

Sports

Spring break produces positive Husker results

Here is a recap of Nebraska sports over spring break.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING — Fresh off an upset of 10-time conference champion Kansas at the Big Eight Championships, the Huskers rolled to a ninth place finish at the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Nebraska scored 123 points and its finish was the second-highest ever for a Big Eight school at the national meet.

The Husker quartet of Shauna Gilmore, Linda Sebesta, Dana Powers and Emily Ricketts set a school record when it finished third in 400-yard freestyle relay in 3:24.44.

Dana Powers, a sophomore from Tacoma, Wash., became the second Nebraska women's swimmer to earn All-American honors when she placed 10th in the 50 freestyle.

Powers also earned All-American honors when she teamed with Sebesta, Gilmore and Cindy Hampel for a third-place finish in the 200 freestyle relay.

Freshman Erin Hurley narrowly missed breaking her own school record in the 200 breaststroke as she finished fifth at 2:17.80.

Texas' Tiffany Cohen set two NCAA records at the meet. She set a new mark in the 1,650 freestyle and broke Marbeth Linzmeier's national record in the 100 freestyle.

The Longhorns won the team championship by more than 200 points. Florida and Stanford finished second and third, respectively, while Kansas dropped from its early 10th place position to 13th.

MEN'S GYMNASTICS — Let by the all-around scoring of Wes Suter, Nebraska claimed its third conference gym-

nastics title in four years as it outdistanced defending champion Oklahoma by five points.

Suter defeated the Sooners' Mike Rice in the all-around competition, winning the vault and pommel horse and tying with teammate Neil Palmer on the high bar.

In the compulsory events Suter trailed Rice by eight-tenths of a point heading into the final event; the high bar. Rice scored a 7.65 and Suter registered an 8.65 to take a narrow lead heading into the final night. The junior from Reston, Va., finished with a season high score of 57.95.

The Huskers, who will host the NCAA Championships April 12 and 13 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, landed four gymnasts in the top six in the all-around.

The Huskers score of 284.90 was a season high.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK — The Big Eight indoor champions opened their outdoor season with several individual records at the Paper Tiger Invitational in Baton Rouge, La.

Rhonda Blanford set a conference and school record with a 13.40 clocking as she won the 100-yard hurdles.

Blanford teamed with Karen Kruger, Vicky Johnson and Stephanie Thomas to set a world record in the 400 shuttle relay. The squad's time of 56.75 seconds does not qualify as an American record since Kruger is a citizen of South Africa.

The Huskers' Karlene Erickson also set a school record in the 5,000 when she finished second at 16:47.88.

In the men's competition, Darren Burton cleared 7-4 to win the height jump and set a meet record. Kurt Rus-



Wes Suter, Big Eight all-around champion. David Bourke/Daily Nebraskan

sell won the steeplechase in a time of 8:56.13.

At the Razorback Invitational in Arkansas, Burton cleared 7-2 to finish second in the high jump and the 1,600 relay team placed second in 3:09.83.

SOFTBALL — After being ousted from the Pony Invitational Softball Tournament by host school Cal State-Fullerton, Nebraska reeled off four straight victories to raise its record to 11-6.

The Huskers dropped out of the

tournament with a 6-0 loss to Fullerton after defeating San Diego State 1-0 in the first round.

Pitchers Mori Emmons and Donna Deardorff hurled two- and three-hitters respectively to lead the Huskers to a doubleheader sweep of Chapman College.

The Huskers followed with wins over Nevada-Las Vegas and Cal State-Riverside. Freshman Lori Sippel tied a school record 16 strikeouts when she posted a 4-3 win over the Rebels.

BASEBALL — Nebraska's baseball team returned from a West Coast swing with a 14-11 record.

The Huskers lost six of nine games, including three to Nevada-Las Vegas. The Rebels rallied from a 22-21 deficit to defeat Nebraska 23-22 in 10 innings in the team's first meeting and followed with a 21-19, 18-15 doubleheader sweep.

Nebraska also lost three of five games to San Diego State and defeated Southern Utah State 21-0.

'As the Huskers turn' spring practice begins

Nebraska begins spring football practice today with many questions needing answers.

Who will replace the five starters lost from the offensive line? Who will take the place of all four starters in the defensive secondary? Can Travis Turner do the job at quarterback? Can Mike Knox and Jason Gamble recover from knee injuries?

It sounds more like a soap opera than a football team. Add Tom Osborne's bypass surgery and the return of Brian Blankenship and there is even more potential for drama at Memorial Stadium this spring.

Practice will be Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays until the Red-White game April 27. Scrimmages will be on Saturdays.

Replacing the five offensive line starters could be the biggest problem for the Husker coaching staff. Experienced players such as Tom Morrow and Harry Griminger graduated, with standouts Mark Traynowicz and Mark Behning, both of whom are projected as early round selections in the upcoming National Football League draft.

Rob Maggard and Tim Roth will start spring practice as starters at tackle, Stan Parker and Mike Hoefler at guard and Bill Lewis at center. This will be the first time in five years that Nebraska will not have an Outland Trophy candidate before the season.

Graduated safety Bret Clark is another former Husker expected to go high in the NFL draft. Chriss Carr is in line for Clark's spot. Denis

Watkins will open at left cornerback after starting several games last season when Neil Harris was injured. Brian Washington will open at the monster position and Mike Carl is the top player at right cornerback.

Travis Turner started six games last season but graduated senior Craig Sundberg started the Nebraska Sugar Bowl victory against LSU. Turner is expected to be challenged in spring practice by redshirt sophomore McCathorn Clayton.

Knox will attempt to return from a knee injury that kept him out the entire 1984 season. If Knox is healthy he will team with returning starter Marc Munford to give Nebraska solid linebacking.

Gamble injured his knee in the Kansas game and missed the rest of the season. The freshman

from Santa Barbara, Calif., will not participate in spring drills but could be back for fall practice.

One possible addition that could help the offensive line is Brian Blankenship. Blankenship missed the 1984 season after being involved in an accident that killed an Omaha man. Blankenship pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of motor vehicle homicide. Osborne recently reinstated Blankenship to the team. The junior could win one of the vacant offensive guard spots.

Nebraska needs to have the offensive line and other questions answered before the conclusion of spring practice. The Huskers open the season with games against Florida State and Illinois. Both teams are expected to be in the pre-season top 20.

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