

Injury doesn't floor Husker gymnast

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Arthroscopic knee surgery has been both depressing and uplifting for Nebraska gymnast Racine Smith.

Smith, the only senior on the Nebraska women's gymnastics team, has competed sparingly this season because of a small piece of bone in the joint of her left knee. The injury, she said, has been depressing because she had never suffered any major health setbacks since she began competing in gymnastics eight years ago.



Smith

Smith said she has lessened the mental stress brought on by the injury by talking with her teammates and to other athletes who have undergone arthroscopic knee surgery.

Smith hopes to be back in the lineup by March 26, when the Huskers travel to Ames, Iowa, to compete in the Big Eight Championships. Her goals for the remainder of the season, she said, are to help Nebraska repeat its conference championship and enter the regional competition as the second- or third-seeded team. She said the Huskers are also looking for a top-five finish at the NCAA Championships April 22-23 in Salt Lake City.

Smith said her goal is to compete again in the floor exercise. "I have a lot of fun doing floor," Smith said, "and I think the crowd enjoys my floor routine a lot."

Smith said she has seen many changes since coming to Nebraska. She said the Huskers have earned respect from their opponents by building the Nebraska program into a successful one on the national level.

"There are teams afraid of us," Smith said. "The team is a whole lot closer this season. We have worked as a unit. The team thinks about the team more than themselves."

Smith said Nebraska coach Rick Walton influenced her decision to become a Husker. She said she knew Walton was building a team that she wanted to be a part of.

Walton said Smith has been impressive throughout her career at Nebraska.

"Racine has done everything since she came to college," Walton said. "She has been consistent and has upped her skill level. She's gotten much better."

Walton said Smith performed extremely well last season because she never did poorly on a floor-exercise or uneven-bar routine. That was a sharp contrast, he said, to Smith's freshman year, when she finished sixth at the Big Eight Championships.

Smith said her 5-foot-8 frame has benefited her throughout her career at Nebraska. She said she often receives compliments about her tall build because average gymnasts stand 5-3.

"I've been told that on bars it makes my routine look nicer because my body is so long," Smith said.

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MARCH 14-APRIL 1

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Urgent! Mandatory Lobbying Seminar
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March 15 8:30pm

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Harvi Griffin

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State Senator Langford
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CAMPUS RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL APPLICATIONS

Greek, Off-Campus, and Residence Hall applications for the 1988-89 UNL Campus Recreation Advisory Council must be turned in by 5:00 PM, March 18, 1988. Applications can be turned in to either the Office of Campus Recreation, 1740 Vine Street; or to OCR East, East Campus Activities Bldg. #32.

Intramural Deadlines

Tuesday, 3/15 is the entry deadline for co-rec slow pitch softball and mens and womens outdoor soccer. Play will begin Tuesday, 3/29. 472-3467.

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