

# NU women gymnasts motivated for OU dual

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Nebraska women's gymnastics coach Rick Walton doesn't have to look far to find motivation for his team entering its dual meet against Oklahoma.

Walton said Nebraska knows Oklahoma is a dangerous team because the Sooners finished ninth in last year's NCAA championships. He said that caught the attention of Nebraska, which finished fourth at the same meet.

"It's going to be a big meet," Walton said. "It's a great rivalry."

Nebraska will try to handle the mystique surrounding the rivalry when it travels to Norman, Okla., to face the Sooners on Sunday. The meet begins at 2 p.m.

Walton said he isn't overly concerned about the outcome of the Oklahoma dual.

"If we score 191 points and lose, we're still getting to where we need to go," he said. "The central focus for us right now is on nationals. And if we

score that high, we'll be progressing towards them."

Walton said he doesn't have any major concerns entering the dual. He said he isn't worried about a letdown, even though his team is coming off a tough win in the Masters Classic last Sunday.

The field in the Masters Classic, which Walton described as one of the premier meets in the country, included perennial powers UCLA, Cal State-Fullerton and Washington.

Walton said Nebraska's perform-

ances in Big Eight meets ease his concerns entering the Oklahoma dual. The Cornhuskers have not lost a conference meet since they dropped a decision in the 1986 Big Eight championships.

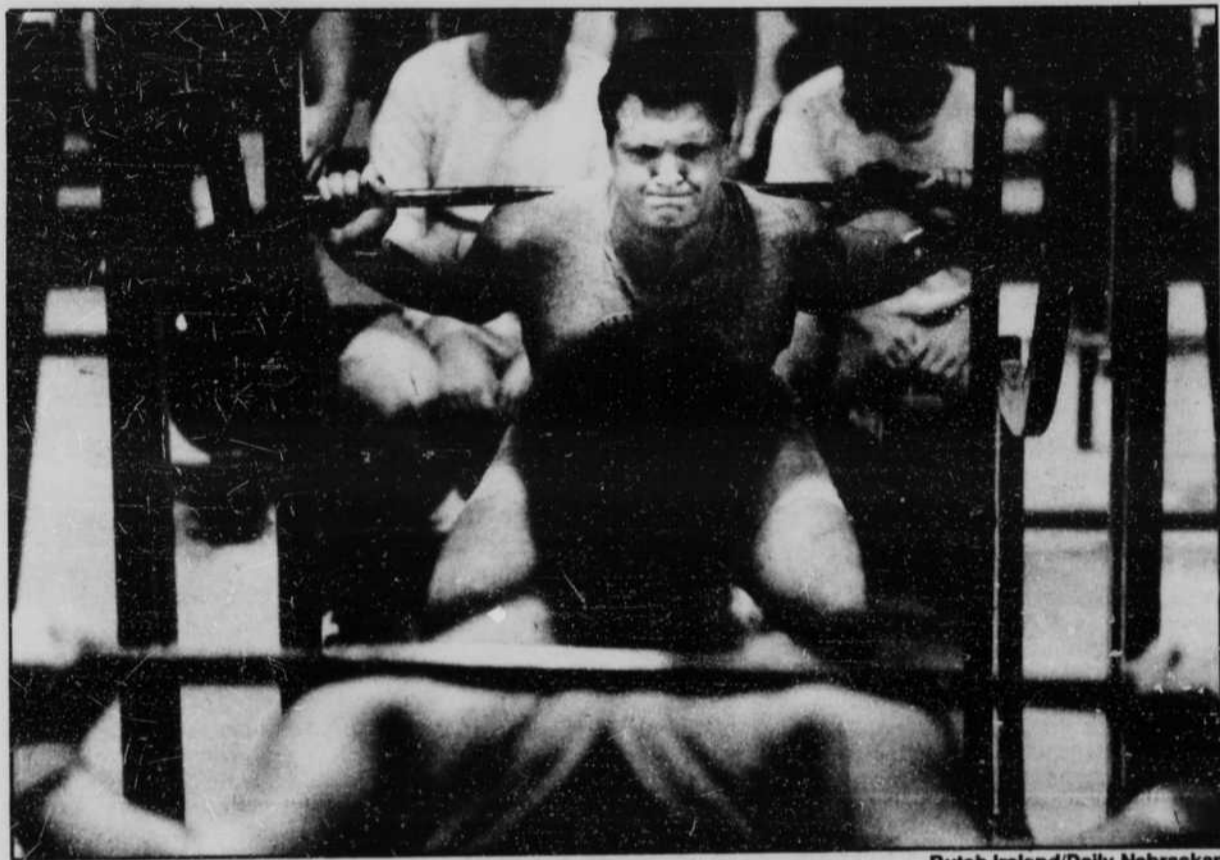
"We seem to handle all the situations we encounter," Walton said. "I don't know that I'm really ever concerned."

Walton said Nebraska proved it is capable of performing on the road when it defeated Missouri 190-50-

188.30 earlier this season in Columbia, Mo.

"We went down to Missouri, and we turned in a good score," he said. "That was a pretty good test for us."

Nebraska's battle against Oklahoma will be led by Tami Bair, Angie Burdette and Michele Bryant. The trio of seniors lead the Huskers in the vault and balance beam competitions. Bair and Burdette also team with fellow senior Jane Clemons and junior Lisa McCrady to form Nebraska's all-around attack.



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Terris Charney glares at himself as he squats some weights in the new addition of the Nebraska Strength Complex.

## Epley says expansion makes weight room world's largest

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska strength complex flexed its muscles Thursday by unveiling a new addition which turned it into a hulking mass.

Nebraska strength and conditioning coach Boyd Epley said the 17,000-foot addition turned the Cornhuskers' weight room into the largest strength facility in the world. He said the new, 30,000-square foot area contains several features which were not contained in the old complex, including a connecting hall and a reinforced wall.

The weight room expansion was completed as part of a remodeling project on the west side of Memorial Stadium. The \$1.7 million project, which also expanded the Hewit Center for student-athletes, was financed from Nebraska's participation in the 1988 Kickoff Classic and through private donations. No tax dollars were used.

Epley said the new weight room has unlimited potential.

"We now have the finest strength training facility in the nation," he said. "Our philosophy is to give the

student-athlete all the tools possible to have a successful career here. We believe that all the tools have now been provided."

The new features of the weight room include a hall which is connected to the Hewit Center. Epley said the hall is a big addition because student-athletes no longer have to go outside to get from the weight-training area to the study center.

Epley said the area also includes a reinforced wall that allows student-athletes to develop their coordination and agility by hurling a heavy medicine ball into it. A strip of AstroTurf, which is used for short-distance speed drills also is included.

The expansion also contains an aerobic area which houses rowing and biking machines. Epley said the area will be used by athletes who are undergoing rehabilitation or are on a modified workout program.

Epley said student-athletes will have an advantage in the new weight room because it provides separate areas for different parts of the body. The room will be used by student-athletes in

See STRENGTH on 8

# Basketball teams prepare for talented Missouri teams.

## Gifted guard to test NU when team takes on Tigers

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

When Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee looks at Missouri sophomore guard Anthony Peeler, he sees a lot of similarities to Michael Jordan.



Nee

But when Missouri coach Norm Stewart looks at Peeler, he sees a young talent whom he hesitates to compare to one of the greatest players in the history of the National Basketball Association.

Stewart said he is reluctant to compare Peeler to Jordan because the two players are in different stages of their careers. While Jordan is a dominating player for the NBA's Chicago Bulls, Peeler has led his team to a 21-1 record overall and a 7-0 mark in the Big Eight by averaging 18.9 points, 6.3 rebounds and 5.8 assists per game.

Those numbers awe Nee, who said Peeler and Tiger forward Doug Smith will join an elite group that includes Jordan by becoming NBA lottery picks. The lottery determines which NBA teams -- and players -- strike it rich by being one of the first individuals selected.

Nee said Nebraska can't afford to increase Peeler and Smith's value when his team faces Missouri on Saturday. The game, which begins at 1:07 p.m. at the Hearnes Center in Columbia, Mo., will be broadcast by Raycom (channels 10-11).

Nee said he is impressed by Missouri. The Tigers have maintained their No. 1 ranking this season while defeating the current leaders in the Metro, Missouri Valley, Southwest and Southwestern Athletic conferences.

Missouri also has won 28-straight games at the Hearnes Center, which is the third-longest home winning streak in the country.

"They have the ability to win close games," he said. "They just consistently find a way to win."

Nee said much of that success can be attributed to Peeler and Smith, who's combined averages are almost 37 points and 15 rebounds per game.

Stewart said those numbers don't give media members the right to compare Peeler to Jordan, even though a statistical argument can be made. During his sophomore year at North Carolina, Jordan averaged 20 points, 5.5 rebounds and 1.6 assists per contest.

"I think Anthony would think it was a tremendous compliment to be mentioned with Michael Jordan," Stewart said. "Anthony Peeler is Anthony Peeler. He's a fun-loving kid who loves to play."

Nee said he is impressed by Peeler. "I think Anthony Peeler is one of the premier guards in the country," he said.

Nee said Peeler and the 6-foot-10 Smith are supported by a strong cast of seniors. That cast includes guards Lee Coward and John McIntyre and forward Nathan Buntin.

Nee said Coward, McIntyre, and

See MISSOURI on 8

Big Eight Standings		
MEN		
TEAM	Big 8 record	Overall record
Missouri	7-0	21-1*
Kansas	6-1	23-1
Oklahoma	5-2	16-3
Oklahoma St.	4-5	13-8
Kansas St.	2-4	12-10
NEBRASKA	2-5	9-11
Iowa State	2-5	7-12
Colorado	1-7	9-12
WOMEN		
Kansas St.	8-1	16-6
Missouri	7-2	16-6
Oklahoma St.	7-2	14-7
Kansas	5-4	16-7
Colorado	5-4	12-10
Iowa State	2-7	12-10
NEBRASKA	2-7	10-12
Oklahoma	0-9	4-18

\*Does not include Thursday night's Missouri-Kansas St. game.

## Coach Beck views loss as sign of NU's progress

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

The seventh-place team is supposed to get blown out when it visits the first-place team.



Beck

the view Cornhusker coach Angela Beck is taking.

"This team's as far along as any team at this point," she said Thursday.

The Huskers, 10-12 and 2-7 in the conference, just haven't been able to win the close games. Seven of Nebraska's last eight games have been decided by less than 10 points, and in those seven games the Huskers are 2-5.

"We've been competitive every night," Beck said. "We haven't been capable of playing 40 minutes."

Nebraska came out more than competitive against Kansas State. The Huskers held a 35-21 lead at halftime. "We were mentally ready to play," she said. "We didn't let them totally dominate."

But the Huskers couldn't hold on in the second period.

Beck said that against Kansas State her team had three keys: take good shots, and the Huskers shot 50 per-

cent from the field; keep the Lady Cat offense off-balance, and Kansas State shot 33 percent; and make good passes.

The Huskers lost 32 turnovers, 20 in the second half.

Point guard Sara Offringa was sick and did not play, and Kim Yancey fouled out. That left Carol Russell as the only available Husker point guard at the end of the game.

Beck said she even had her team slow down and concentrate on the half-court offense to try to hold onto the ball better.

She said her team will continue to push the game's tempo with a full-court press, one of the things she said her team has been doing well.

"We have to find something that's going to work for the Big Eight championships," she said.

The Huskers have five games left before the conference tournament. The first comes Saturday against Missouri at 3 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Tigers -- 16-6, 7-2 and second in the Big Eight -- are the only team in the conference to beat Kansas State, and Missouri is similar to the veteran-loaded Lady Cats.

The Tigers play one freshman with a bunch of juniors and seniors, Beck said. The Huskers can't match that experience, she said, and will just have to look toward the summer and build off the rough times from this year.

"If this team is going to work hard in the off-season, we'll be OK," she said. "Our individual skills are hurting us more than the structure of the team."