

Sports

Colts may not choose Bennett as No. 2 pick

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The only sure thing in the first round of Tuesday's National Football League draft is the first pick — the Tampa Bay Bucs will take Vinny Testaverde, the Miami quarterback and Heisman Trophy winner.

Testaverde already has been signed to an \$8.2 million, six-year contract by the Bucs, who were burned last year when they took Bo Jackson with the first pick and he opted for baseball over football.

The draft begins at 8 a.m. EDT at New York's Marriott Marquis Hotel, an hour that forces West Coast teams to be ready to go at 5 a.m., and there's been a lot of trade talk.

The consensus is that there are perhaps 10 players available who can have an immediate impact. That leaves the good teams to play the bad teams with excess players and multiple draft picks in return for that one blue-chipper.

Then come the Indianapolis Colts, who until Saturday night were also a sure thing. They were going to take Alabama linebacker Cornelius Bennett, who is advertised as the second coming of Lawrence Taylor.

They are still likely to take Bennett, but when Randy McMillan was hit by a car in Maryland Saturday night and suffered a broken leg, it left the Colts without their principal running back. That left an opening for the San Diego Chargers, which picks fifth, to exchange choices with Indianapolis, take Bennett, and leave the Colts to choose one of

two running backs — Brent Fullwood of Auburn or Alonzo Highsmith of Miami.

The third pick belongs to the Buffalo Bills, who would love to have Shane Conlan, the Penn State linebacker who comes from nearby Frewsburg, N.Y. Conlan is likely to be available lower, and the Bills might trade with Houston, which picks eighth, getting an additional pick and still getting their man.

"Are we willing to trade the pick?" asks Buffalo coach Marv Levy. "The answer is yes, if the trade is right. We have to feel unequivocally that we've helped ourselves."

Then on to the other blue-chippers — defensive back Rod Woodson of Purdue; defensive linemen Reggie Rogers of Washington and Jerome Brown of Miami; and running backs Fullwood, Highsmith and D.J. Dozier.

Behind them come such potential first-rounders as quarterbacks Kelly Stouffer of Colorado State and Chris Miller of Oregon; linebacker Mike Junkin of Duke; defensive linemen Shawn Knight and Jason Buck of Brigham Young; Danny Noonan of Nebraska; John Bosa of Boston College and Tony Woods of Pitt; offensive linemen Harris Barton of North Carolina and John Clay of Missouri and wide receivers Haywood Jeffries (pronounced Jeffries) of North Carolina State, Mark Ingram of Michigan State and Ricky Nattiel of Florida; running backs Paul Palmer of Temple, Roger Rick of Texas A&M and Kenny Flowers of Clemson, and tight end Rod Bernstine of Texas A&M.

Men's, women's gymnastics coaches optimistic after NCAA defeats

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Even though neither Nebraska team won the NCAA meet Friday and Saturday, men's and women's gymnastics coaches said they're optimistically looking toward next season.

The men's team finished second behind host school UCLA. UCLA had a final score of 285.30, and Nebraska scored 284.75. Penn State placed third with 284.20.



Allen

This was the third consecutive year that the Cornhuskers ended second at the meet. Last season Arizona State defeated Nebraska by three-tenths of a point on a controversial ruling, and Ohio State beat the Huskers in 1985. In 1984, Nebraska finished fifth in the country and from 1979 to 1983, they were national champions.

Men's coach Francis Allen said that it is disappointing to finish so close to the national title three years in a row,

but he is still proud of his team's accomplishments.

"Just think of how many teams haven't been in the top three during that period," Allen said.

Tom Schlesinger and Kevin Davis took home top honors in the all-around to lead Nebraska. Schlesinger finished first with a score of 113.25, and Davis placed second with 112.05. Schlesinger earned All-American honors in the horizontal bars by placing second, and Davis became an All-American in the pommel horse with a sixth-place finish.

Allen said that Nebraska won the first part of the meet and had a chance to win the whole event.

"We could have won very easily," Allen said. "It was sort of like losing a basketball game on a last-minute basket."

Everyone from this year's team will return next year with the exception of Neil Palmer. Add to that the return of Mike Epperson, who redshirted this year with a wrist injury, and two highly recruited freshmen, and Allen is again thinking national title.

"We're pretty much in fat city," he said.

The two recruits are Brad Bryan and Ted Dimas, both from Albuquerque, N.M.

"There were three top recruits this year — one went to Illinois, one went to Oklahoma and one (Dimas) went here," Allen said.

Meanwhile, the women's team finished 10th at the NCAA meet in Salt Lake City. Women's coach Rick Walton said he felt his team could have placed higher, but he was still pleased with the effort.

"When this team walked off the floor

we had earned a lot of respect," he said. "A lot of people are going to realize next season that if you take them lightly you'll be watching us at the NCAA's from the sidelines."

Walton said that because Nebraska competed in the first rotation, where judges get a feel for the scoring, the team score was hurt.

"We had some great performances, but it's difficult to be in the first rotation," he said. "The scoring there is kind of tight."



Walton

The year of NCAA experience will benefit Nebraska next season, Walton said.

"We feel pretty good (about next year)," Walton said. "We don't lose anybody and we have a year of experience under our belts."

Georgia won the meet with a score of 187.90, and Nebraska tallied a 179.50. Michele Bryant finished 27th in the all-around, Crystal Savage finished 31st and Jeaneane Smith finished 39th.

Huskers' weekend softball victories clinch regular-season conference title

By Richard Cooper
Staff Reporter

AMES, Iowa — Nebraska's Donna Deardorff and Lori Sippel held Missouri to seven hits as the Cornhuskers clinched the regular-season Big Eight Conference title Sunday by defeating the Tigers 1-0.

Nebraska, 32-9 and 8-2 in the Big Eight, scored the only run of the game in the fifth inning when Leanna Miles scored on Jane Kremer's single to center field. With the win, Nebraska earned the No. 1 seed in the Big Eight post-season tournament next weekend in St. Joseph, Mo.

On Saturday, the Huskers defeated Missouri 2-1 behind Sippel's 14 strikeouts. Sippel pitched a no-hitter through the first five innings but gave up one hit each in the sixth and seventh innings.

In the second game Saturday, Nebraska defeated Kansas 3-2 in 10 innings when Rhonda Gorraiz scored on a single by Jill Rishel. Deardorff allowed nine hits and struck out seven Jayhawk batters.

With the wins against Kansas and Missouri, Nebraska extended its winning streak to six in the Big Eight and nine since the Huskers' wins against Utah and Missouri on April 11. Nebraska will host its last home games of the season today when the Huskers face Kearney State in a doubleheader. The games are scheduled to start at 3 and 5 p.m. at the Nebraska Softball Complex.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said he was very happy with the Huskers' play.

"Both Donna and Sip pitched solid ball games today," Wolforth said. "Our hitting was strong, and the defense backed up our pitchers well this weekend."

In Sunday afternoon's game the Huskers finished their Big Eight regular season with a 3-0 victory against Kansas. Sippel allowed only three hits and struck out five Kansas batters to raise her career strikeout total to 703. In the weekend round-robin tournament, Nebraska had five successful pick-off attempts; the most crucial one came in

Sunday's game against Missouri.

In the third inning of that game with the score still tied at 0-0 Missouri's Chris Banghurt was picked off at third base by Husker catcher Katie Wolda. The pickoff ended the Tigers' most serious scoring threat of the game.

"I was real pleased with our pick-off plays this weekend," Wolforth said. "We had been practicing those all week and apparently it paid off for us."

Wolforth said he is concerned about playing Kearney State because it is a "scrappy" team. He said Kearney State always plays Nebraska tough, which

means they can't take the Antelopes lightly.

Wolforth said he is proud of how the team has bounced back to win nine straight games.

"After we lost those two games down in Stillwater we bounced back real nice," he said. "I give the girls a lot of credit. They really proved themselves the last part of the season."

Wolforth said the game against Kearney State is important because the Huskers need to keep the momentum up going into the Big Eight Championships next weekend.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Stre-e-e-tch!

Nebraska's Kim Guthrie completes the long jump during last weekend's Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa. Guthrie finished seventh in the women's long jump with a jump of 20-8. Karen Kruger, Guthrie's teammate, finished third with a jump of 21-0 1/2.

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