

# Sports

## Ratings 'shaken up' at Husker Invitational

by Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor  
and  
Tim Hartmann  
Staff Reporter

Arizona State men's swimming coach Ron Johnson and Nebraska women's coach Ray Huppert said a shake up of the national rankings was in order Sunday following the conclusion of the Husker Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Johnson, whose Sun Devils entered the meet with a No. 8 ranking, said the No. 10-ranked Cornhuskers were underrated after he saw Arizona State drop a 807.5-781 decision to Nebraska.

Wyoming finished third with 440 points, while Iowa State was fourth. Missouri, Drury College, New Mexico, Air Force, St. Olaf, and North Dakota rounded out the men's competition.

In the women's competition, Arizona State defeated Nebraska 1,075-924. Colorado State finished third, followed by Iowa State, North Dakota, New Mexico, Missouri, Wyoming, and Air Force.

Johnson said Nebraska deserves more national recognition than it has received in the past. He said the Huskers don't get any respect on the national level despite possessing strong relays and several outstanding individuals.

"I think Nebraska is underrated," Johnson said. "The Nebraska team is real powerful and I think they would give any team in the country a good meet. I think they've got an excellent chance to finish in the top 10 at the NCAA's."

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said he was pleased with the meet's outcome because the Huskers were able to perform well on the way to defeating some strong competition. He said Nebraska was able to use its strong balance of swimmers and divers to post the victory.

"We had an opportunity to swim against a great team," Bentz said. "We'll take a look at what we did, make some changes and go from there."

Bentz said he was particularly pleased with the meet's outcome because the Huskers were able to qualify 15 individuals for the NCAA championships. The NCAA championships will be held in Indianapolis,

Ind., on April 7-9.

The top individual qualifier for Nebraska was Ed Jowdy, a senior from Glastonbury, Conn. Jowdy broke his own sports center record in the 200-yard backstroke when he posted a 1:49.41 clocking. Jowdy also qualified in the 100-yard backstroke and teamed with Peter Williams, Sean Frampton and Ed Rief on Nebraska's 400-yard medley relay.

Joining Jowdy as multiple-event winners were Mike Irvin, Williams, and divers Lewis Meyers and Lawrence Roddick.

Irvin broke his own sports center record in the 200-yard individual medley when he posted a 1:49.15 clocking, and also qualified for the NCAA championships in the 400 IM. Irvin also teamed with Dan Novinski, Rick Havekost and Williams on Nebraska's 400-yard freestyle relay.

Williams also qualified in the 50-yard free, while Meyers and Roddick qualified in the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions.

Bentz said the only disappointments in the three-day meet were that Frampton failed to qualify in the 100-yard breaststroke and Nebraska's 800-yard freestyle relay team missed qualifying by seven-tenths of a second.

Huppert said he remained optimistic even though the Nebraska women qualified only three individuals. Those individuals included All-America Erin Hurley in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke, freshman Deanna Wilbourn in the 100-yard backstroke and Amy Aarsen in the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions.

Huppert said he wasn't concerned about the lack of NCAA qualifiers because the Huskers are barely missing their cuts. He said he feels confident that Nebraska will make some of its cuts when it travels to Iowa City, Iowa, to face the Iowa Hawkeyes on Friday.

"We're so close that there is not a question in my mind they are going to come to us," Huppert said. "Those cuts are so damn tough, but we'll get them."

Huppert said the meet convinced him that the Huskers deserve to be ranked higher than the No. 16-ranking they currently own. He said he would rank Nebraska No. 12 this week.

Huppert said the Sun Devils are deserving of their No. 6-ranking.

## Men's gymnastics team takes first step to the top

By Richard Cooper  
Staff Reporter

The last time the Nebraska men's gymnastics team scored 280 in the opening meet of the season was 1982, when the Cornhuskers won their fifth consecutive NCAA Championship.

Saturday night, the Husker gymnasts took their first step toward winning their first NCAA title since 1983 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, scoring a 280.7 to win the Big Eight Invitational.

Nebraska was led by seniors Tom Schlesinger and Kevin Davis, who finished 1-2 in the all-around competition. Schlesinger, last year's NCAA all-around champion, compiled a score of 111.40, and Davis finished with 110.05.

Schlesinger finished first in the still rings and parallel bars, and tied for first with teammate Bob Warburton on the high bar. Davis finished first on the pommel horse with 9.8.

Nebraska gymnastics coach Francis Allen said the team score of 280.7 would surprise many coaches around the nation.

"They're going to look at our score and say, 'They scored a 280 without Patrick Kirksey?'" Allen said. "But

some of the top teams in the nation know we're going to be tough because we have depth."

Kirksey didn't compete Saturday because of lower back spasms. Allen said he doesn't know how serious Kirksey's injury is.

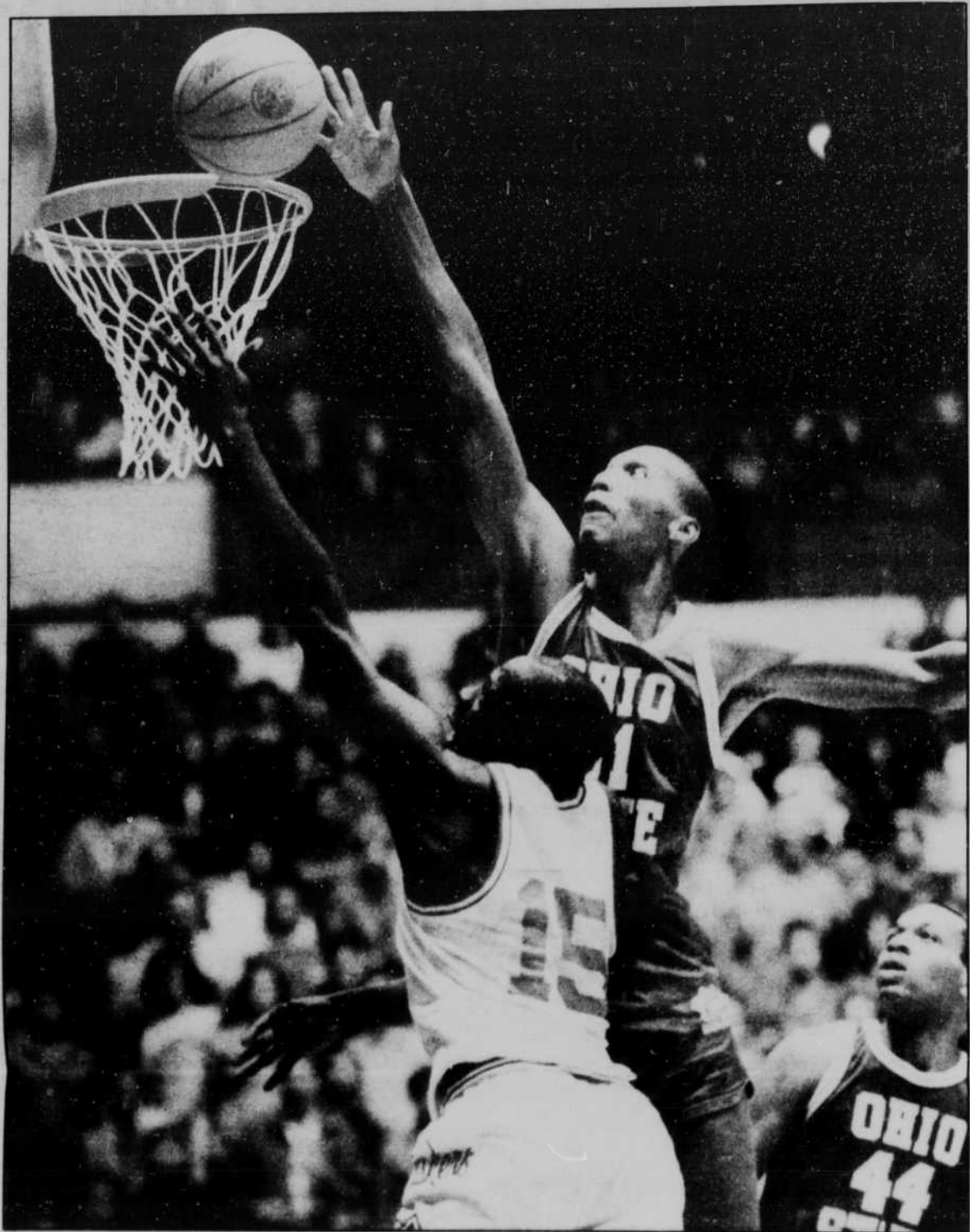
"The doctors told me to not let him compete and see if he improves from that," Allen said. "It really is kind of strange about the way he injured it. He must have just slept on his back wrong."

Allen said he was pleased with the performances of freshmen Ted Dimas and Brad Bryan. Dimas finished seventh in the all-around with a 103.75.

"Ted's a fighter," Allen said. "He goes after everything with 100 percent. He's a killer, and he saves nothing. Brad, on the other hand, is very smooth and very beautiful, so with the two of them we've got ourselves a pair of great gymnasts."

Allen said the Huskers set two goals at the beginning of the season: to win every meet and to win the NCAA Championship.

"We want to go unbeaten this year," Allen said. "If we can do that, then we'll be pretty tough to beat at the NCAA's in April."



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Eric Johnson shoots over the outstretched hand of Ohio State center John Anderson.

## NU weaknesses, Ohio State guard give Huskers a second-place finish

By Kent Endacott  
Staff Reporter

It showed. Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said his team's weaknesses showed up late in Saturday's 72-63 loss to Ohio State in the championship game of the Ameritas Cornhusker Classic Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska made a late run at the Buckeyes, pulling to 62-66 with 4:46 left in the game. But the Huskers' chances ended when they turned the ball over twice and failed to convert free-throw opportunities.

"We played a typical Nebraska game," Nee said. "We fought, we scrapped, but weaknesses showed up, like poor free-throw shooting and droughts on the offense."

Nee said his team's lack of poise and Ohio State guard Jay Burson's ability to deliver when the rest of the Buckeyes struggled offensively were the differences. Burson, a 6-foot, 155-pound guard, made shambles of the Nebraska defenses, which were specially designed to stop him. Burson hit 10 of 15 shots from the field and six of six from the free-throw line to finish with 28 points. Burson was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

"We couldn't shut down the penetration of their guards, and Burson really dominated the game

with his penetration," Nee said. "We tried everything to stop him, but nothing seemed to work. We threw everything but the kitchen sink at him."

Ohio State opened the game in a full-court zone press, which the Huskers were able to beat. Derrick Vick scored the first eight points of the game off the fast break.

"They were the fastest team we've played so far, and we adjusted to that," said Ohio State coach Gary Williams. "We wanted them to play a half-court game to take them out of their offense."

With 7-foot-2 freshman Rich King playing in the middle of the Nebraska zone, the Huskers shut down the Buckeyes' inside game to lead most of the first half. But Jerry Francis kept Ohio State in the game, hitting five of seven shots—one for three points. Francis hit a jumper with 3:33 left in the half to give the Buckeyes a lead for the first time. Ohio State led 38-34 at the half.

In the second half, Peter Manning and Eric Johnson combined to score six straight points to pull the Huskers to 42-43. With 6:43 left in the game, Ohio State, 4-0, took its biggest lead, 64-55, on two free throws by Francis. Jeff Rekeweg's two foul shots brought Nebraska back to 62-66.

"We gutted it out," Williams said. "We had to do something to take control in the second half, and everyone came together."

Despite the loss, Nee said he was encouraged with his team's play — especially that of the young players. He said he thought the loss will help Nebraska later this season.

"I'm really glad we had Ohio State in our tournament," he said. "I think they're an NCAA tournament team in the future. As far as our play, I was pleased with the effort... we just aren't pretty yet."

Manning, who finished with nine points and nine rebounds, said Nebraska, 3-3, has improved since the Maui Classic.

"We just went from down to up here," Manning said, motioning with his hand. "It's really good for us."

Nee said the Ameritas Classic is good for his program. Two more tournaments are scheduled, and he is working on setting up a series with Ohio State.

Friday, Nebraska defeated Lehigh 71-66, and Ohio State beat Ball State 62-42 in the second game. Lehigh defeated Ball State 72-64 in Saturday's consolation game.

Williams said he was impressed with the Huskers and Nee, who is in his second year at Nebraska.

"Danny's doing a great job here," Williams said. "I think their program is on the way. He'll get the recruits in here that fit in well. Nebraska plays a great style of basketball and it's one we try to play."