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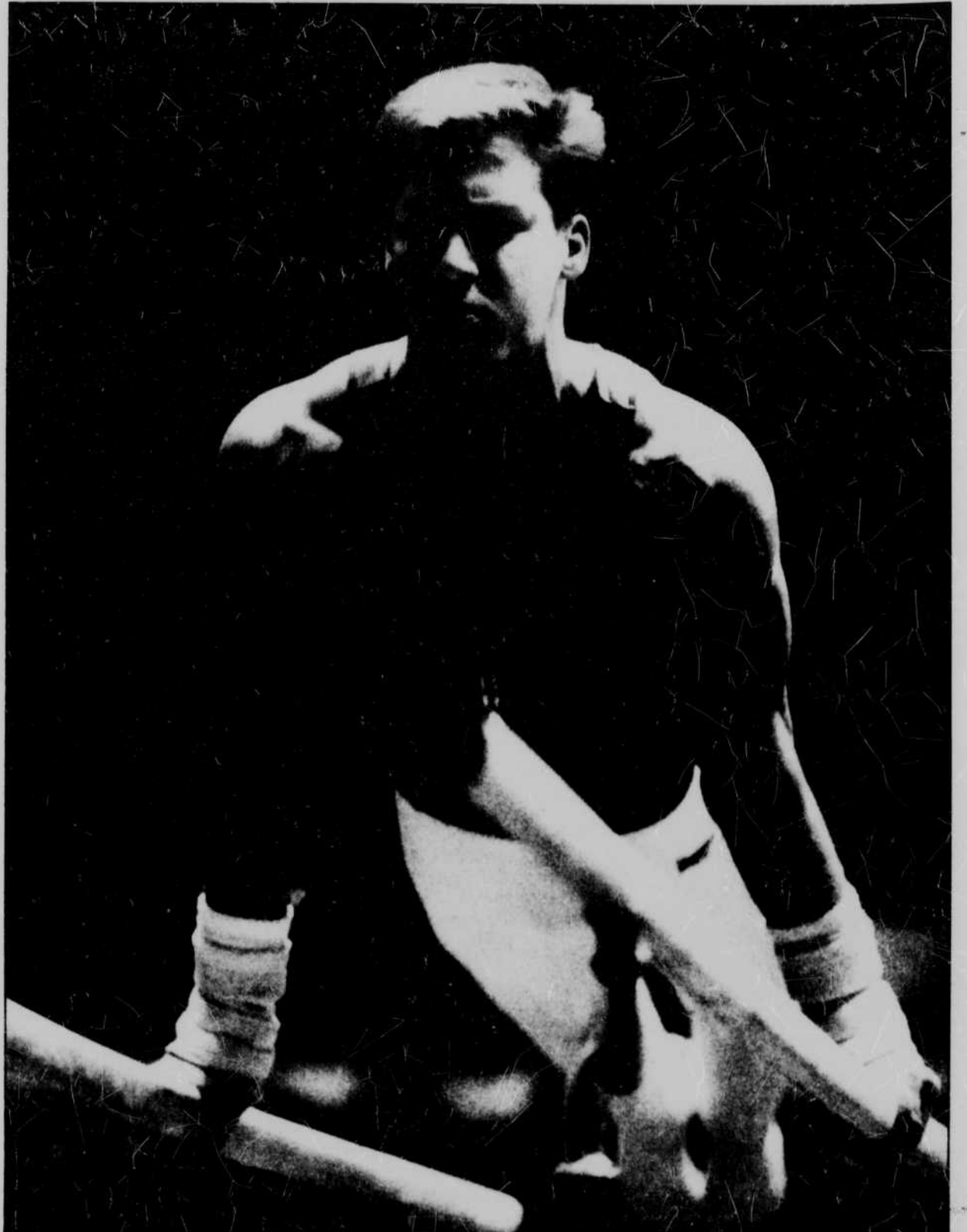
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## Gophers bury injured NU gymnastics team

By Richard Cooper  
 Staff Reporter

Without seniors Tom Schlesinger and Kevin Davis competing in the all-around competition, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team continued to have problems winning.

The No. 5-ranked Cornhuskers dropped a 279-276.1 decision to Minnesota Saturday in Minneapolis.

Nebraska coach Francis Allen said Minnesota was mentally prepared for the Huskers. He said Nebraska, which finished third at the UCLA Invitational last weekend, was also plagued by the absence of Schlesinger and Davis.

Davis competed in two of six events, and Schlesinger didn't make the trip to Minnesota because of ankle injuries.

"They were up and we were flat," Allen said. "I'm ashamed that we're using the athletic department's money to go to these meets and lose."

"The team is not performing to its potential, and if we keep losing, we're not even going to qualify for the NCAA (Championships)."

Allen said he thinks the losing streak will end next week when the

Huskers travel to Norman, Okla., to take on Oklahoma and Iowa State. He said Schlesinger and Davis will be near full strength for the triangular.

Nebraska also will have more depth in the all-around competition with the addition of junior Mark Schiefelbein, Allen said. Schiefelbein was declared eligible for competition last Friday.

Schiefelbein, a transfer from New Mexico, competed in the all-around against Minnesota and finished with a score of 53.1.

Allen said Schiefelbein is capable of scoring a 56 or better. His best all-around score was a 56.95 at last year's NCAA Championships.

"Mark has been working very hard for the last couple of months, and he will definitely add more depth to our lineup," Allen said. "He has the experience of competing at the NCAA's, which is definitely going to help us."

Allen said it's going to be tough to defeat Oklahoma because the Sooners are back at full strength. Nebraska defeated Oklahoma 271-270.3 earlier this season.

"Oklahoma scored a 282 last weekend against Houston Baptist," Allen said. "They're back at full

strength and will give us a real battle, but I think we are going to break out of this slump with Davis and Schlesinger coming back."

Allen said he won't use freshmen Ted Dimas and Brad Bryan in Norman because they haven't been performing to their potential. He said he plans to use Davis and Schiefelbein and sophomores Patrick Kirksey and Bob Stelter. Schlesinger and junior Mike Epperson will compete in the all-around.

Allen said things are beginning to look better for Nebraska because Schlesinger and Davis didn't have any pain after the loss to Minnesota.

"Davis and Schlesinger are getting stronger every week," Allen said. "The most important thing now is to get them in shape for the Big Eight Championships, if we don't have those guys, then we might not even qualify for the NCAA's."

Allen said he is looking forward to the Big Eight championships because Oklahoma defeated Nebraska for the conference title last season.

"We want to get our Big Eight Championship back," Allen said. "With Davis and Schlesinger and Schiefelbein in the lineup we should win it."

## Inexperience hurts U.S. hockey team

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Too little international experience against top teams was largely responsible for the demise of the U.S. Olympic hockey team, leaders of the squad claim.

Eliminated from the medal round with a 2-3 round-robin record, the Americans could not cope with veteran teams in the tournament — the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and West Germany.

"We played well and we played

hard, but we didn't always play wisely," Coach Dave Peterson said in the wake of Sunday night's 4-1 loss to West Germany. "We're a good hockey team, but we're inexperienced in international play."

"Give me this team for four years and we'd win a gold medal."

But Peterson only had about six months to put together the U.S. team. Even though the Americans played a 60-game exhibition schedule leading to the Olympics, they were criticized

for their generally weak opposition.

While they played nine games against NHL clubs, the U.S. hockey team did not always face the best players the pro teams had to offer. And while the team played an eight-game series with the Soviet Selects, that opposition wasn't close to the quality of the Soviet national team.

A little more than one-third of the schedule was devoted to games against much weaker college teams, which the Americans beat with clinical regularity.

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