

# Coaches expect bright future

By Rich Cooper  
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen thinks this year's recruits give the Huskers their best freshman class ever.

Allen said Mike Epperson, Kevin Davis and Tom Schlessinger are the keys to bringing the national championship back to Lincoln.

Epperson has practiced gymnastics since he was 6. But since he liked other sports, he said, he didn't train seriously until 10th grade.

Epperson said his biggest accomplishment was making the United States Junior National team. He has placed third in the United States Federation of Gymnastics Junior Championships the last two years. At the Windy City Invitational Nov. 16, Epperson placed third in all-around, the highest a freshman has ever finished in that invitational.

Coach Allen said Epperson is one of the best gymnasts he has ever seen coming out of high school.

"Mike works really hard," Allen said. "He does everything he is

asked to do and more, and I think that he could be one of the top gymnasts in the United States someday."

The women's team recruited four of the top high school recruits in the nation. Coach Rick Walton said his new crop of freshmen will help Nebraska win the Big Eight Championship.

Last year's top recruit was Jackie Cassello. Cassello competed on the United States gymnastics team in the 1979 Pan American games and won the gold medal in vaulting. Cassello also finished ninth at the 1980 Olympic trials.

But after the 1980 trials she stopped training for international competition.

"I wanted to go out and have fun because I was just tired of working eight to 10 hours a day," Cassello said. "I just needed a vacation," Cassello said.

When Cassello was 11 she left home to improve her gymnastics skills. "My parents said that it was the only way I could improve if I wanted to be good," Cassello said.

Cassello said leaving home has taught her a lot of gymnastics skills.

Walton said Cassello will be dependable because she has performed in front of large crowds.

"Jackie is a strong gymnast and we can count on her not to crack under pressure in the big meets," Walton said. "She is very strong."

Epperson and Cassello said they think big meets put a lot of pressure on gymnasts. But both said pressure is part of the sport.

"I know I can handle the pressure when I am out there because I am concentrating so much on my routine that nothing can break that concentration," Cassello said.

Sunday's dual meet against the Japanese national team will not be the first time Epperson and Cassello have competed against the Japanese.

Epperson competed against them last year and Cassello has competed against them in several international meets.

Cassello will not be competing Sunday in the all-around competition because she pulled a muscle in her lower back. Walton said she will compete only in the floor exercise, the balance beam and vaulting.



Nebraska freshmen gymnasts Mike Epperson and Jackie Cassello.



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## Rec Scoreboard

Abel Seven swept through three matches to claim the intramural tug-of-war title Wednesday at the Men's P.E. Building.

Abel Seven defeated Triangle, and the Rec Crew twice on the road to the championship. The Rec Crew finished second and Triangle third. Only three teams competed.

**Intramural Volleyball**  
Dorchester Longhorns (3.3) def. Chemistry (4.0) 17-19, 15-7, 15-1  
Wreck Crew (4.0) def. Ag Econ (4.0) 15-11, 15-5  
Acacia A (4.0) def. Lambda Chi

Alpha A (4.3) 15-5, 10-15, 15-11  
Beta Sigma Psi B (4.3) def. Delta Upsilon C (3.6) 11-15, 15-5, 15-8  
Beta Sigma Psi B (4.3) def. Phi Delta Theta B (3.3) 7-15, 15-5, 15-3

Loose Bladder (4.0) def. Total Sound (4.0) 15-4, 15-12

**Indoor Soccer**  
Shemp's (4.0) 8, Ag Men/Love Hall (4.0) 2  
Don Ho's (4.3) 4, Gamma Phi Beta/Alpha Tau Omega (4.0) 1  
Phi Psi (4.5) 5, Lambda Chi Alpha (4.5) 4  
Phi Gamma Delta (3.5) 5, Spanky and The Gang (4.5) 4

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