

"Both Bowers and Suter have the potential," Allen said. "Suter is one of the top all-arounders in the nation and he's only a junior."

The Huskers expect to be in the thick of the NCAA title hunt in April when the NCAA championships return to Lincoln.

Allen said Nebraska, UCLA, Penn State, Southern Illinois and Ohio State will be the teams battling for the top spot.

"Our chances (of winning the national title) are looking better every day," Allen said.

Self-motivation could be the key to the Husker's success, he said.

"They're a terrific group. They have that internal motivation and they work hard," Allen said. "I've been pleased with their progress so far."

The compulsories for the Big Eight meet are Friday at 7 p.m. and the finals are set for Saturday at 7 p.m.

Other schools expected to compete include Oklahoma, Iowa, Illinois, Iowa State, Southern Illinois and Northern Illinois.

LSU performs Faust last rites; Huskers to struggle past 'Cats

Analysis by Jeff Browne
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Fine human being that I might be, I just can't seem to pick football games correctly. I've only missed on nine of my predictions this year, but I've only picked 12 games.

Brownie Points

So this week I'm turning the column over to my co-workers and a couple of Springsteen fans. The two groups are not interchangeable.

Bring out the oils, incense, holy water and Latin phrase book, it's time for extreme unction. Give Gerry Faust last rites and bury the man in Baton Rouge. Daily Nebraskan staff veloxer Craig Andresen sez: Louisiana State 28, Notre Dame 17.

Nebraska's Cornhuskers may think they got over a hump when they came back to defeat

Colorado. More trouble this week sez DN News Editor Michiela Thuman: Nebraska 21, Kansas State 7.

Some experts think top-ranked Washington will falter this week against Arizona. Not so sez DN staff artist Billy Shaffer: Washington 42, Arizona 21.

Arkansas and Houston square off in Houston. Houston is fresh off an upset of SMU and Arkansas last week just barely lost to Texas. Bruce Springsteen fan David M. Good sez the Boss would say: Arkansas 27, Houston 21.

Fort Collins, Colo., has beautiful scenery, but absolutely no football team. DN writer Jann Nyffeler sez: Wyoming 49, Colorado State 3.

Texas Christian has surprised a lot of people this year, including DN entertainment editor Christopher Burbach; but not this week. Chris sez: Baylor 17, TCU 16.

Iowa State lost to Colorado, of all people, two weeks ago. The 'Clones then pressed Okla-

homa in Ames last week. Who can figure it? Chris can, and he sez: Missouri 36, Iowa State 8. The Cyclones blow another one.

Boston College last week lost its first game, a fact which will not make BC quarterback Doug Flutie happy, sez Springsteen fanatic Randy Michaud. Boston College 42, Rutgers (conquerors of mighty Syracuse) 24.

One of Saturday's less thrilling games pits Navy at Pittsburgh. DN copy desk supervisor Vicki Ruhga unequivocally sez: Pitt 7, Navy 0. Yay, team.

UCLA, winner of many close games, should win again. DN night news editor Julie Jordan sez: UCLA 27, Arizona State 13.

Those mighty Sooners looked awesome early in the year, awful last week. Look for more problems this week. DN associate news editor Kevin Warneke sez: OU 14, Kansas 3.

Bo Vadar and the Evil Empire go down again. DN sports reporter Mike George sez: Illinois 28, Michigan 24.

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