

## NU coach relieved injuries came early

By Lori Griffin  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's gymnastics coach Rick Walton hopes this is the end.

The end of the injuries, that is.

Walton said Nebraska's progress was slowed earlier this season when sophomores Tami Bair, Michele Bryant and Jane Clemons suffered shoulder injuries. The injuries involved irritation derived from the Cornhuskers' strenuous workout schedule.

Walton said he's glad the injuries occurred at the beginning of



Bryant

season rather than the end. He said the timing of the injuries allowed enough time for proper rehabilitation.

Bair, who underwent decompression surgery on Dec. 15, credited her non-injured teammates with helping in her rehabilitation.

"I think everyone was pretty upset," Bair said. "But the team members that were healthy helped us get back fast, and that helped a lot."

Bair's rehabilitation process was completed sooner than she anticipated. She said the rehabilitation still requires her to do strength skills so her shoulder doesn't weaken.

Bair's goal for the remainder of the season is to gain enough strength in her shoulder to compete in more than one event. She now works out in every event except the uneven bars.

Bair said her injury was difficult to accept because the only other serious setback she suffered during her 10-year career was a knee injury, which required arthroscopic surgery.

"I guess I've just lucked out," Bair said. Bair said she hopes her injury doesn't affect the Huskers' goal of finishing among the top five teams at the 1988 NCAA Championships in Salt Lake City. She said Nebraska is out to prove that last year's 10th-place finish at the NCAA Championships wasn't an accident.

"I think people thought it was an accident that we got as far as we did last year," Bair said. "I am out to prove it wasn't."

Clemons tore cartilage and partially dislocated her shoulder in November while attempting a double back flip during tumbling practice. After undergoing surgery in early Decem-

ber, Clemons said, she is trying to improve her arm strength. She is also working on her beam and floor routines and trying to improve her dance skills for the floor exercise.

Clemons said her individual goals this season include competing in all four events and placing in the Big Eight championship meet in March. She said her team goal includes a repeat trip to the NCAA Championships, which is annually accomplished by the top 10 teams in the country.

"I just want to go all out and have a really good season," Clemons said.

Walton said he's confident that Bair, Bryant and Clemons can have successful seasons. He said the No. 5-ranked Huskers received a boost with their return.

"They're all back, and that's the key," he said.

## NU's winter conditioning tests: Huskers are slower, smaller

By Tim Hartmann  
Senior Reporter

The results of the 1988 pre-winter conditioning testing for Nebraska's football team were not outstanding, Cornhusker strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley said, but the work ethic of the team has been.

Epley said the tests showed the Huskers have room for improvement, but he also said Nebraska has worked hard in the first week of winter conditioning.

"The test data indicated that we have some work to do," Epley said. "However, the attitude and effort of the team has been excellent. The first few days have been really intense."

Nebraska finished with an average time of 5.07 seconds in the 40-yard dash, which is slower than last year's average of 5.06. The Huskers also had an average weight of 213 pounds, the lightest they have been in four years.

Epley said Nebraska will try to improve its speed and weight during the winter conditioning period.

"This time of the year is the only time where we can make any significant progress in the strength area, so we'll work on that," he said. "Two years ago, we concentrated on agility, and right now we have the most agile team we've ever had. This year we are going to concentrate on speed development."

Epley said he'd like to see a decrease in Nebraska's average 40 time.

Epley said Nebraska set team records in the agility run and the 300-yard shuttle run. He said the results of

the seated shot put and the vertical jump were the second best in school history.

Epley said several players had strong showings in the testing. Tom Janky, a sophomore placekicker from Grand Island Northwest, was one of the big surprises, he said.

"He probably had the best test date of anyone," Epley said.

Janky set position records in the 40 with a time of 4.72, and with a 33-inch vertical jump. Quarterback Steve Taylor broke his own position record in the 40 with a time of 4.52, and Mike Preston set a quarterback record with a shuttle-run time of 54.46.

Epley said freshmen Reggie Cooper, Mike Croel and Tahaun Lewis also performed well. Croel and Lewis set position records in the 40. Lewis' time of 4.48 broke the cornerback record set by Brian Davis, who now plays for the Super Bowl-champion Washington Redskins. Cooper set a school record in the shuttle run with a time of 53.34.

The three highest finishers in each event were: Agility run - Janky, 4.98; Lance Bobolz, SE, 4.99; Cartier Walker, DB, 5.04. Seated shot - Bob Sledge, OT, 32-6; Brian Edgren, MG, 31-6; Mike Griffin, OT, 30-10. Vertical jump - Kurt Broer, DE, 39.5; Bill Settles, WB, 38; Dana Brinson, WB, 38. 10-yard dash - Walker, 1.53; Chip Bahe, SE, 1.55; Janky, 1.55. 40-yard dash - Brinson, 4.47; Lewis, 4.48; Steve Taylor, QB, 4.52. Shuttle run - Cooper, 53.34; Richard Bell, WB, 53.55; Jamie Worden, WB, 54.12.

## Violence, sex, bars, drinking: Nebraska needs Cornpuckers

Once football season ends, it seems, Nebraska becomes a dismal place. Of course, the main reason for that is the season, but another reason is the decrease in excitement for Cornhusker athletics.



Chuck Green

The men's and women's basketball teams provide excitement a couple of nights a week, and the wrestling team has an occasional home meet, usually on Saturdays. The swimming and diving teams have a meet now and then, too, often on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

But what's to do on Tuesday, Thursday and party-less Friday nights? Not too much, other than going to the bars. But that's only for those of us who are 21 and older, and that can get pretty expensive after a while.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln needs a hockey team.

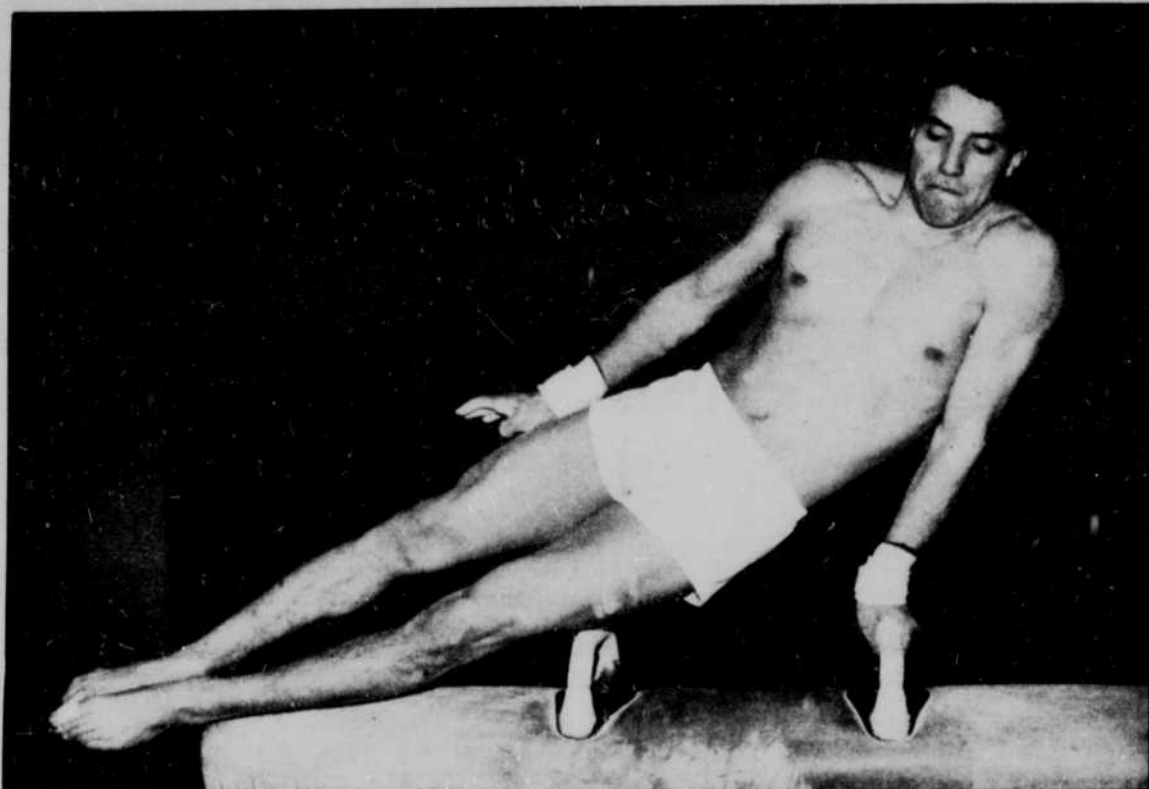
As soon as you stop laughing, slap around a few points. Hockey is an exciting sport, albeit hard to understand at first. And the mere fact that hockey fans are often worked up to the point of being able to kill another human being at any given moment of a good game seems like a fascinating concept to me.

Has anyone ever seen the movie "Slapshot," starring Paul Newman? That's what it could be like around here. Violence, sex, drinking, violence, hockey theme bars, violence, something to do until spring football drills begin, new athletes to write letters to the Daily Nebraskan about how rough they have it here and more violence.

Oh, what a place to be! It would almost make the winters bearable in this state.

And the climate is ripe for a hockey program, too. Nebraska's arctic weather could lure some hot-shot Canadian players and maybe a few others from various European

See HOCKEY on 10



Dimas

Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

## Persistence, U.S. Olympic training camps pay off in the end for Nebraska gymnast

By Richard Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska gymnast Ted Dimas wore a frustrated look as he sat on the parallel bars, sweat pouring from his face.

For the past hour, Dimas had worked on a trick in his compulsory routine — and had little success at it.

But Dimas' persistence paid off. He kept working at it, and after three unsuccessful tries, he finally did it right. He jumped off the parallel bars, sat on a mat and breathed a sigh of relief.

"I love gymnastics and every day I challenge myself to improve," Dimas said. "I try and think of correcting myself. Some days I come into the gym and I'm so tired, but I want to keep going no matter how I feel."

"I know I have to do every single skill perfect to be good. (Nebraska gymnastics coach) Francis (Allen) gave me this tape of the Russians at the World Championships, and I've been watching it a lot, and it's helped me a lot."

Allen has given Dimas more than just a training tape. He also gave the freshman from Albuquerque, N.M., a chance.

A year ago, Dimas wanted to compete for Nebraska, but Allen hadn't invited him to Lincoln for a recruiting trip.

"Francis hadn't called me, and then one day a friend of mine told me Francis thought I had already signed with Stanford," Dimas said. "So I called him and told him that the rumor wasn't true, and the next weekend I was on my way to Nebraska."

Dimas was impressed by Nebraska's reputation in the gymnastics world.

"When I look at Nebraska's record in the last seven or eight years I think, 'Wow... five straight NCAA Championships and (later) three straight second-place finishes, that's incredible,'" Dimas said. "I think Nebraska's success is because of (its) coaches."

"They probably have the best combination in the nation."

Allen said he recruited Dimas because he had good work habits.

"When I recruited him, I knew he was going to be very consistent from day one," Allen said. "He's not afraid to work hard, and he's a tough kid. He comes from a gym where he had to work hard, and because of his work ethic, he has gotten better every year."

Allen used to go to the United States Olympic team training camp and watch Dimas, who was then 14.

"I used to see Ted every summer at the U.S. Olympic Training Center, so I knew how good he was," Allen said. "When I would watch him, the coaches would tell me how hard of a worker he was."

"Every year he got better and better, and by the time he was 16, he was one of the top kids in the country."

Allen said Dimas joined the Senior National team when he was 15. The senior team consists of the top 18 gymnasts in the country. Former Nebraska gymnast Jim Hartung also was on the team.

Allen said he doesn't want to compare Dimas to Hartung.

"It's not fair to rank Ted up there with Hartung because Jim was

probably the best collegiate gymnast to ever compete for us," Allen said. "Ted has some faults, but he's good and has the potential to be an Olympic gymnast."

"Ted's fault is pommel horse, but in every event he scores 9.5s and he's working on pommel horse. When Scott Johnson was a freshman, he scored a 3.3 on pommel horse, and look what he turned out to be like."

Dimas said he and Hartung have talked about some of their common characteristics.

"The other day I was talking to Jim about pointing my toes and he said he had a toe-point just like mine," Dimas said. "He was telling me that our body structures are a lot alike and he was giving advice on how to improve."

Johnson, a former teammate of Hartung's, said he sees a lot of similarities between Dimas and Hartung.

"Ted has the same body as Jim — a big chest, big shoulders and strong legs," Johnson said. "He is a very strong kid, and he also is very fast. And nowadays, that's a perfect combination."

"He has a lot of potential," Johnson said. "He just has to clean up his form a little bit. Who knows, maybe he'll be on the Olympic team this year. You never know what could happen in the tryouts."

Dimas said he can make an impact on Nebraska gymnastics this year, just as Hartung did during his freshman year.

"I'm used to pressure because it's been around me for so long," he

See DIMAS on 10