

Japanese all-star gymnasts defeat Husker men, women

By Richard Cooper
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

In front of a small crowd at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the collegiate allstars from Japan defeated the Nebraska men's and women's gymnastics team.

Scott Johnson won the all-around competition by showing the form that earned him a spot on the gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic team.

Nebraska men's coach Francis Allen said the event that decided the meet was the pommel horse.

Allen said the team just did not perform well enough in that event.

"At the end of the first event we were already behind by three points," Allen said. And starting out on the pommel horse in a way hurt us because the guys were just a little nervous."

Five of the six Huskers failed to score in the nines on the horse.

The tough competition from Japan was good for UNL's young team, Allen said. "I think we performed pretty good the rest of the meet, but we still have a long way to go until the NCAA finals in April," Allen said.

High bar performances from Johnson and Wes Suter highlighted the evening for the men's

team. Both of them scored 9.8, good enough for second and third place finishes, respectively.

The Japanese women's team showed its experience by defeating Nebraska 184 to 178.70.

Mieko O'Hara of Japan won the all-around with a high score of 37.70. The closest Husker to O'Hara was Terri Furman, who finished in sixth place with a score of 35.50.

Both the men's and women's teams will get another shot at Japan when they travel to Kansas City, Mo., on Tuesday.

Nebraska's Mike Epperson, a freshman, explained Sunday's loss.

"We were a little nervous out there tonight because we had heard about their high scores, and by starting out on the pommel horse, nervousness really hurt us," he said.

The women's team will have its first NCAA dual meet this Saturday against Minnesota.

Husker women defeated despite 'clamp' on Yori

By Kevin Warneke
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

The Nebraska women's basketball team put the clamps on Creighton's high-scoring forward Connie Yori Saturday in Omaha. But in doing so, Creighton's four other starters seemingly all scored at will and won the game 86-75.

While Yori was held to 14 points, five below her season average, Janet Ensign, Pam Gradoville, Amy Allard and Tanya Warren picked up the slack, leading the Creighton victory over Nebraska.

"They ran kind of a special defense on her (Yori), which left some of our other kids wide open," said Creighton coach Bruce Rasmussen.

Gradoville took charge of the Creighton offense, making 11 of 15 shots and finishing with 25 points. Warren added 16, Ensign, 15 and Allard 12.

"Their other players played real well," Nebraska coach Kelly Hill said. "They didn't miss too many shots the first half."

Early Nebraska turnovers allowed Creighton to jump to a 10-4 lead. Nebraska managed to stay close, but could never close the

gap. Deb Powell's bank shot with 10:35 left in the half pulled Nebraska within two points, 24-22, but the Huskers never tied the score.

Behind their balanced scoring attack, Creighton assumed control, finishing the half with a 48-32 lead.

The absence of Maurice Ivy and Powell hindered Nebraska's performance against Creighton. Ivy was sidelined with a pulled thigh muscle and Powell spent much of the game on the bench in foul trouble.

"We've got some other players besides Debra Powell and Maurice Ivy," Hill said. "But we sure could have used them tonight."

Center Angie Miller shouldered the offensive responsibilities, tallying 27 points, on 11 of 21 shooting. Stacy Imming added 13 points.

Although Nebraska's record fell to 1-4, Hill said she isn't about to write off the season. The Big Eight Conference games are what matter, she said. Her team would be ready then, she said.

"You have to give Nebraska credit," Rasmussen said. "They were down, but they scrapped right up until the end of the ballgame."

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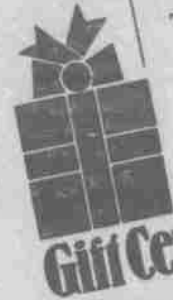
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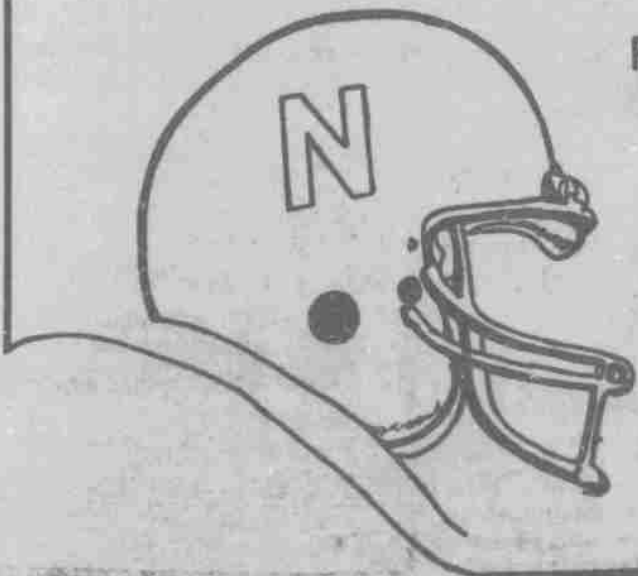
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