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David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska gymnast Neil Palmer competes on the pommel horse Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Gymnastics triangular victory pleases coach

From Staff Reports

Men's gymnastic's coach Francis Allen had nothing but praise for the Cornhuskers following their triangular victory against Oklahoma and Iowa State on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers, who hit on 80 percent of their routines, scored a 279.75-272.85 victory against the Sooners. Iowa State finished third in the triangular with a score of 276.90.

Allen said he was very happy with the Cornhuskers' performance. Besides avenging two early season losses to the Sooners, Nebraska also scored what Allen said could be the highest team score in the country with its 279.75 total.

Individuals who did particularly well in the meet included sophomores Kevin Davis and Tom Schlesinger and defending NCAA all-around Wes Suter, Allen said.

Davis, Schlesinger and Suter swept the first three spots in the meets all-around competition.

Allen said that one of the keys to the

Huskers' success was Suter's return to NCAA championship form. Suter had been hampered by a sore neck and competition burnout earlier in the season.

Now that he is healthy, Suter said that Nebraska has a good chance to win the NCAA gymnastics championship in April, because the Huskers are the best team in the country.

"I hope we can win the NCAA's," Suter said. "We control our own destiny right now and there is some tough competition ahead for us."

Sooner coach Greg Buick said that he was hoping for a high team score in the triangular, but Oklahoma's team score of 272.85 was one of its worst in a long time.

After having only one individual score higher than a 9.0 in the pommel horse, Buick said that the meet was over, because the judges seemed to nitpick every mistake the Sooners made.

Buick said Oklahoma will have to go back to the gym and train very hard if they are to defeat Nebraska March 4 and 5 during the Big Eight championships in Ames, Iowa.

Wrestlers 'lack fire,' lose close dual, 20-17

By Doug Carroll
Staff Reporter

Nebraska wrestlers faced their fourth top-20 rated opponent in seven days Saturday and narrowly missed their third victory against the four.

Nebraska traveled to Wyoming to take on the No. 13-ranked Cowboys and lost a closely fought dual, 20-17. Nebraska is now ranked No. 2.

Nebraska coach Tim Neumann said he wasn't happy with his team's performance.

"We wrestled worse than we have all year. Wyoming wrestled aggressively, and our kids didn't wrestle with the fire that they usually have," he said.

Terry Cook, now 21-9, provided Nebraska's first points of the night when he decisioned Wyoming's 126-pounder, Troy Doughman, 12-6. This tied the team score at 3-3. Wyoming gets its points at 118-pounds. In that weight class, Wallace Dawkins lost a close match to Andy Bell, 6-5.

At 134 pounds, Gil Sanchez provided Nebraska's first fall of the dual when he won by technical fall, 15-0 (a technical fall is scored whenever one wrestler is leading by 15 or more points).

Sanchez, a redshirted junior, has won his last four matches by fall and Neumann said Sanchez is wrestling

"super." Sanchez has a 22-5 record.

Nebraska's next points came at 150 pounds, where Keenan Turner tied Wyoming's Scott Raridin, 5-5.

The tie at 150 pounds made the team score 11-8 in favor of Nebraska and proved to be the last points Nebraska would score in the dual until the heavyweight match.

At 158 pounds, Nebraska's Jeff Coltvet lost his first dual match of the season, 6-5, to Mike Hamel of Wyoming. Neumann said Coltvet took Hamel down in the last 45 seconds to tie the match, but let him go in order to go for a takedown and the victory. He was not able to score before time ran out, however. Coltvet's season record is now 28-7-2.

Wyoming's Joel DeCamilli then decisioned Cody Olson, 9-6, and John Bragg defeated Nebraska's Fritz Stratton, 5-2, to make the score 20-11 in favor of Wyoming.

With the loss, Nebraska's dual record fell to 13-5. All five of Nebraska's losses have come against rated teams. Nebraska's next dual will be Wednesday when the team travels to Des Moines, Iowa, to wrestle Drake. The next home meet will be Saturday at 4 p.m. when Nebraska is host to Notre Dame and Brigham Young in the Bob Devaney Sports Center track area.

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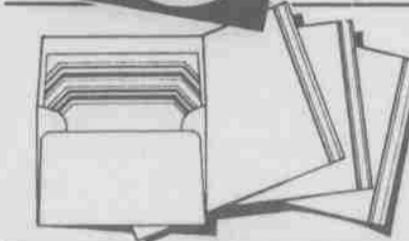
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