

# NU swimmers to compete this weekend

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert admits he has heard the grumbling.

Huppert said he has heard all about his team's schedule, which will force the Cornhuskers to miss Saturday's Nebraska-Oklahoma game. Instead of being in the "friendly confines" of Memorial Stadium, Nebraska will travel to Greenville, S.C., to face Furman on Friday and face 10th-ranked Clemson Saturday in Clemson, S.C.

The men's team also will be in action this weekend, facing Southern Methodist Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The meet, which is free to all University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student ID cards, begins at 5 p.m.

Huppert said the Husker women have told him all about his scheduling.

"They all said, 'Nice schedule,

coach,'" Huppert said. "Seriously though, I can't remember a time since I've been here that we've seen the Nebraska-Oklahoma game."

Huppert said his team's challenge will be similar to the task that awaits the Nebraska football team, as the Huskers will have less than 14 hours to recover from the Furman meet and a 30-mile trip before facing Clemson.

The Furman meet begins at 6 p.m. Friday, and the Clemson competition starts at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Huppert said he isn't worried about the challenge that awaits Nebraska.

"That's what swimming is all about," he said. "Our training is geared to ask the athletes to swim quickly, no matter what the circumstances."

Huppert said Nebraska cannot afford to look past Furman, even though the Paladins are suffering through hard times. The Furman women's swimming program suffered a jolt last August, when Angel

Myers was disqualified from the U.S. Olympic Trials after testing positive for alleged steroid use.

Myers used up her collegiate eligibility last season, and the Paladins have had a hard time replacing her, Huppert said.

"Furman isn't as strong as they have been in the past," Huppert said. "But we can't afford to look past them. If we do, Furman could very well beat us."

Huppert said his team knows all about Clemson, which finished eighth at last year's NCAA championships. He said the Tigers possess a small squad that builds its strength around quality.

"They're not a real deep team as far as numbers go," Huppert said. "They've only got 12 swimmers, but 10 of those will probably go to the NCAAs."

Huppert said his unranked squad is not intimidated by Clemson.

"I don't think there's a team in the country these kids feel they can't

compete with," he said. "We feel good about the way we're training. There's a lot of confidence on this team."

Nebraska men's coach Cal Bentz said there is also a lot of confidence on his 10th-ranked team. He said he wants that confidence to spill over against 14th-ranked SMU.

"SMU is a real good school with a long tradition of swimming," Bentz said. "They have been a national power for many years."

Bentz said Nebraska is looking forward to competing against a team of SMU's caliber. The Mustangs are led by sprinter Todd Pace, who is a member of the U.S. National Team, and diver Scott Donie.

Bentz said SMU matches up with Nebraska.

"They've got some excellent swimmers and one of the top collegiate divers in Scott Donie, and they're very well balanced," he said.

Bentz said his team also is balanced. Among the Husker returnees are All-America selections Ryan

Bell, Sean Frampton and Bob Fitzpatrick. Peter Williams, an All-America selection in the 50- and 100-yard freestyles, also returns, but has been slowed by a shoulder injury.

"We have several swimmers who are excellent in their own right," Bentz said. "With the returning All-Americans and conference champions, we feel that this is an excellent group of swimmers that should help our team go far."

Bentz said Nebraska is looking forward to facing SMU even though the meet is the Huskers' first official competition of the season. Nebraska's only other competition was the United States Swimming meet, which pitted the Huskers against a variety of club teams.

"We're ready and anxious," Bentz said. "This meet should come down to whoever wants to win the race the most, and we're definitely ready."

"This meet is going to be a real challenge and a hard-fought battle all the way."

# 'No, dad, you're not having a nightmare'

"Ooooh . . ."  
Dad, can you hear me?  
"Where am I?"

You're in a hospital in Lincoln.

"What happened to me?"  
When Nebraska beat Oklahoma last year, you passed out, hit your head on a seat and have been in a coma for almost a year now.



Paul Domeier

Actually, the defense played well. The offense just couldn't do anything.

"Osborne run up the middle too much?"

No, not enough. The 'Canes sagged their tiny linemen off the line to get a good pass rush. Oh, after the season, Jimmy Johnson quit to become coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

"Wow! How about Charles Thompson. Is he all right? I remember him breaking his leg in the OU game."

I don't know, Dad. He got arrested for selling drugs.

"So Barry is without a quarterback?"

Barry is without a team. In addition to Thompson's bust, two good friends on the team got into a small argument in the athletic dorm over a cassette tape, so one shot the other in the chest.

"I'm glad it was a small argument."

And the NCAA put the team on probation, so Switzer quit this summer.

"You're lying."

No, I'm serious. The new coach, Gary Gibbs, promised to bring in a new attitude and clean up the program.

"Who's Gary Gibbs?"

He played for the Sooners when the team was on probation and Switzer started as coach. He's been a key assistant at Oklahoma for years.

"Now I know you're lying. Sounds like firing Yosemite Sam to hire Elmer Fudd, though I don't know why I would associate Oklahoma with a cartoon."

Well, he said he would clean things up.

"Is Oklahoma doing as well as normal?"

The Sooners are 7-3.

"I suppose Barry Sanders and the Oklahoma State Cowboys are challenging the Huskers in the Big Eight then."

No, Okie State is on probation, too, and Sanders' father talked him into skipping his senior year and going pro.

"So the Huskers are winning easily?"

No, they are in second. Colorado beat Nebraska two weeks ago, and the Buffaloes are undefeated and are second in the country.

"The Buffs? Sal Aunese must be doing it for them."

Well, that's what the players keep saying. I have my doubts.

"Why?"

He's dead.

"What?"

He's dead.

"I'm still asleep, aren't I? I'm going to wake up, and the Sooners are going to have won 10-7. Either that or you're lying to me about all this."

No, Dad, you're fine, and I'm not lying. Aunese was found to have inoperable stomach cancer in the spring, and he died in September. The team has dedicated itself to his memory. They keep pointing to the sky, they save seats for him, they wear lava-lava's for him...

"They wear soap?"

No, lava-lava's are these Samoan kilt things. They're kind of neat looking. Anyway, the backup quarterback is playing like a god, and the Buffs are heading for a national championship showdown in the Orange Bowl against Notre Dame.

"Tell me what's happening here.

Have the Huskers played the Sooners yet?"

No, you woke up just in time. The teams play this Saturday.

"Great. I'm certainly well-rested. Get me that paper you were reading. Wait a minute. Where's all the hype? Where are the 10 stories a day on Nebraska's back-up long snapper? What happened to Oklahoma

week?"

Dad, don't cry. No one but the players and coaches care this year. The Big Eight title isn't at stake, the Huskers are a big favorite -- the game can't even be on TV!

"Is that any reason to ignore the game? Is nothing sacred? Has everything in the world changed in the last year? Next you'll tell me the Berlin Wall was torn down."

Let's talk about that some other time, Dad.

"Please, son, tell me some things have stayed the same. Give me one example. I'm old; I can't change that much."

OK, Dad, one example. The Huskers most likely will play Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl. The Seminoles lost twice early in the year, but might be the best team in the country now -- just like the 1988 Fiesta Bowl.

"Do the Seminoles hold on every offensive play?"

I don't know. Probably.

"Thank God! What a year it's been. I never could have imagined it."

It's great to have you back, Dad. Next year should be just as interesting. Now about the Berlin Wall . . .

Domeier is a junior news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan reporter and columnist.

# Coach: '89 - 90 gymnasts could be the 'best ever'

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

In the 1980s, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team has tallied five NCAA championships and four runners-up trophies.

But they've saved the best for the 1989-90 season, according to Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen.

Allen's Cornhuskers will have a chance to show just how good they are when they open their season Friday and Saturday by competing in the Big Eight Invitational. The competition begins at 7 p.m. Friday in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska will compete against Iowa State, Oklahoma and Air Force in Friday's compulsory competition and Saturday's optional portion. All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student ID cards will be admitted free, and non-students showing a Nebraska-Oklahoma football ticket stub will be admitted for \$1 Saturday.

Allen said that of all the fine teams Nebraska has produced, this may be the best.

"I expect our team to be tremendous," he said. "We've never been

more prepared than we are now. Our guys are in excellent shape and are ready to compete.

"Hopefully, this meet will set the tone to go through the season undefeated."

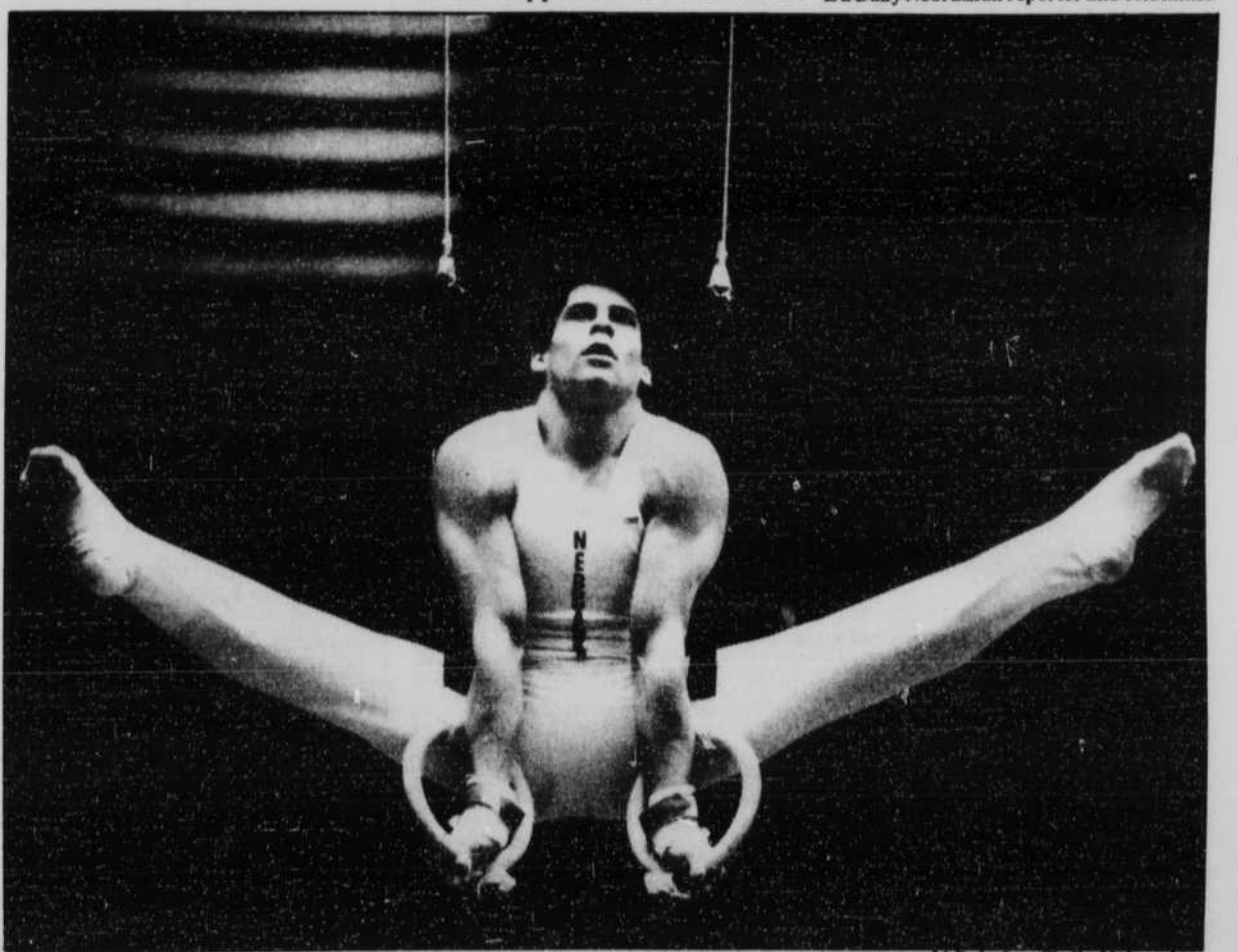
Allen said Nebraska looks close to unbeatable on paper, as the Huskers return three senior All-America selections in Bob Stelter, Mark Warburton and Patrick Kirksey. Kirksey is the defending NCAA all-around champion.

"Our senior leadership is outstanding," Allen said. "All three are tremendous performers, but seniors are supposed to take the pressure and perform. These guys can, and I look for them to have a great season."

Kirksey competed for the United States national team in October for the 1989 World Gymnastics Championships in Stuttgart, West Germany. He placed 66th in the all-around with a 111.85 score.

Kirksey turned down the opportunity to take a rest after returning to Nebraska, Allen said, and has chosen to compete this weekend.

"Patrick just came back from Europe and he's tired, but he will



Nebraska's Bob Stelter competes on the rings.

Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

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