

Huskers well-represented in Olympics

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Five gymnasts with Nebraska ties will travel to Seoul, South Korea, next September as members of the United States men's gymnastics team.

Former Cornhusker gymnasts Kevin Davis, Scott Johnson and Wes Suter, along with Nebraska recruit Lance Ringnald are included on the seven-member squad. Former Southern Illinois standout Charles Lakes and current Illinois sophomore Dominick Minicucci round out the top six. Former Nebraska gymnast Tom

Schlesinger will also make the trip to Seoul as the team alternate. Schlesinger will compete only if one of the top six gymnasts is injured or becomes ill, or can not participate for any other reasons.

Finishing 8th was former Arizona State gymnast Dan Hayden.

Hayden, who was in 2nd place after the compulsory competition, fell on his last event — the high bar — to become the other alternate. Hayden

will not make the trip to Seoul.

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen said the Olympic trials were "a rip-roaring success" for the Nebraska gymnasts.

"We were supposed to have three members on the team, but five is nice," Allen said.

Allen said he was happy to see Ringnald make the team. Ringnald finished in 5th place at the trials.

"It was nice to see Lance make the team," Allen said. "I believe that he is as good as Jim Hartung was, and that is something for me to say."

Allen said that Ringnald and Suter

making the team was the biggest surprise of the two-meet competition.

"Wes was on the fringe," Allen said. "I knew he could make it and I told the press he could make it, but they all didn't believe me. His story is dedication. He worked within reason."

"I am just real excited about this team and I think we have a good chance of making the top six," he said.

Allen will make the trip to Seoul as a personal coach but will not be allowed on the floor during competition.

"It doesn't bother me that I will not be on the floor," Allen said. "I think our job is to prepare the men before they go out on the floor. I don't say a lot on once they are on the floor."

"Our job is done in the trenches. I

am proud to represent the United States as a personal coach."

The coach for the men's Olympic team is Abie Grossfeld, who coaches at the University of Southern Connecticut, Allen said. Grossfeld was also the 1984 coach.

Allen said the five Nebraska gymnasts will be the nucleus of the team competing in Seoul.

"I think they will work really well together," Allen said. "They are well-oiled."

Allen said he is proud Nebraska will be well represented at the Olympics.

"These guys are pretty good athletes and they will be good ambassadors for the United States," he said. "I think it will be a great Olympic team. It will be a great, young team."



Allen

Cornhusker volleyball recruit Kruse looking forward to career in the 'red'

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Janet Kruse's first game in a red uniform didn't turn out the way she wanted it to, but she is hoping for better success in future games.

Kruse played for the red-clad North All-Star Volleyball team, which lost to the South 14-16, 15-10, 15-10, 7-15, 17-15 in last Thursday's Coaches' All-Star game.



Kruse

Although Kruse wore a purple uniform when she played high school volleyball for Blair, she is now looking forward to wearing a red uniform for her new team: Nebraska.

Kruse was an All-State selection in basketball and volleyball at Blair the last two years and received a scholarship from Nebraska to play volleyball.

"Red is my color," Kruse said.

"Red is the color our site team wore and I like it. I like Nebraska and I'm definitely real excited about going there."

Kruse said she enjoyed playing in the all-star game, but also said she is anxious to be a Cornhusker.

"The all-star game was a lot of fun and excitement," Kruse said. "It also was a lot of work. It was hard to come together as a team after only four days of practice."

Even though she recorded 13 ace spikes, one ace serve and three blocks while playing in three matches of the all-star game, Kruse said there were things she could have done better.

At Blair Kruse had a spiking percentage of 48.5 and had over 198 ace blocks during the last two years.

"This game definitely got me into the swing of volleyball," Kruse said. "It (the game) leads right into the volleyball season."

Kruse has had her chance this summer to get into the swing of volleyball. In June she played with

members of the Nebraska volleyball team in a tournament where they finished 3rd. She also played junior ball with a Nebraska team in the Colorado National Tournament.

She said those two tournaments helped her out a lot and helped her to get to know some of the members of the Husker volleyball team.

"I'm real anxious to come to Nebraska and I want to try to contribute," Kruse said. "I anticipate a lot of fun and hard work. I'm nervous but I just want to go in and try to do the best I can."

Kruse's coach in the all-star game, Linda Carlson, said she thinks Kruse will be able to contribute to the Nebraska team.

"Janet is a very gifted athlete," Carlson said. "She is very gracious and humble and is a coach's dream. She is a real pleasure to coach."

Carlson said Kruse will have to develop more as a player, but said he thinks Nebraska coach Terry Pettit will be able to bring out the best in her.

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