

# 'Iron Mike' Epperson pummels his way back from wrist surgery

EPPELSON from Page 10

bone from his pelvis. "It takes months and months for the wrist to reestablish its blood supply, and that's why he had to wear a cast for so long to protect it," Clare said.

He said Epperson's wrist will never be 100 percent healed. The fractured bone has not completely been filled in with new bone yet, Clare said, but it does have a common bond.

Epperson said he wouldn't have undergone the surgery if he would've known the extent of the injury.

"Looking back, if I knew I was going to miss a year-and-a-half of gymnastics, I would've waited until after the 1988 Olympics to have the surgery," Epperson said. "I really think the operation cost me a spot on the '88 Olympic team.

"I competed from December 1985 until April of 1986, and did pretty good," he said. "Sure, the wrist hindered me, I couldn't work out as long and as hard on a couple of events, namely pommel horse and parallel

bars, but I did pretty well." Allen said he made Epperson do tedious jobs such as scrubbing mats and painting walls during his redshirt season so he still felt he was a part of the team.

"I made him do everything around the gym," Allen said. "I know it wasn't a lot of fun for him, but I didn't want to lose him. I wanted to make him feel like he still owed something to me and the University of Nebraska. Apparently it paid off, because all that stuff when added up helped him to come back."

Epperson said the hope of regaining his gymnastic skills is what kept him from quitting last year. He said his most difficult moments were having to sit by and watch while Schlesinger and Davis had their best seasons.

"It was difficult for me to just stand back and watch Tom and Kevin go great guns and finish 1-2 at the NCAA Championships," he said. "They were my peers, they were the people I competed against and the three of us were very close competi-

tively. They really had a good year while I was off. But I had to accept that."

**'The only thing I could do once I got back in the gym was keep trying. I would look at the other guys in the gym and say to myself, 'One day I'm going to be able to do all those things they can do.'**

—Epperson

Epperson said when he came back, he had to regain his timing and

rhythm because the year off had robbed him of those talents.

Epperson said there were days when he would wake up wondering if he could handle the pain and the pressure of coming back.

"The only thing I could do once I got back in the gym was keep trying," Epperson said. "I would look at the other guys in the gym and say to myself, 'One day I'm going to be able to do all those things they can do.'"

Allen said Epperson got into shape in January, but still has problems on pommel horse and parallel bars because those events require strength and flexibility in the wrist.

But despite the problems, Allen said, Epperson is beginning to contribute. Epperson had his best meet of the season Feb. 13 at the UCLA Invitational, where he averaged a 9.4 score in the six events he competed in.

"Lately Mike has been one of the more consistent gymnast on the team," Allen said. "Every week he is getting better and better."

Epperson said his immediate

goals are to help Nebraska win a NCAA Championship and to beat some of his teammates.

"Since I've been here at Nebraska every year we've come so close to winning the NAAs," Epperson said. "I think we have the best shot to win it this year. But I also want to beat the underclassmen on the team and then maybe some day Tom or Kevin."

Davis said he would love to get beat by Epperson someday.

"I hope Mike beats me in the all-around," Davis said. "Mike is a tough guy and when he does finally beat me I'll shake his hand because it takes a lot to come back like he has."

Epperson said his injury has taught him how hard gymnastics really is.

"Before I hurt myself gymnastics was a God-given gift," Epperson said. "But when I came back I had to learn almost everything all over again. I don't plan on quitting after I'm done here. I still want to go to the Olympics whether it's in 1988 or 1992. To me, there's no difference."

## Daily Nebraskan

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### VOICE

Stream - Wupper - Showalter  
New approach for a troubled system

Students for Senator Karnes  
meeting 7:30 union  
Tuesday, March 1

College Republican Election Tuesday, 7:00 in the Union.

Student Education Association Members: Stop by the main bulletin board in Henzik to nominate an Outstanding Teacher's College Educator. Nominations due, Tuesday, March 1.

STOP thinning hair. Doctor approved - stops hair loss - makes hair thicker - fuller - grow faster! For men and women. Hair and Scalp Clinic of Lincoln 466-8095.

#### PHI CHI THETA

Meeting and Officer Installation, Tuesday, March 1, at 6:00 in the Union.

Yell Squad Spring Try-outs are coming soon. Don't miss this opportunity to become a Yell Squad member. Those that are interested should attend the info. meeting Monday, February 29, 3:30 p.m. at the coliseum.

**KLPAC**  
Kimball Lied Performing Arts Committee meeting Tuesday at 5:30 pm. Room posted! NEW MEMBERS WELCOME, exciting new project underway!

The Publications Board will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday in the Nebraska Union to select the 1988-89 Advertising Manager and to discuss Daily Nebraskan policies. Interested persons are invited to attend.

### STUDENTS FOR DUKAKIS

We're back! Meeting Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., at Chesterfields. Help elect THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!

### Students for Hal Daub meeting Tuesday following College Republicans.

DAILY NEBRASKAN CAMPUS NEWSPAPER THE PUBLICATIONS BOARD IS THE ADVISING BOARD FOR THE DAILY NEBRASKAN AND ACTS AS THE PUBLISHERS FOR THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COPY OF THE APPLICATION CONTACT STUDENT GOVERNMENT 115 NEBRASKA UNION

Alcoholics Anonymous Campus Meeting Starts - March 1st at 1:30; Check Union info desk for room number.

#### ACTION

Muy importante meeting. Sunday, 4:30 p.m., Union. Mandatory for candidates, strongly encouraged for supporters, open to everyone. Bring your checkbooks.

#### STING BREAK

Tickets, air, hotel, plus more.  
1-800-678-0277

#### ACTION

It's been a great week and let's celebrate. FAC, The Club Car, 3 p.m. Come join the fun!

### MONDAY EVENING FEBRUARY 29

#### DIALOGUES IN CHRISTIAN FAITH

### "IS ABORTION JUST LEGALIZED MURDER?"

6:00-7:00 PM

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Social questions, medical questions? For the answers attend the **Symposium on AIDS in Nebraska**, Tuesday, March 1, from 3-5 in the Union.

Government Liason Committee Meeting  
March 1, 1988 6:15 p.m.  
Nebraska Union  
See you there!

**ARTS & SCIENCES IN BUSINESS WORKSHOP AND PANEL DISCUSSION.** Thursday, March 3rd, 3:30 in the Union.

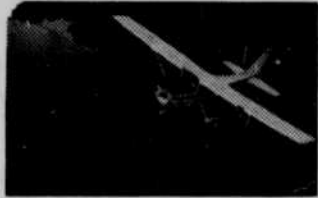
### GREEK AFFAIRS

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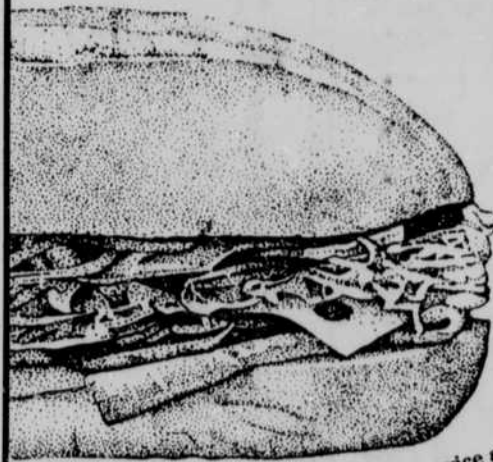


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