

# Coach hopes Big 8 title motivates NU

By Tim Hartmann  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen said he plans to use the Cornhuskers' come-from-behind victory for the Big Eight title Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center as a psychological tool during their preparations for the NCAA Championships April 14-16 in Lincoln.

Nebraska won the meet with 284.4 points, followed by Oklahoma's 283.5, Iowa State, the only other school in the conference to field a team, finished third with 267.2 points.

"I'll say 'Hey, you guys have come from behind before,' if we have to," Allen said.

"Hopefully we won't have to."

Nebraska trailed Oklahoma 235.9 to 235.75 entering the meet's final event, but the No. 2-ranked Huskers used a 9.8 mark from Tom Schlesinger and 9.75 scores by Mike Epperson, Kevin Davis and Mark Schiefelbein in the high bar competition to post the victory.

"They said 'Hey, we'll give them our best performance,' and they did," Allen said of his team. "I couldn't have asked for much more."

Allen said the key to victory was the performance by Schiefelbein, a junior transfer from New Mexico who was Nebraska's first competitor in the high bar competition.

"That's a good spot to have him in," Allen

said. "If he misses, we have five good guys coming up. If he electrifies the crowd, like he did, it lets the rest of those guys come in easy."

Oklahoma coach Mark Williams said the Sooners, the 1987 Big Eight champions, were hindered throughout the competition because freshman Brian Halstead competed in only one event because of a shoulder injury.

But, Williams said, Halstead's return will give Oklahoma confidence in the NCAA Tournament.

"They're psyched now," Williams said. "I came more with the idea of trying to stay close and scaring Nebraska because I didn't think we had the guns to beat them. Now we know that when we're at full strength we can beat them."

Williams said Oklahoma will give the Huskers a strong challenge at the NCAA meet even though Nebraska has defeated the Sooners three times this season.

"I'd like nothing better than to beat them in Lincoln," he said.

Allen said he wished Nebraska could have routed Oklahoma so the Huskers would have kept pace with No. 1-ranked Illinois. He said a slow start prevented Nebraska from equaling the 286 Illinois scored Saturday.

"Against a team like Oklahoma we had to get out first, take the lead and run away with it," Allen said. "We didn't do that at any point of the first half of the event."

# NCAA wrestling meet disappoints coach

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

A 39th-place finish with only 6 1/4 team points would discourage many wrestling coaches, but not Nebraska's Tim Neumann.

Neumann couldn't get away from the word "disappointing" as he described the season, but he did express optimism for next season.

"I really look at it as a hollow season," Neumann said. "I felt some individuals had very disappointing seasons. Part of it was due to a lack of commitment. We upgraded the season, but we just didn't meet the challenge."

"But despite the disappointment — as far as the program is concerned — it really helped bring into focus what I need to do with some individuals."

Nebraska had seven qualifiers at the NCAA Tournament last weekend in Ames, Iowa. The Cornhuskers' only two seeded wrestlers — Keenan Turner at the 150-pound weight class and Jeff Coltvat at 158 — failed to win a match.

Coltvat lost 8-2 to Sean Finkbeiner of Penn State in the first round, while Turner failed to make weight.

Neumann said Turner was 1.6 pounds overweight with 40 minutes left in the weigh-in time. Despite

having that much time to work off the extra weight, Neumann said, Turner chose to quit, and that was "the straw that broke the camel's back."

**'Our recruiting is looking great. We're going to bring some people in here that can beat out some of our returning people. Hopefully, this is the last year I'll have to be disappointed about the season.'**

—Neumann

"He's caused our program a lot of damage this season, and it doesn't look good to recruits," Neumann said. "He could have worked the weight off, but he chose to cash in his season and his career."

Turner has been permanently dismissed from the team, Neumann said. Neumann said Turner's failure to make weight had a big effect on the team's success.

"All year long, when Turner didn't practice well, it put a cloud over the whole team," he said. "It affected several of the guys, especially Jeff Coltvat. They're real good friends and they practice together every day. I'm sure it affected his (Coltvat's) performance."

At 118, Terry Cook won his first match 10-1 over Will Walters of Michigan, then dropped an 8-2 decision to Lock Haven's Craig Corbin. In the consolation match, Cook defeated Steve Martin of Iowa.

Wallace Dawkins was pinned in 6:54 by Portland State's Haig Brown at 126. Neumann said Dawkins was just "out-talented."

At 134, Nebraska's Dave Droegemueller lost to Morgan State's Charles Myles 8-6. At 167, Scott Chenoweth decisioned Maryland's Glenn Holland 6-4 in the first round, then lost 7-3 to Jim Gressley, who eventually finished third in the nation.

Chenoweth lost to Rod Sande of Minnesota in the consolation round.

In the heavyweight division, Joe Malacek recorded a technical fall over Scott Ulrich of the Air Force Academy, then lost 15-2 to Edinboro's Dean Hall in the second round.

"Cook, Chenoweth and Malacek all wrestled about as well as they

possibly could," Neumann said. "Cook, in particular, turned his whole season around, and it was a pleasure to have him in the same room. Chenoweth and Malacek should just kick everybody's butt next year."

Neumann said before the season started that he felt Nebraska could finish among the nation's top three or four teams. He said although he isn't ready to make the same prediction for

next year.

"I'll just say right now that the 10 guys that end up on the mat for us next season will be ready to do the job for us," Neumann said. "Our recruiting is looking great. We're going to bring some people in here that can beat out some of our returning people."

"Hopefully, this is the last year I'll have to be disappointed about the season."

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# Jayhawks advance to the Final Four

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — All-America center Danny Manning scored 20 points, and Scooter Barry added a career-high 15 as Kansas advanced to the Final Four for the second time in three years with a 71-58 win Sunday against Kansas State in the Midwest Regional championship game.

Kansas, 25-11 and the sixth seed in the region, will meet fifth-ranked Duke, 28-6 and the champion of the East Regional, in Saturday's semifinals at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. Arizona, which defeated North Carolina for the West Regional championship Sunday in Seattle, will face Oklahoma in the other semifinal game. The championship game is scheduled for Monday night.

Kansas, which lost to Duke 71-67 in the semifinals of the 1986 NCAA Tournament, made its eighth trip to the Final Four by overcoming Kansas State's 3-2 zone that repeatedly denied Manning the ball inside. Manning led all scorers even though only one of his five fields came on a direct assist from a teammate.

Kansas overcame a 36-29 deficit with 18:10 left when Manning and Southern Cal ends NU's first NCAA bid

Nebraska's first appearance in the women's NCAA Tournament was spoiled Saturday when the University of Southern California defeated the Cornhuskers 100-82 at the California State-Dominguez Hills Gym in Carson, Calif.

The loss ended Nebraska's season with a 22-7 record.

Chris Piper each tallied two field goals to help mount a 14-6 run that gave the Jayhawks a 43-42 lead with 13:51 to play.

Arizona also overcame a second-half deficit to defeat North Carolina. Tom Tolbert scored 18 of his 21 points in the second half — including

two key three-point plays — to lift Arizona, 35-2, to its first Final Four appearance. All-America forward Sean Elliot led the Wildcats with 24 points and teamed with Tolbert and Anthony Cook to hold North Carolina All-America J.R. Reid to only 10 points.

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