

Two gymnasts may not compete in Seoul

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

The two best gymnasts at the NCAA Men's Championships last weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center won't be wearing the U.S. team colors at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea.

Actually, they might not be wearing any colors at all. They may not even be there.

Miguel Rubio and Alfonso Rodriguez finished as the top two all-arounders in Saturday's competition, and Rubio won the individual title in the high bar. Both are sophomores

from Houston Baptist University and both are from Spain.

But even though Rubio and Rodriguez have qualified for the summer games, the Spanish Gymnastics Federation may prevent them from competing because of a rule the federation recently passed.

The rule specifies that athletes must be certified members of the Spanish Federation to compete in the Olympics. To be certified members, the athletes must live and train in Spain.

"No other country has that rule — no way," Houston Baptist coach Robert Dvorak said. "I think their rule

stinks."

Dvorak said the denial of the two athletes' Olympic qualification scores are a result of a personal vendetta the Spanish Federation's president has against Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said the federation wants him and Rubio to return to Spain to train and compete. Rodriguez said that when he was choosing a university to attend, the federation told him he could go to the United States or the Soviet Union.

"Obviously, I chose the United States," he said. "Now they tell me I have to go back, so I don't know."

Spain is allowed to send only two

athletes to the summer Olympics because the Spanish national team finished No. 17 at the World Championships. According to Olympic qualification guidelines, teams finishing 16th to 18th are granted only two spots in the Olympics.

Dvorak said Spain's reluctance to let Rodriguez and Rubio compete on its national team is "a big mistake."

"They've both gotten better since they've been here," he said. "They could represent Spain better than anyone. I don't understand it. It's like a vendetta against these guys for coming over here."

"These guys are the cream of the

crop over there. It drops way off after that. There's just nobody else there."

Rodriguez said his main concern is completing his college education.

"I've already started two years of school at Houston Baptist," he said. "If I go back to Spain, I have to start all over again. I don't want to have to get my degree when I'm 40 or 45 years old. That doesn't give me time to do anything."

Dvorak said he has no idea how or when the conflict will be resolved.

"It's a tossup right now," he said. "I hope it's resolved soon, because it would be a crime if the world couldn't see their gymnastics."

Herbie auditions to be at Red-White game

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Football players won't be the only ones being evaluated at the Nebraska Red-White spring football game Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who want to be Herbie Husker next year will try out for the position Saturday. The students will

put on the Herbie Husker costume and perform before a selection committee of Yell Squad coordinator Kris Baack, Corn Cobs president Glen Gralheer and former Corn Cobs president Rusty Harder.

Baack said 16 people applied for the position. The committee is interviewing the applicants this week, Baack said, and will narrow the number down by Saturday. He said

the committee will choose two to five people to wear the Herbie Husker costume at the spring game.

Gralheer said the selection of the new Herbie will be made sometime next week. He said the committee will look for someone with the right blend of enthusiasm and responsibility.

"We're looking for someone with a dynamic personality and someone who will best represent the university," Gralheer said. "It's an important position because a lot of attention is paid to Herbie, so we need a person that is very responsible."

Last season the Corn Cobs selected a student to serve as Harry Husker and the Yell Squad selected a Herbie Husker.

But Gralheer said the university decided to have only one mascot this

season, so it discontinued the use of Harry Husker.

The university then purchased a new costume for Herbie Husker and decided the Yell Squad and the Corn Cobs would combine to choose the new Herbie.

Gralheer said the committee would like the new Herbie Husker to work closely with the cheerleaders.

"We're trying to work it out so that he will attend cheerleading camp this summer with the cheerleaders," he said.

The committee will also select an alternate Herbie Husker, Gralheer said.

"We chose an alternate because during basketball season you might have games on Wednesday and Saturday, and that's very hard to do for one

person," he said.

Baack said the 16 people who applied to be Herbie Husker is more than she expected. She said the large number was because of increased publicity.

Gralheer said he is glad the selection of Herbie Husker was well publicized.

"We're trying to open it up and give more students a chance to be Herbie because I think a lot of students on campus would like to be Herbie," Gralheer said.

Coach says Nebraska ready for NCAA meet

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final 10 kids," Walton said. "And our athletes have the abilities to be in the finals."

Walton said Nebraska is traveling to Utah so it can execute well and take advantage of its opportunities. He said the Huskers are ready and will put everything into the performance.

"The girls are excited about this meet," Walton said. "I believe they feel they are a better team than eighth in the country and are out to prove it. At this point in the season you don't have to motivate someone to perform well and if you do, you're in a world of trouble."

The competition begins Friday at 4 p.m., with team and all-around championships staged that night. Individual event finals begin at 7:30 p.m., Saturday.

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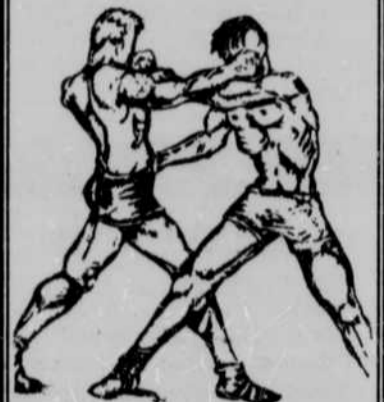
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