

Injury forces wrestler to have surgery

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

It's often been said that hard work won't hurt anybody, but Dave Droegemueller might argue.

Droegemueller, Nebraska's top wrestler in the 134-pound weight class, cracked a vertebra in his back last summer during off-season conditioning, but has



Droegemueller

compiled a 13-9 record this season despite the injury.

The injury occurred when Droegemueller was preparing to move up to the 134-pound class from 126, where he posted a 15-7 mark last season as a freshman.

"I knew I was going to move up to 134, so I worked pretty hard," Droegemueller said. "I lifted weights a lot to adapt to the change."

Evidently, Droegemueller said, he overdid it. When the vertebra was cracked, he said, nobody knew the extent of the injury, but the discomfort

kept him from working out. He was placed in a protective brace for five weeks and quickly lost much of his physical conditioning.

"After lifting hard this summer, I wasn't able to lift (weights) for the five weeks I was in the brace," Droegemueller said. "I lost everything (physically) that I had built up. I just shrank."

"It took all that hard work away."

Droegemueller said the injury slowed his preparation for the transition to 134, but said it didn't affect him "as much as most people would

think."

He said he learned he needed surgery during the semester break, but doctors told him there was no urgency.

"They (the doctors) told me to do whatever I thought," Droegemueller said. "It didn't bother me as much after a while, so I went ahead and wrestled."

Redshirting this season was discussed, Droegemueller said, but the idea was abandoned. He said he will undergo the surgery, but he's not sure when.

"I would have had the surgery done

over Christmas, but we didn't know (the severity) of my injury," Droegemueller said. "When we finally found out how bad it was, there was only two weeks left before school started again, so I didn't get it done."

"I have to have it done eventually," he said, "but it depends on how it feels. I'll have to have it done when I have time."

Droegemueller is no stranger to injuries. Last season, he suffered torn cartilage in his rib cage, bruised knees and sprained ankles.

See DROEGE MUELLER on 9

Cornhusker track teams win first meet of 1988

By Richard Cooper
Staff Reporter

After seeing his men's and women's track teams win their first meet of the season at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Nebraska coach Gary Pepin compared the Cornhuskers' victory to the Nebraska football team's first victory of the season.

"I thought our kids ran well for the first meet of the season," Pepin said. "We still have a ways to go to get where we want to be, but we won enough events to keep me happy."

"This kind of meet is a lot like our football team's first game," he said. "They get their shoulder pads on and get things done."

Pepin said Nebraska performed well, but there was little competition from Barton County (Kan.) Community College, Wichita State and Drake in most of the events.

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—Pepin

Nebraska's men, who were without sprinters Bob Jelks and Bill Trott, won the meet with 82 points. Barton County finished second with 38 points, Drake and Wichita State finished with 23 and 15 points.

Pepin said Jelks, who was the 1986 Big Eight indoor 300-meter champion, didn't run because of a sore hamstring. He said Trott, who holds the school record in the 60, didn't run because of enrollment problems.

Pepin said he was disappointed that Trott didn't run.

"Trott really needed to compete today — especially in the long jump," Pepin said. "He'll be back next week, but right now he's kind of in the doghouse."

The Husker women, who were led by Karen Kruger's NCAA-qualifying victories in the 55 and long jump,

scored 93 points to defeat second-place Barton County and third-place Wichita State. Barton County finished with 29 points, Wichita State with 19, and Drake with nine.

Kruger set a sports center record in the 55 with a 6.85-second clocking. She then leaped 20 feet, 2 1/4 inches in the long jump.

Pepin said he was pleased with Kruger's performance. He said Kruger has established herself as a national-caliber long jumper in the past year.

Pepin said he was also pleased with the performances of Toyia Barnes in the shot put and Tammy Thurman in the high jump.

Barnes won the shot put with a throw of 48-9.

Pepin said Thurman, who qualified for the NCAA championships with a jump of 5-11, is two inches away from qualifying for the United States Olympic Trials in June.

The Nebraska men's team set two sports center records and one school record. James Morris, a sophomore from Windsor, N.C., also qualified for the NCAA championships in the triple jump.

In the 55, Mark Perry defeated former Nebraska sprinter Phillips George en route to setting a sports center record with a time of 6.34.

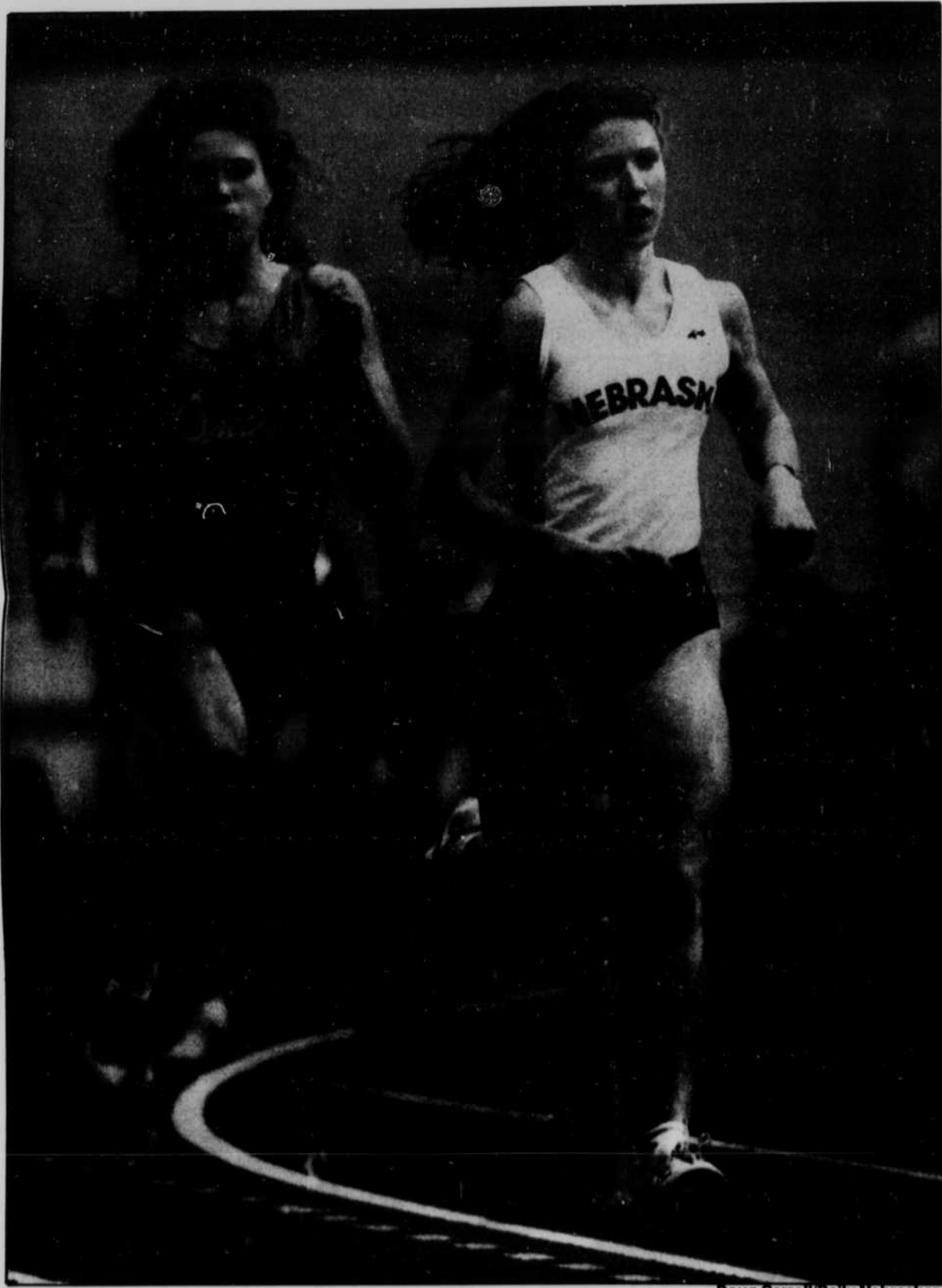
Jacques van Rensburg set a sports center record in the 3,000 with a time of 8:22.06.

Dale Burrage, a transfer from Barton County, set a school record in the 400 by edging out former teammate Ronnie Coleman en route to winning with a time of 47.82.

Burrage also helped the Huskers win the 4 x 400 relay by coming from behind to register the victory. Nebraska's relay team trailed the Barton County 'A' team entering the fourth leg of the relay, but Burrage won the race in the last 30 meters.

Pepin said he knew Burrage would break the school record in the 400 because he recorded similar times in time trials before Christmas.

Nebraska's next meet is Saturday, when the Huskers face Washington, Colorado State and Colorado. The meet, which will be at the sports center track complex, begins at noon.



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Lisa O'Connell leads Drake's Karla Zylstra midway through the 1,000-meter race Saturday. O'Connell won the race with a time of 2:48.69.

UNL to face UNO in basketball for first time in history

Probable Starters:

UNO (10-6)

Bryan Leach	G
Kevin Avery	C
Tim Adamek	C
Bryan Mueller	F
Reggie Mahone	F

Nebraska (9-8)

Eric Johnson	G
Henry T. Buchanan	G
Pete Manning	C
Derrick Vick	F
Jeff Rekeewg	F

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

Tonight's basketball game between the Nebraska Cornhuskers and the University of Nebraska-Omaha will be the first meeting in the two schools' history.

UNO, a member of the North Central Conference, is the only Division II school on the Huskers' schedule.

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee said Sunday that people are too hung up on the competitive difference between Division I and Division II basketball.

"It's overrated. There are many

basketball players who play on Division I teams who should be playing on Division II teams," Nee said, "and several players on Division II teams who should be on Division I teams."

Nee said the Huskers are playing UNO because they needed another game.

Nee said the NCAA informed him last summer that the Huskers' games in the Hawaiian Airlines Maui Classic over Thanksgiving vacation didn't count towards their 28-game regular-season limit. He said he started looking for another game after he learned of the situation.

Nee said he was unable to find another Division I team who would

come to Lincoln. He said he wanted a home game because the Huskers' already had 17 road games on their schedule.

Nee said he began looking at Division II schools when he realized he could not get a Division I team. He said he decided on UNO because it was geographically desirable, as well as the first meeting between the two schools.

UNO, 10-6, comes into tonight's game averaging 84.2 points per game.

Nee said the Mavericks are a good offensive team. He said the Huskers will try and stop the Mavericks the same way they would Oklahoma.

"We'll play our type of game and

do what we like to do," he said. "We'll go into the game just trying to do certain things offensively, cut down on turnovers, try to control the defensive boards, and play an up tempo game."

UNO's starter Tom Thompson, a 6-foot-7 senior forward from Omaha Westside, will not play tonight because of a chipped bone in his right wrist that occurred last Thursday in practice. Thompson leads the Mavericks with 8 rebounds per game and is their second leading scorer with 15 points per game.

Nee said the Mavericks Bryan Leach, who averages 16 points per game, is a good player.