

Sports

Huskers bounce Czechs; Day scores 22 points

By Mike Reilly and Bob Asmussen
Senior Editors

What a difference a Day makes. . . Forward Bernard Day scored 22 points to lead Nebraska to a 101-67 exhibition win over the Bratislava Club Monday night at the Bob Devaney

Sports Center.

Day, a transfer from Moberly (Mo.) Junior College, tallied 16 of his game-high total in the first half. He scored three baskets in the first half on lob passes from guards Brian Carr and Darren Brown.

Baskets by Dave Hoppen, who fin-

ished with 20 points and Harvey Marshall gave Nebraska an early 4-2 lead. Day then scored six of the next 10 points to push the Cornhuskers' lead to eight, 12-4.

Nebraska coach Moe Iba said he was pleased with Day's first performance in a Husker uniform.

"He had a good night shooting," Iba said. "He's a good defensive player, too."

Defense, Day said, is his specialty. "I don't look too much for shooting the ball," he said. "I just love to play defense."

The Huskers' first-half lead grew to 20 when Day made his second alley-oop basket with 5:40 left in the first half.

A pair of Marshall free throws pro-

Chris Logan, who injured his ankle with 15:37 remaining in the first half.

Iba said Logan's rebounding ability was missed.

"I wish Logan could have played longer," Iba said. "He hurt it in practice the other day. We need him."

A jump shot by Deak Vance with 1:54 left in the game gave the Huskers a 96-65 lead. With the crowd of 6,795 egging them on, the Huskers tried to break the century mark.

A fullcourt layup and free throw by Joel Sealer brought Nebraska's total to 99. After a free throw by Bratislava's Jaroslav Koren, the Huskers had the ball and a chance to go over 100 points with 20 seconds left in the game.

Brown brought the ball down the right side, dribbled between his legs, passed inside and sunk a 20-footer after getting the ball back for Nebraska's final score.

Iba said he was pleased with his team's intensity, particularly in the first half. He said the exhibition game helped the Huskers.

Bratislava coach Dr. Miroslav Rehac said Nebraska is the best team his club has played in its nine-game U.S. tour. Among the teams Bratislava has played include defending Big Eight champion Oklahoma. Bratislava has also played Utah and Southern Illinois.

"According to my opinion, Nebraska is the best team we've played," Rehac said. "Nebraska is very good in defense and the best shooters."

Rehac said his team has players that are one level below that of the Czech National team, which is also touring the U.S.

Rehac said his team won the national championship last season in Czechoslovakia. He said three of the players from that team have moved on to the national team.

Bratislava 67

Player	Points
Kubricky, Jiri	15
Koren, Jaroslav	14
Kratochvil, Igor	4
Jancura, Peter	8
Michalik, Tomas	6
Krejci, Leos	12
Pochaba, Lubomir	8

Nebraska 101

Player	Points
Day, Bernard	22
Hoppen, Dave	20
Marshall, Harvey	6
Carr, Brian	8
Brown, Carren	6
Bailous, Anthony	6
Sealer, Joel	6
Neubert, Keith	4
Jackman, Bill	8
Martz, Mike	4
Vance, Deak	9
Matzke, John	2

pelled Nebraska to its biggest first half lead, 49-21.

In the second half, the Huskers traded baskets with the Czechs. Iba cleared the bench and every Husker scored except for starting forward



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Joel Sealer, left, attempts to block a pass by Bratislava's Igor Kratochvil during first half of the Cornhuskers' 101-67 win Monday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Suter takes all-around at first meet

By Richard Cooper
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's gymnastics team opened its season by finishing third behind Iowa and Southern Illinois at the Big Eight men's gymnastics Invitational Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Cornhuskers, the runner-up to Ohio State at last year's NCAA championships, were in first place going into the high bar competition when freshman gymnast Terry Gillespie fell two times to score a 5.95. Neil Palmer fell once, leaving the Huskers four points

behind Southern Illinois.

"The high bar just killed us tonight," Nebraska coach Francis Allen said. "We really missed Kevin Davis a lot, if we would have had him at full strength tonight, we would have won by two points."

Davis, a sophomore from Lithonia, Ga., dislocated his ankle in September and can compete only on the pommel horse. Allen said Davis should be back to full strength by the end of January.

There were bright spots at the meet, Allen said. Wes Suter, last year's NCAA individual all-around champion, took the all-around title with a score of

55.25. Sophomore Mike Epperson finished third in the all-around behind Oklahoma's Mike Rice with a score of 54.10. Epperson also won the parallel bar title with a 9.55.

"I was really surprised on how well I finished tonight," Epperson said. "Finishing that high will give me the confidence that I can compete better at the college level this year."

Allen said the meet didn't go as expected for Gillespie. He said Gillespie was a little nervous since it was his first collegiate meet and is going to have to re-work some of his routines so he can gain confidence.

Allen said he was glad Suter won the all-around title.

"Winning the all-around was really good for Wes," Allen said. "With his performances tonight he proved to himself he can still compete well."

Suter could not compete at the U.S. team World Championship trials at the beginning of October because of a neck injury that has bothered him for more than a month.

Allen said he wished he had recruited another gymnast last year so he wouldn't have only five gymnasts competing in four events. But he would have felt bad, he said, keeping seven

gymnasts around all year.

Allen said he doesn't like to lose the first home meet, but he was satisfied with his team's performance.

Despite the overall third place finish, he said he still thinks he has the best team in the nation. Allen said Gillespie will be scoring a 55 in the all-around by the end of the season, and that the rest of his team, Palmer, Davis, Epperson, Tom Schlesinger and Suter all should be scoring 57 or better.

The next home meet for the Huskers will be Dec. 8 when they meet the Japanese collegiate all-stars.

Quarterbacks are just fine

Hey fans — get off Osborne's back!

Isn't it amazing how smart all these fans and sportswriters are across the state of Nebraska? "Tom Osborne should start Steve Taylor," they say in unison. "They can't win without him starting," they shout. "Why won't he break tradition a little bit?" they ask.

Well, to all those armchair quarterbacks and sportswriters I have one thing to say: Get off Osborne's back!



Bob Asmussen

I can't remember a recent time when Osborne has gone into the office of the Omaha World-Herald or Lincoln Journal and told the sports guys how to write their stories. What gives them the right to tell him how to do his job?

Like it or not, Osborne's funny quarterback situation this season has done the one thing it supposed to do, win games. Yes, the Huskers lost to Florida State, but the Seminoles had a game

under their belts, and it's doubtful any quarterback could have made that situation better.

Having two or three quarterbacks can be advantageous. For one thing, a team like Oklahoma cannot prepare for the option only. If Nebraska moves Travis Turner to quarterback, the team will run less option and might throw the ball more. If Osborne puts Steve Taylor into the game he will present different problems than the other quarterbacks. Taylor is a fine passer, but he's also a good runner. His abilities, and the fact that he might play a significant role in Saturday's game, gives Oklahoma one more thing to think about.

And isn't that going to be the key to Saturday's game? The team that is able to move the ball against the other team's defense will be the winner. Oklahoma, with freshman, Janelle Holieway, is locked into an all-option, no-pass offense. Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer's only option is another freshman, Eric Mitchel, who does the same things as Holieway.

Nebraska, on the other hand, has many cards it can play. Osborne can pick a runner, (Clayton), or a thrower, (Turner), or can go to a guy who might, or might now, be able to do both, (Taylor).

But win or lose, the most important thing for Osborne is to show that he will not be influenced by the cries of the public or the cries of the media. He is in his 13th year as coach and has done a remarkable job. Now is not the time for him to cave in to outside pressures.

I think Osborne, who has both played and coached football, is in a little bit better position to judge his team than a sportswriter who only watches the team on Saturday. Obviously, Osborne will make the decisions he thinks he will have to make to give the team its best chance for victory.

Some have accused Osborne of going with players just because they're seniors. Is that such a horrible thing? After five years in the program, a senior is more likely to be better prepared to play than a freshman or sophomore. Also, when you play seniors, you show the younger players that as they get older, there will be a pecking order that will be followed so they won't get left out in the cold. Every player at Nebraska knows that if they have the ability, they will eventually play.

You can't really argue with the success Osborne has had at Nebraska. When Nebraska goes to a bowl game it will be the 13th in 13 years

with Osborne as coach. Sure, they haven't won the elusive national title, but they have contended several times, and it will come eventually.

Is Taylor ready to play? Probably, but does that mean he has to? Nebraskans need to learn to have a little more patience with their football team.

Sure, Taylor might do well against Oklahoma, but what might the pressure of the game do to him later? Will he turn into the next Marcus Dupree, a player who had a great freshman season, but let it go to his head and screw up his football career? There are some good examples of freshmen who have been brilliant and gone on to even more greatness. Herschel Walker and Bo Jackson come to mind right away. But for every Jackson, there are 10 Marcus Dupree's. Osborne wants to make sure that a similar occurrence doesn't happen at Nebraskan.

So get off Osborne's back. If he wants to play McCathorn Clayton the whole game, great. If he chooses to go with Turner, why not? If he brings in the freshman, nice move, coach. Given a choice, I'd probably go with a coach with 127 wins in 13 seasons rather than an armchair quarterback with none. Hey everybody, leave the real coach alone. Go buy Stratomatic.