

Cornhusker freshman sets world record

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's Peter Williams, a freshman on the men's swim team, set an unofficial world record Sunday after the completion of the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis.



Williams

Williams bettered the previous record in the 50-meter freestyle in an all-comers meet following Nebraska's 10th-place finish at the NCAA Championships. His time of 22.18 seconds beat the old mark of :22.33 held by Tom Jager, who set it last month in the United States Senior National Championships.

Nebraska coach Cal Bentz said it might take a while for Williams' record to be validated. He said the pool must be measured and the time must be acknowledged by the international governing body of swimming.

Williams, a freshman from Port

Williams leads Huskers to 10th place in NCAA

Elizabeth, South Africa, said he didn't think about the record before the meet.

"I wasn't expecting to get it because the NCAA meet was really tiring," Williams said. "After I swam it (the 50 meters) the first time, I knew I had a shot at it. But actually, I was quite surprised with it."

Before his record-setting performance, Williams led the Cornhuskers to their best finish ever in the NCAA Championships. He finished third in the 100 freestyle with a time of :43.50, which earned him All-America honors.

Williams also helped Nebraska score a team-record 125 points. He said he wasn't surprised by the Huskers' effort even though it trailed first-place Texas by 299 points.

"We've been saying that a top-10 finish was one of our goals the whole season," Williams said. "We're happy to have gotten it, but we've been planning on it."

Williams also earned honorable-mention All-America honors in the 50 freestyle by finishing ninth and teamed with Ed Jowdy, Sean Framp-ton and Ed Rief to claim that honor in the 400 medley relay. Nebraska's 400 freestyle relay of Williams, Rick

freestyle relay, the 10th-place finish in the 800 freestyle relay and the 12th-place finish in the 400 medley relay.

"We felt every one of our three relay teams could have scored in the top eight," Bentz said. "We had a lot of people who were swimming (in the

Bentz said he anticipated Williams and Irvin to lead Nebraska into the top 10.

"We expect them to do extremely well," Bentz said, "and they performed like we hoped they would."

Bentz said Nebraska was also aided by its divers. Lawrence Rod-dick finished third on the 1-meter board and eighth on the 3-meter board. Teammate Lewis Meyers placed 11th in the 1-meter competition and fourth on the 10-meter diving platform, which was a non-scoring event.

Bentz said Nebraska is on the verge of earning a top-five ranking nationally next season because 10 of the 11 Huskers who placed at the NCAA meet return next season. The lone senior at the championships was backstroke Ed Jowdy.

"Last year, we finished 19th," Bentz said. "We felt legitimately we should have been in the top 15. This year, our goal was to make the top 10 and we did it. Now, we're going to move forward."

"We'll strive for even higher next year."

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Havekost, Dan Novinski and Mike Irvin and the 800 freestyle relay of Williams, Novinski, Irvin and Alan Hobbs also earned honorable-mention All-America honors.

Bentz said he was disappointed with the ninth-place finish in the 400

NCAA meet) for the first time, and it's difficult to have every person swim their best at the same time."

Irvin also earned All-America honors in the 200 and 400 individual medley by placing eighth and seventh in the two events.

NU women gymnasts earn second straight NCAA berth

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

A second consecutive appearance in the NCAA Championships awaited the Nebraska women's gymnastics team after it finished third in the NCAA Midwest Regional Saturday night at Norman, Okla.

Nebraska coach Rick Walton said the team performed well in three of four events. The Huskers led Utah, the nation's No. 1-ranked team, by three-tenths of a point after the first rotation, but then fell five times on the balance beam on their way to a third-place finish with 187.05 points.

Utah won the meet with 190.20 points, and Arizona State was second

with 187.10.

"We went from winning the meet to fourth after the second rotation," Walton said. "We had to fight like a dog to get back in contention."

"The positive thing about this meet was that we didn't roll over and die."

Walton said the Huskers let Arizona State get back into the meet. He said Nebraska is at least two points better than the Sun Devils, but falls on the balance beam hurt the Huskers' chances of finishing second.

"Everything went as predicted with the exception of Nebraska falling to third," Walton said. "Every seed held the position that it had going into the meet. We challenged Utah,

and they are not substantially better than we are."

Walton said Arizona State was aided by its strong gymnastics reputation, which was "worth a few points" with inexperienced judges at the regional meet. He said there will not be inexperienced judges at the NCAA Championships April 22-23 at Salt Lake City.

"If we hit four events at the NCAAs, then the margin between Nebraska and ASU will be widened," Walton said. "It's going to have to be a meet where we put everything together."

Oklahoma's Kelly Garrison-Steves recorded the meet's only perfect score, on balance beam, and fin-

ished first in the all-around competition with a 38.65. Arizona State's Karli Urban, a native of Omaha, was second with a 38.25, and Patti Mas-soels of Utah was third with a 38.15. Nebraska's Michele Bryant finished fourth in the all-around with a 37.90, and teammate Lisa McCrady finished sixth with a 37.60.

Walton said there is added pressure to perform well in the regional championships in order to qualify for the NCAA Championships. The top-ranked team from each of the five regions, which is determined by scoring average, receives an automatic berth in the NCAA meet, and the remaining seven squads receive at-large bids.

Walton said the Huskers will be seeded eighth in the 12-team NCAA Championships. He said he is pleased Nebraska's seed in the championships because it has nowhere to go but up.

Walton said he expects the Huskers to produce some All-America performances at the NCAA meet. Gymnasts earn All-America honors by finishing among the top six in the individual competition or in the top 10 in the all-around competition.

"At this meet, what you've done all year doesn't matter," Walton said. "You train hard and prepare yourself and go in with something to prove. The teams who go in with the attitude that they have nothing to prove are the teams that fall on their ears."

Columnist: Mets will win NL East pennant

Despite all the hoopla surrounding the New York Mets, the question on most people's minds is not whether the Mets will win the National League East, but by how much.



Mark Derowitsch

If the Mets find their stopper in the bullpen in Roger McDowell, this race will be over before Aug. 1. If not, Montreal and Philadelphia could challenge the Mets — but New York's strong starting pitching will bring home the flag. Randy Myers has to provide an adequate replacement to departed Jesse Orosco for New York's bullpen to be as productive as it was in 1987.

One thing the Mets have this season that they lacked last year (when they finished three games behind division-winning St. Louis) is Dwight "Dr. K" Gooden. Gooden missed his first 11 starts because of a cocaine problem but still finished with a 15-7 record.

The rest of the Mets' pitching looks solid. Ron Darling, Sid Fernandez, Bob Ojeda and either Rick Aguilera or Dave Cone will give New York the best starting rotation in the majors. If this staff can stay healthy, the Mets might not even need a good bullpen.

One aspect of the Mets' game that manager Dave Johnson doesn't have to worry about is offense. With outfielders Darryl Strawberry (39 home runs last season) and Kevin McReynolds (29), third baseman Howard Johnson (36), catcher Gary Carter

(20) and first baseman Keith Hernandez (18) leading the way, there will be quite a few balls flying over the outfield fences at Shea Stadium.

But Strawberry does have to worry about his tongue. Earlier this spring, he blasted some of his teammates in an April interview in Esquire magazine. If the team is able to concentrate on itself instead of the massive New York media, it will rank as one of baseball's best ever.

The Mets will win this division. That you can bank on. Another thing you can bank on is that there will be a logjam of teams fighting for second place.

But the Philadelphia Phillies will prevail and at least give the Mets something to look at behind them.

The offense of this Phillies team will give its fans something to cheer about. This attack ranks up there with the Mike Schmidt/Greg Luzinski tandem.

Schmidt is still around, and the three-time Most Valuable Player is coming off yet another impressive year (35 home runs, 113 runs batted in). Juan Samuel is the other half of the Phillies' one-two punch. He recorded 28 homers, had 100 RBIs and stole 35 bases.

The Phillies showed they were not impressed with their 80-82 record last season. They traded for left fielder and former Missouri standout Phil Bradley. Bradley has the perfect numbers for a lead-off hitter — .297 average, 101 runs scored, 38 doubles, 84 walks and 40 stolen bases.

Philadelphia proved last year that they have people to drive in runs. In addition to Schmidt and Samuel, catcher Lance Parrish will improve from last year and Von Hayes hit 21 round-trippers.

The Phillies' Achilles heel will be pitching. Pitching wins pennants, and

that's why this team won't be much of a challenge for the Mets.

Shane Rawley, Kevin Gross, free agent David Palmer, Don Carman and Bruce Ruffin could make or break the Phillies. Also, Cy Young Award winner Steve Bedrosian saved 40 games last year but has been bothered by injuries this spring. If the pitching doesn't hold up, look for the Phillies to challenge for the cellar instead of second place.

Another team that will fight the Phillies for second place is St. Louis. Like the Phillies, the Cardinals' pitching will determine their season.

John Tudor seems to spend half of every year on the disabled list, and besides Danny Cox and Todd Worrell and Ken Dayley in the bullpen, the rest of the staff is under average.

Manager Whitey Herzog is banking on Jose DeLeon to be the savior for St. Louis. But DeLeon is a career 32-55 pitcher, so the only thing DeLeon will save the Cardinals from is the cellar.

Also, the Cards must find a replacement for Jack Clark, the only slugger St. Louis had last season. But free agent Bob Horner isn't the answer. He'll help the team, but he can't replace Clark's bat.

Montreal, like Philadelphia and St. Louis, is banking on its pitching staff to come through.

Dennis Martinez compiled an 11-4 record last year, and Pascual Perez was 7-0 after being called up from the minors in August. The rest of the staff is Neal Heaton, former Nebraska pitcher Bob Sebra, Bryn Smith and Floyd Youmans. Heaton and Youmans both need to have a big year if the Expos are to remain in the hunt for second place.

The Expos' offense will rely on speed. Left fielder Tim Lincecum hit .330 last season while Tim Wallach

hit .298, but there are just too many holes to fill.

Once again, Pittsburgh and Chicago will battle for the cellar, but look for the young Pirates to prevail.

The Pirates are two years away from challenging as they have traded away most of the team's aging players and the youth movement appears to be working.

Mike Dunne, who was 13-6 with a 3.03 ERA last season, leads the pitching staff, while Andy Van Slyke hit .293 with 21 home runs after being traded by the Cardinals.

The Cubs' question about pitching has already been answered — it's horrible. Outside of Rick Sutcliffe, the Cubs' staff looks as bleak as blackout in New York City.

Calvin Schiraldi and Al Nipper, both acquired from the Boston Red Sox for reliever Lee Smith, won't be the answers. At best, both pitchers will look to break even.

Andre Dawson leads the offense after hitting 49 home runs last year. Ryne Sandberg and third baseman Vance Law will have to have career years in order for the Cubs to escape last place.

The predicted finish:

| Team | Record | Games Back |
|--------------|--------|------------|
| N. Y. Mets | 110-52 | - |
| Philadelphia | 88-74 | 22 |
| St. Louis | 87-75 | 23 |
| Montreal | 81-81 | 29 |
| Pittsburgh | 75-87 | 35 |
| Chicago Cubs | 70-92 | 40 |

Derowitsch is a news-editorial sophomore and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Basketball player leaves Husker team

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee announced Monday that Rodney Curtis, a 6-foot-1 freshman guard, has left the team for personal reasons.

Curtis appeared in 13 games last season and averaged 2.5 points per game.

"We regret that Rodney decided to leave," Nee said. "It's sad whenever you lose a player, particularly after he fought back from the neck injury he had last summer."

"The door is open for him to return in the fall if he wants to."

NU raises record with four victories

Nebraska completed a four-game sweep of Kansas Monday at Buck Beltzer Field by posting 5-3 and 5-1 victories against the Jayhawks.

The win raised Nebraska's record to 27-8 overall and 7-1 in the Big Eight.

Nebraska's next game is in Lincoln today, when the Cornhuskers face Kearney State in a single nine-inning game at 3 p.m. The Huskers will then face Missouri Western in a double-header Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Correction

A story in Monday's Daily Nebraskan incorrectly stated that Illinois' David Zeddies injured his knee at last year's Big Ten Championships. Zeddies actually broke his foot four weeks before the conference competition.

The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.