

# Huskers aim to win on nine-day trip

By Mike Kluck  
Staff Reporter

Spring break will give Nebraska's softball team a chance to learn and gain some respect. Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said today when they begin their trip by traveling to Houston to compete in the Houston Classic. The Huskers will face Texas A&M Sunday in La Porte, Texas, and will compete against Northwestern and Pacific Tuesday in Stockton, Calif. Nebraska will then conclude its nine-day trip by traveling to San Jose, Calif., to compete in the San Jose State-Bud Light Invitational. Wolforth said the nine-day trip is important because Nebraska, which was ranked second in

preseason polls, fell to No. 13 after compiling a 5-3 record at the Roadrunner Classic in Las Cruces, N.M. He said he is optimistic about the Houston Classic because Husker lead-off hitter Jill Rishel, shortstop Jane Kremer and pitcher Donna Deardorff have all recovered from injuries that plagued them throughout the Roadrunner Classic.

"We are all healed up and close to 100 percent," Wolforth said.

Wolforth said Texas A&M, the 1987 national champions, Indiana and California-Berkeley are the teams to beat in the Houston Classic. The other teams participating in the three-day tournament include Kansas, Colorado State, Iowa State, Sam Houston State, Baylor, Bowling Green and Southwest Texas

State.

Wolforth said Nebraska will open the tournament by facing Baylor, Bowling Green and Southwest Texas State in pool play. He said the winner of the first-round play will advance to a single-elimination championship round on Saturday.

"A great team plays well consistently," Wolforth said. "Right now we are looking to find a little bit of consistency. When we find that level, we will be able to start separating ourselves from other teams. We need to find our level of intensity and play at it."

Pacific softball coach Theresa Lowrey said she is also concerned about her squad's play. She said Pacific is a young team that will benefit from playing the Huskers because it has

seven freshmen, four sophomores and three seniors on its roster.

"We look to gain a lot of experience by playing Nebraska," Lowrey said. "They are a good team. We are going to take care of ourselves. It is an important game for us because we have the chance to play a team that is out of our region."

Lowrey said she isn't worried about Nebraska's national ranking because the Tigers have five teams in the Pacific Coast Athletic Association ranked in the top 20, including No. 2-ranked California State-Fullerton.

"I feel there is not a whole lot of difference between the teams in the top 20," Lowrey said.

See HUSKERS on 14

## Gymnast Schiefelbein likes becoming a Cornhusker

By Richard Cooper  
Staff Reporter

It took a tough work ethic and a personality conflict with his former coach, but Nebraska gymnast Mark Schiefelbein is finally a Cornhusker.

Schiefelbein, a junior transfer student from New Mexico, said he came to Nebraska because the Huskers practice four hours a day, two hours longer than the workouts instituted by Lobo gymnastics coach Rusty Mitchell. Schiefelbein said a strenuous schedule and the presence of All-America teammates Tom Schlesinger, Kevin Davis and Mike Epperson make him a better gymnast.

Schiefelbein said he realized he had to work hard when he arrived at Nebraska because the Huskers have a talented lineup. He said because of that talent, Nebraska has earned three straight runner-up finishes at the NCAA Championships.

"I've worked out in a lot of gyms, and this is the most competitive one in the country," Schiefelbein said. "The way the workouts are, it doesn't look like your average college gym because everybody is an all-rounder."

Schiefelbein said his decision to transfer to Nebraska was also influenced by a personality conflict with Mitchell.

"When I walked into the gym I knew I wanted to come here," Schiefelbein said. "I saw all the names you see in the magazines. Most of these guys have been on the national team since they were 10 years old, so I knew this was the place for me."

Schiefelbein said he has always been behind his peers in ability because he started competing when he was 14. Most national-caliber gymnasts start competing when they are



Schiefelbein

10, he said.

Schiefelbein said he tried to catch his peers by moving to Mesa, Ariz., when he was 17 so he could work out at the Arizona Flares Club. He said the move paid off because he made the U.S. Junior National Team in 1985, which surprised him, he said.

"I've come a long way since those days back in Fountain Valley," Schiefelbein said. "I never thought I would get this far in gymnastics, but those days in Mesa really paid off."

After graduating from Corona Del Sol High School in Tempe, Ariz., in 1985, Schiefelbein waited a year to attend college. He was then offered a scholarship to New Mexico. Schiefelbein proceeded to become the Lobos' No. 2 all-rounder and finished 19th in the all-around at the 1987 NCAA Championships.

Schiefelbein said he wanted to leave New Mexico after his freshman season, but Mitchell convinced him to stay. Schiefelbein said he made his decision to transfer after his sophomore year at New Mexico.

Schiefelbein said his immediate goal is to compete in the all-around competition at the NCAA Championships April 14-16 in Lincoln. He said his favorite event is the high bar because people love to watch it.

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen said Schiefelbein has become a better all-around gymnast since transferring to Nebraska. He said Schiefelbein's best events are the high bar, vault and floor exercise.

Schiefelbein said he realizes it is going to take time for him to make an impact on the Nebraska program.

But, he said, he knows he can contribute to the Huskers because of his hard work and dedication to gymnastics.

"I owe it to myself and Francis to keep working hard and keep getting better," Schiefelbein said. "When I'm done with gymnastics, I want to be able to look back at my career and say I accomplished something."

## NU sets records in meets

By Lori Griffin  
Staff Reporter

Five team and one individual record fell when the Nebraska gymnastics team faced four ranked teams in triangular meets last Thursday and Saturday nights.

The No. 8-ranked Cornhuskers set a season-high and school record for team scores Saturday night at Tucson, Ariz., while competing against Arizona and California State-Fullerton. Nebraska finished second to the Wildcats with a score of 189.05, which broke the previous record of 187.40 set last season against Oklahoma.

On Thursday, the Huskers finished third in a triangular meet at Tempe, Ariz., losing to Arizona State and Alabama.

Nebraska student assistant coach Dan Schermann said the final margin of Saturday's meet was not decided until the last event. The meet was tied

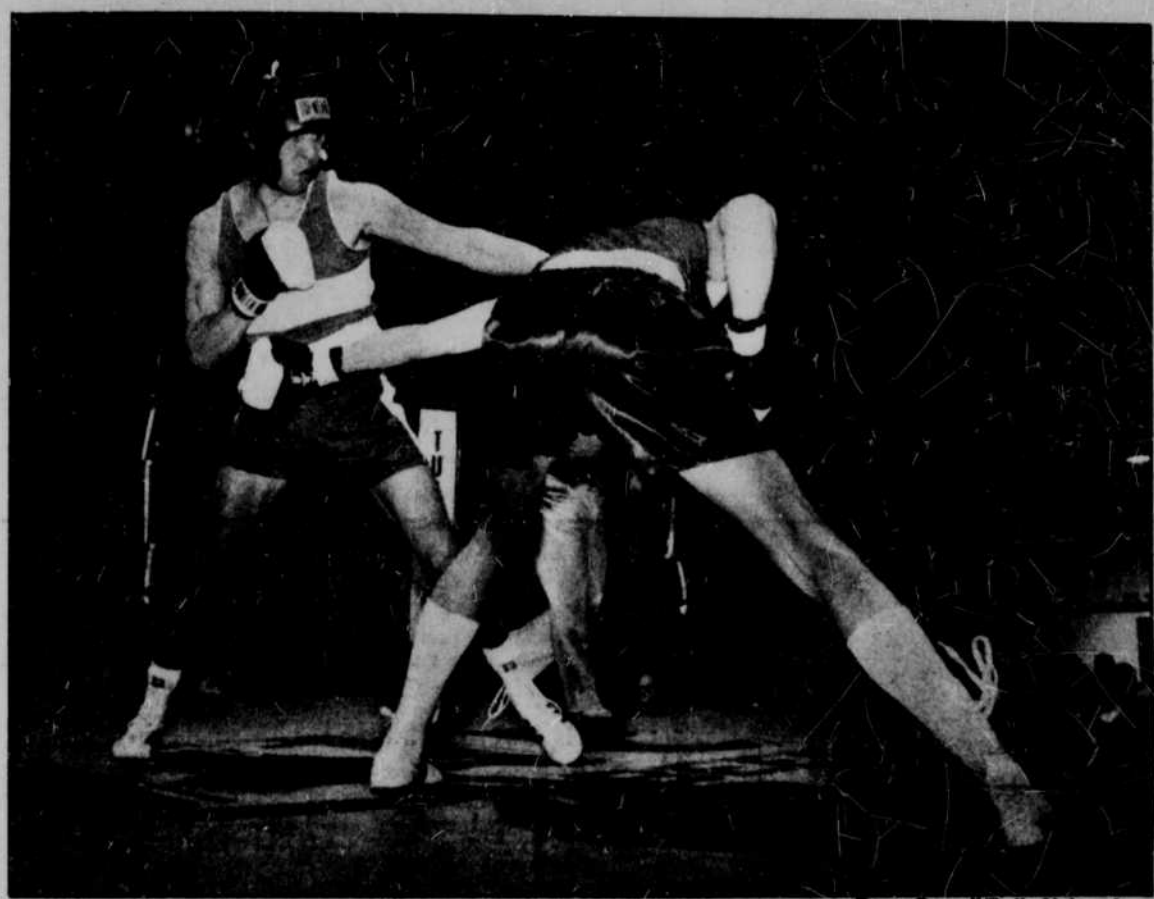
at the completion of the floor exercise, but Arizona coach Jim Gault used two petition scores to win the meet by .10.

Schermann said the Huskers, now 8-8, were hampered by injuries throughout the triangular meet. He said Michele Bryant did not compete in Tempe because of a sprained ankle, and Angie Burdette is out for the season after breaking her right foot while attempting a double back mount on the floor exercise.

Schermann said the loss of Burdette is a big one because Nebraska was hoping to have the sophomore from Greeley, Colo., compete in the floor exercise at the NCAA Championships April 22-23 in Salt Lake City. He said Burdette can take pride in knowing she helped get the Huskers where they are now.

In Saturday's meet, Nebraska freshman Lisa McCrady tied an indi-

See WALTON on 14



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

UNL boxer Greg Sabala (left) throws a jab at opponent Charlie Boettcher during a match in South Sioux City earlier this year.

## UNL boxer to vie for Midwest title

By Steve Sipple  
Senior Reporter

Amateur boxer Greg Sabala may be an unknown entity around Lincoln, but when he walks down main street in Scottsbluff he is easily recognized.

Sabala compiled a 127-20 amateur record and won two state junior Golden Gloves titles and three regional junior Silver Gloves titles after starting his boxing career in 1977 while fighting out of Scottsbluff. He said his amateur boxing success made him a notable figure in his hometown.

"I'd be on the street and everybody would say, 'Hey, that's Greg Sabala,'" Sabala said before a workout in the basement of Schramm Hall. "Even when I go back home now, people don't ask me about school. The first thing they ask me is if I'm still fighting."

Around the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus, he said, nobody even knows he's a boxer.

Sabala, 23, will attempt to gain some notoriety when he goes after the 156-pound title at the Midwest Golden Gloves Tournament of Champions in Omaha at the Civic Auditorium. First-round action begins at 7 p.m. Friday, with a second round scheduled for noon on Saturday. The finals will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Sabala will be making his fourth appearance in the Gloves and will be seeking his first title. But publicity isn't what drives Sabala during his

rigorous nightly workout.

Sabala said he is driven by the fact that winning the Gloves title would be the first step toward his ultimate goal—a spot on the Olympic boxing team.

"To be realistic, it's going to be tough," he said. "But I have the ability and the skills. I just got to go out and do it."

A Midwest title would qualify Sabala for the National Golden Gloves Tournament, which will be in Omaha May 16-21. He said a national Gloves title probably would get him an invitation to the Olympic trials, a series of bouts before this summer's Olympic Games. The winners will gain berths on the Olympic team.

Sabala said he's also driven by the reality that his next loss will probably be his last.

"I set a goal for myself," Sabala said. "If I hadn't accomplished all I wanted by the time I'm 25, I'd quit." And while those words have been uttered prematurely by many boxers, Sabala said, his decision will be final mainly because when the next Olympics roll around he will be 27.

"That's not going to be a problem for me," Sabala said. "I know enough to say no more."

Sabala also says he knows enough to realize he's capable of winning a Midwest title this weekend. He said he proved his worth in 1986 during his Gloves championship fight with Columbus' Mike Sackett. Sabala lost a close decision in what turned out to be Sackett's

last fight.

"It was a really heated decision," Sabala said. "They called it very close. I think I beat him, but that's history now."

In last year's Gloves, Sabala lost a decision in the semifinals to Randy Eckmann. He fought last year in the 147-pound class.

Sabala said training this year with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Boxing Club, which is coached by Randy Nelsen, has helped. Last year he prepared for the Gloves by training by himself in his father's garage in Scottsbluff. David Martinez, Sabala's brother-in-law, was his cornerman once they got to Omaha.

Sabala often spars with Trevor Lakes-Nieman, who finished second in the 139-pound class in last year's Gloves.

"It's nice to come down here and be a part of a team and have someone to spar with," he said.

Sabala, who is in his first year of college after spending two years in the Marines, said his love for boxing will make it tough for him to quit.

"I just love the sport," Sabala said. "I like to stay in shape. I'm a physical education major and I don't drink and I don't smoke. There's a lot of discipline involved."

Other UNL club members fighting this weekend include super-heavyweight Doug Carroll of Plattsmouth, 201-pound Marc Grimminger of Ainsworth and 141-pounder Jim Lovely of Omaha.