

Changes result in win against Iowa State

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

When the Nebraska women's basketball players got to the point where they had nothing to lose, they didn't lose.

Led by Kim Yancey's career-high 19 points, the Cornhuskers broke a six-game losing streak with a 68-60 come-from-behind victory at Iowa State on Saturday.

Yancey came off the bench to lead the Huskers, 9-10 and 1-5 in the Big Eight. The sophomore from Holden, Mo., started the first 16 games at point guard, the one-guard in coach Angela Beck's system.

But Yancey's 74 turnovers (to 45 assists) and 8.0 point-per-game scoring average bumped her to the bench in favor of freshman Sara Offringa, a move Yancey agreed with.

"I deserved to get yanked," she said. "I would have yanked me, too."

Yancey also got moved to shooting guard, or the two-guard position, and it was there that she came alive.

"Saturday I just went in and shot it," she said. "I feel more open than I did at the one."

Beck joked that switching Yancey to the wing was a "genius move."

"When you win, you're a genius," she said.

Beck's other changes -- a positive attitude, a new defense, Carol Russell at point guard and fewer substitutions -- must have been brilliant moves, too.

Beck said she changed her attitude after losing to Kansas State on Wednesday, with a sports psychologist analyzing Beck's every move. The defense mixed a three-player perimeter zone and a two-player, man-to-man inside.

Russell played most of the game, scoring 11 points with five rebounds and three steals. Her play earned praise from the team's former point guard.

"She's a real heady player,"

Yancey said. "She reads the floor well and reads situations well."

The substitutions gave more minutes to the team's veterans. Newcomers have played 47 percent of the team's minutes, but only 38 percent of the minutes against the Cyclones.

Beck said she wanted to use the veterans so when the new players did play, they would feel less pressure. Freshman Karen Jennings did that best, with 11 points and 10 rebounds in 18 minutes.

But the best game still came from the player who was new at her position.

"(Yancey's) had such a frustrat-

ing two years here," Beck said. For at least one game, though, the coach could compare Yancey with former Husker stand-out Amy Stephens.

"(Yancey) was reading screens and running through screens like Stephens used to do," Beck said.

After the game, Beck said, the players threw her into the shower. Beck called the win the biggest of their lives, one indication of the pressure building up on the team. Beck mentioned another indication as the Huskers eased into the win column.

"The last minute-and-a-half of that game took, I think, five days," Beck said.

Nebraska gymnastics team's weakness becomes strength at Tigers' expense

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team turned a weakness into a strength Sunday against Missouri.

Nebraska assistant coach Dan Schermann said the Cornhuskers' performance on the balance beam was the deciding factor in their 190.30-188.30 victory against the Tigers in Columbia, Mo.

Nebraska scored 47.25 points in the beam competition, which was an improvement over the 44 the Huskers scored on the event one week ago.

Schermann said the improvement in the beam was not an accident. The improvement helped Nebraska post one of the top-five scorers nationally this year, and also offset the highest score ever compiled by Missouri.

"We were shooting for a better beam score this week," he said. "We've trained the girls hard."

Schermann said Nebraska gained confidence from its beam improvement. The beam problems had upset

the girls, he said, because the event was the team's strongest last season.

Seniors Angie Burdette and Michele Bryant tied for first place on the beam with 9.70 scores. That performance helped Burdette place second in the all-around competition with a score of 38.50, while teammates Lisa McCrady and Jane Clemons were fourth and fifth with scores of 37.80 and 37.75.

Missouri's Kim Leslie won the meet's all-around title with a 38.80 score.

Schermann said Nebraska also received a strong performance from freshman C.C. Ocel in the floor exercise. Ocel scored a 9.55 in the event.

McCrady tied Missouri's Julie Dorn for the floor exercise title with a 9.70 score.

Schermann said the vault also was a strong event for Nebraska, as the Huskers recorded five of the top seven scores. The top mark was earned by Burdette, who finished with a 9.60 mark.

Clemons and Bryant tallied 9.55 marks.

Schermann said that Clemons' vaulting has improved this year. In past years, he said, the senior did not have enough difficulty in her vault to qualify for the all-around competition.

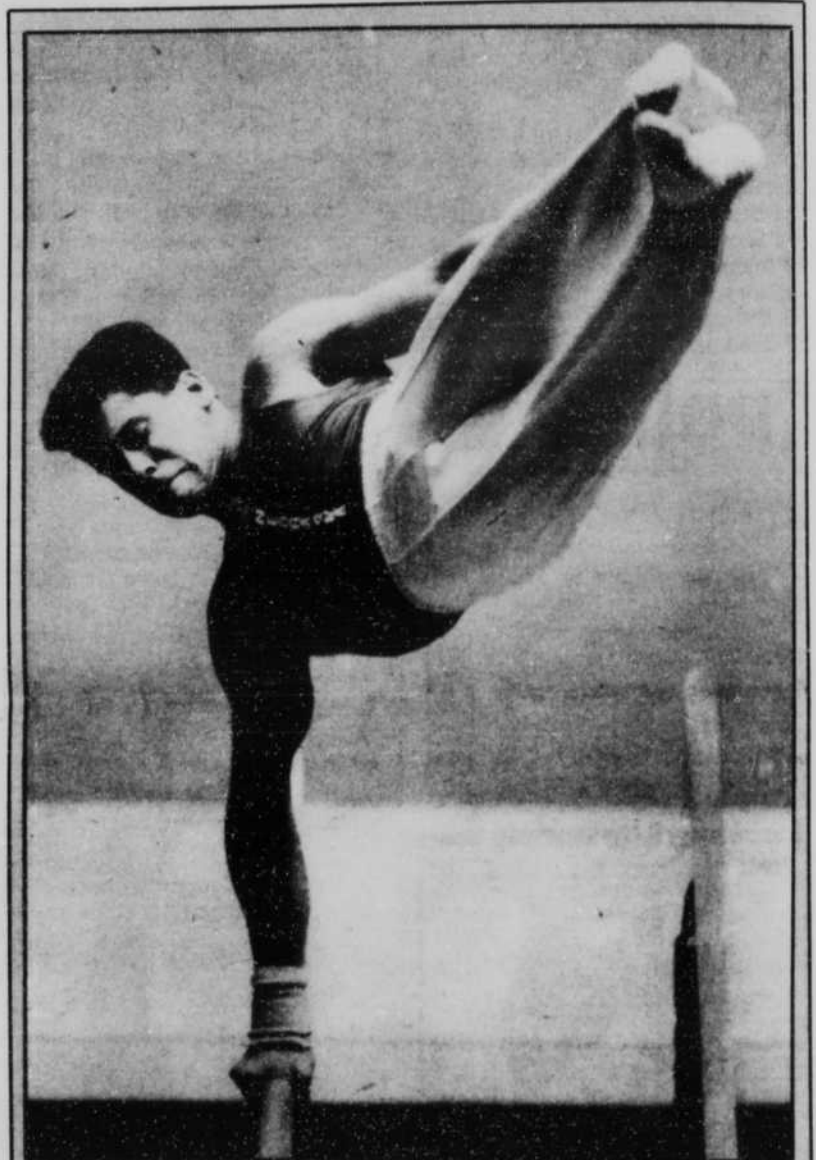
But this year, Schermann said, Clemons' skill level has taken a leap forward. So far forward, in fact, that Nebraska now uses her in all four events.

"It's not easy to make our lineup," Schermann said.

Schermann said Nebraska needs to train hard this week in order to prepare for the second-annual Masters Classic, which will take place this weekend.

The meet, which is described by Nebraska coach Rick Walton as the premier, regular-season competition of the year, will feature three of the top six teams -- Nebraska, UCLA and Cal-State Fullerton.

The Huskers captured the title last year. Schermann said the meet will be tough, but Nebraska proved Sunday that it is capable of retaining the title.



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Mark Warburton competes on the parallel bars.

NU coach not surprised by team's good showing

By Julie Naughton
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's triumph in a weekend triangular came as no surprise to men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen.

Allen said he wasn't surprised that Nebraska rolled past Oklahoma and Iowa State on Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Cornhuskers, the defending Big Eight champions, scored 278.65 points to outdistance Oklahoma and Iowa State, which finished with scores of 270.65 and 255.90, respectively.

Allen said he was not overly excited about Nebraska's performance.

"They're supposed to do well," he said. "When you see those types of performances in the gym day after day, it's hard to get real excited when they do it here."

Allen said he was pleased by the performance of freshman Trent Dimas, who tied senior Mark Warburton for second place in the all-around competition with a score of 55.90.

Dimas tied for first on the high

bar and the parallel bars, sharing the high bar title with Oklahoma's Brian Halstead and the parallel bars title with Warburton.

Dimas tallied a 9.65 mark on the high bar and scored 9.5 on the parallel bars.

"Dimas' scores are excellent for a freshman," Allen said. "I (think he is) one of the finest recruits we've ever had. We're real pleased to see him doing so well."

Nebraska senior Patrick Kirksey, the defending NCAA all-around champion, won the all-around with a score of 56.00.

Allen said the results of Sunday's meet were about what he expected from his team. He said his team has been working hard since returning from Christmas break, and he expects it to be one of the strongest teams that Nebraska has ever had.

Allen said Sunday's meet was a kickoff competition for the Huskers, who improved their record to 5-0. He said the gymnasts need to start tuning up for their next competition.

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Forming minor leagues is answer to athletic scholarship problem

I love college sports as much as the next guy, and more than the guy after him.

But I don't understand this whole recruiting thing.

The Nebraska football coaches are scurrying around the country to get scholarship commitments for next fall.



Paul Domeier

Last November the basketball coaches signed a few players to letters-of-intent. Coaches in other sports are striking similar deals. But why?

Why do colleges give athletic scholarships?

General academic scholarships are given to bright students who study in an academic discipline. Music scholarships are given to students with musical talent who study music. Engineering scholarships are given to students with engineering promise who study engineering.

And so on, until athletics. Athletic scholarships are given to students with athletic talent who will play an extra-curricular sport -- not to study, to play a sport. If a player quits the team, the player loses the scholarship.

Most scholarships are given for talent in an academic field or for a basic condition (race, hometown, disability). Athletic talent falls into the first group, yet athletics aren't

part of the curriculum.

So why give these scholarships? The present grants make as much sense as a music conservatory that would give a young journalist a scholarship so he or she could come help with the student paper, regardless of his or her talent in music.

Some people understand this. The Ivy League schools don't give athletic scholarships. You may laugh, and say "That's why they don't win anymore."

True, and that's why athletic scholarships were started in the first place; to give incentive to the best athletes to go to a certain school and bring in the money that comes with a successful football program.

According to the NCAA, the NCAA first officially recognized scholarships in 1952, but the practice of "subsidizing" athletes had been going on for years. The 1952 legislation limited the aid to the schools, and the money from boosters was forced under the table.

Maybe some of these scholarships are a good investment, but they don't make sense with the rest of the university's scholarships. And the scholarships for non-revenue sports aren't even a good investment.

So make way for the First Domeier Proposal:

ELIMINATE ALL ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS.

Now that all of you have laughed out loud and interrupted your biology class, let me say that this proposal will get as far as the bookrack under your desk. Cornhusker football, for example, generates too much money

and too much prestige to be abandoned.

But examine one alternative to the present system, an alternative which could work.

Establish minor leagues in football and basketball. Minor leagues already exist for baseball and hockey, and club systems for tennis, swimming and similar sports thrive in some richer areas. These leagues have been suggested before, usually because of the increasing number of athletes who don't belong in college, but scrape by for a couple years so they can prepare for professional sports.

"But wait!" the purist yells. "What about the sanctity of the sports? College and pro basketball are different games because the rules and the caliber of players are different. If everyone plays in the minor leagues, every game will look like the NBA!"

Not if the new minor leagues have the same rules as the original minor leagues did in baseball. Those leagues started with team autonomy; the players didn't belong to a major-league club. Player development wasn't as important as winning.

But following the lead of baseball executive Branch Rickey and the Brooklyn Dodgers, the big-league clubs bought up all of the minor-league teams, creating the present-day farm systems.

The new basketball leagues could keep collegiate rules and have a rule that no NBA franchises could own minor-league clubs. The Continental Basketball Association already acts

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