

# Minnesota dual an eye-opener for NU

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

The Nebraska men's gymnastics team battled vision problems, then endured an eye-opening experience during its dual meet against Minnesota.

Coach Francis Allen said the Cornhuskers' 281.65-281.65 tie with Minnesota on Saturday in Minneapolis will help because it showed his team that it can be beaten. The Huskers may have entered the meet overconfident, he said, because they had little trouble against other opponents

and have been ranked No. 1 throughout the season.

"When you have a team that's this good, it's easy to become overconfident," Allen said. "Especially when you're blowing everyone out. Until now, we hadn't said at the end of a meet, 'God, that was a challenge,' so I think this opened our eyes."

The Huskers now are 18-0-1 this season.

Allen said Nebraska had problems preparing for the meet because ground fog delayed the Huskers' flight for more than six hours. He said the conditions delayed the start of the

meet 30 minutes.

The Huskers usually spend about two hours warming up for a meet, but their warmup time against Minnesota was cut to one hour because of the flight delay, Allen said.

"Everything was rush, rush, rush," he said. "We spent the day running around, wondering what we were going to do."

Allen said he was happy with the way his team responded to the adverse circumstances.

"I feel very fortunate," he said. "Minnesota is a good team, and we had trouble."

Allen said the Huskers will prove they are a better team than the No. 2-ranked Golden Gophers at the NCAA championships in Minneapolis on April 19-21.

"I can see Minnesota doing a little better, but not a lot," he said. "We can do a lot better."

Allen said one of the highlights for Nebraska was the performance of Bob Stelter. The senior from Burbank, Calif., tied career-high scores in the still rings and parallel bars to win the meet's all-around title with a 57.25 total.

Stelter scored a 9.80 on the rings

and a 9.70 on the parallel bars. The scores helped him edge teammate Mark Warburton, who finished second in the all-around with a 56.70.

Nebraska's Patrick Kirksey, the defending NCAA champion in the all-around, finished fifth in that event. Kirksey's all-around total was 56.00.

But, Allen said, the lower-than-average score isn't cause for concern. "He just had a bad meet," he said.

"He had problems on the rings, horizontal bar and the parallel bar."

"I don't know what happened, but he will be back."

## Baseball owners gamble with billion-dollar stakes

In the year after Pete Rose was suspended from baseball because he gambled on the game, the major league owners have suspended the game itself in a gamble with billion-dollar stakes.

Since Oakland swept San Francisco in the World Series last fall, the owners have positioned themselves to make a bigger change in the sport



Paul Domeier

than the one caused by the split-fingered fastball.

And the players know it, which is why this year's lockout continues, a year earlier than the owners planned.

The owners have bet they can make the players' union accept revenue sharing and a salary cap. Baseball owners were not the first sages to come up with these ideas. National Football League owners once discussed revenue sharing and the National Basketball Association has a salary cap.

Owners first proposed these changes in their initial offer to the players last fall, and these suggestions are so radical that they were pulled early in negotiations. These proposals were the baseball equivalent of Congress suggesting we scrap the Constitution.

First, an explanation of the concepts. With revenue sharing, the players get a percentage of gross receipts.

The suggested rate has been 48 percent, which is more than the players are making now, even after this winter's contracts that are more astronomical and comical than economical.

With a salary cap, owners have a two-tiered salary ceiling. Teams could not go over the top level, and teams over the bottom level could not bid for free agents, which would limit players' choices.

Of course, the actual workings of both are more difficult, and lawyers would get another large percentage to play around with the legal workings. Still, players would be earning more money than they do today.

But the players plan on earning more through the present system. To them, a salary cap and revenue sharing mean nothing more than an upper limit to salaries. They would leave today's arbitration and free agency intact so they can earn more than 48 percent if the game isn't as prosperous in 10 years and gross receipts decline.

With revenue sharing, the players would get X dollars and would look silly complaining about the system, since they would profit when owners profit and lose when owners lose. The salary cap would hinder free-market bidding and limit individual contracts. Arbitration probably would be gone.

The guys on the field have incentives to fight for the present system. The guys in the skyboxes have given themselves incentive through the contract signings of recent months.

See STRIKE on 8

## Coach Calvin says wins too easy, no challenges

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's tennis coach Gregg Calvin found one fault with his team's 6-3 victory over Texas Tech, its 6-0 victory over Texas-El Paso and the 5-0 victory over Tulsa this weekend -- they were too easy.

"I was disappointed we weren't challenged more by the other teams," he said.

The Cornhuskers split the singles and swept the doubles for the decision against the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Friday in Lubbock, Texas. Ildiko Guba scored her first big win of the weekend with a 6-2, 6-1 decision over Mallory Grantham.

Calvin said the Huskers survived one scare on their way to winning in doubles. Guba and Ann Flannery had split the first two sets at No. 2 singles, he said, and were up 4-1 in the third. Texas Tech's Amy Ryan and Cristy Cudd stormed back and forced the Huskers to survive three match points. Nebraska's duo then swept the tiebreaker to take the match.

Winning in Lubbock on Texas Tech's home courts was important, Calvin said. This year, he said, he has seen a home-court advantage help

Iowa, UNLV and the Huskers, so playing well outdoors in Lubbock is a good sign for the upcoming conference season.

Calvin said the heat and humidity hurt the Huskers at first.

"Our feet were pretty dead for a while," he said.

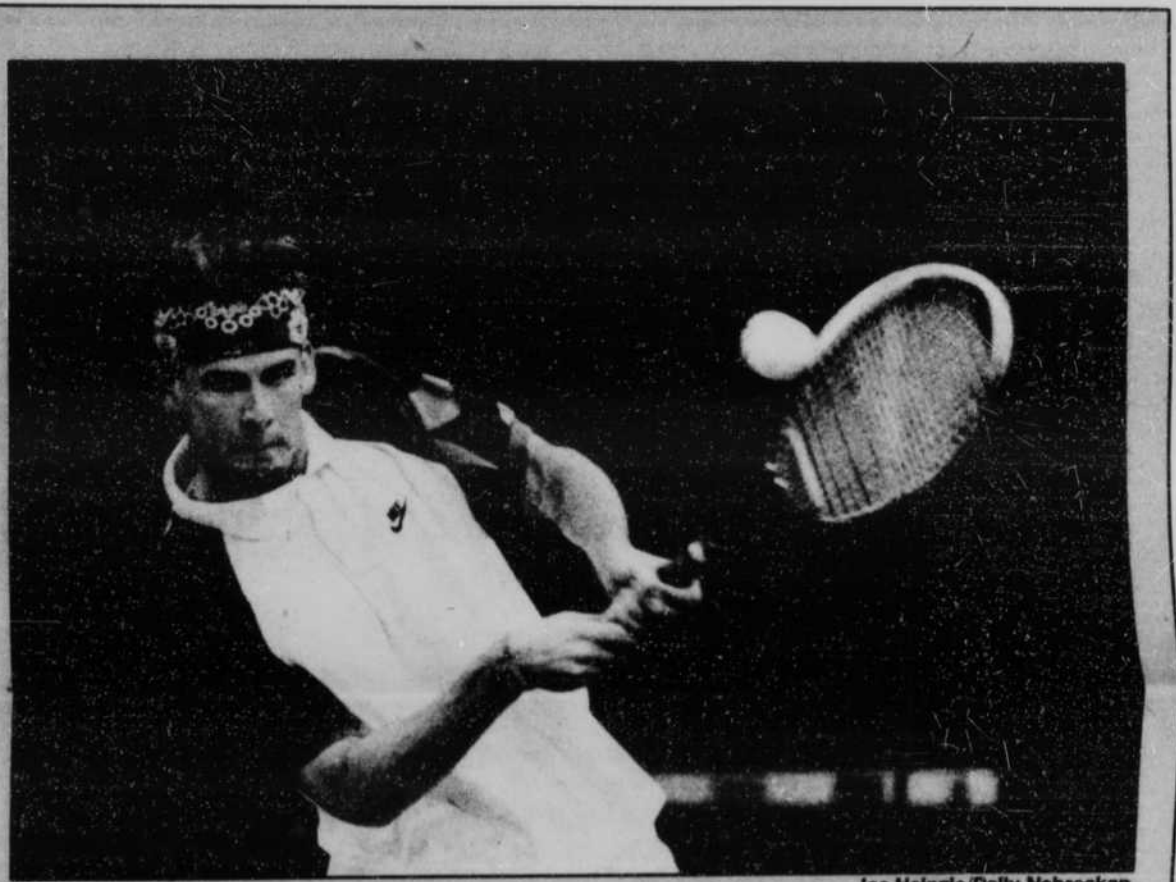
The next day the humidity turned into rain, and the teams had to move inside for one match. With the weather problems, the squads played to five, and Nebraska swept through Texas-El Paso and Tulsa without losing a set.

The only challenge for the Huskers, Calvin said, came in Guba's 6-3, 6-4 win over Tulsa's Laura Eubanks, who is ranked ninth in the region.

"Now we have to get the next level," Calvin said. "We have to figure out how to be competitive with the top 25."

The Huskers will play top-15 San Diego State during their Spring Break trip. Calvin said he wished UTEP and Tulsa could have given Nebraska a stiffer challenge to prepare for the California trip and Big Eight play in April.

"We should have won those matches, and we won them pretty easily," he said.



Joe Heinzie/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Steve Barley executes a return during the No. 1 singles match with Graceland's Mark Matisons on Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

## House of horror pitfalls have little effect on NU tennis team

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team turned a house of horrors into home, sweet home in dual wins over Drake and Graceland College this weekend.

The courts inside the Bob Devaney Sports Center, where the Cornhuskers scored their victories, are surrounded by a red mesh curtain to catch the balls. The lighting outside the courts is dismal, and each shot echoes in what usually is the indoor track. The whole effect makes the courts look like the set of a Vincent Price movie.

But the Huskers also happen to practice there during the winter, and they had no trouble defeating Drake, 7-2, on Saturday and Graceland, 9-0, on Sunday.

Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said his team accomplished what he wanted them to accomplish in the duals, the first matches Nebraska has held in the Sports Center in at least four years.

"I was really satisfied with Drake," McDermott said, "especially singles, going up 5-1."

Nebraska's Ken Feuer lost the first completed match, 7-5, 6-4, to Doug Failla at No. 2 singles. Steve Barley at No. 3 split the first two sets with Marcus Mabo, 4-6, 6-3, and had to win a third-set tiebreaker to take the match. After Barley won, the Huskers took the next four matches, two in three sets.

Barley spent much of his match berating himself -- muttering, slapping his leg, whacking the ball into the outside nets after losing a point.

"I felt like I should have beaten him worse," he said.

Emotional outbursts aren't

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men's tennis coach

common with the Huskers, but Barley said he uses his two-second tantrums to release pressure. When he tried a stoic style last year, the junior transfer for Northeast Louisiana said he felt sluggish.

"Some people find it offensive, but it works for me," Barley said.

It has been working well recently. In addition to the victory Saturday, Barley played No. 1 against Graceland as McDermott took top players Feuer and Matthias Mueller out of the lineup and moved up the rest of the players.

Barley defeated Mark Matisons, 6-3, 6-1. McDermott singled out Barley for his play in last weekend's HEB Invitational, too.

The coach said he doesn't mind the show of emotion, either, as long as Barley yells at himself, not his opponents, and stays away from profanity.

"He's the team psycho, but he's a nice psycho," McDermott said.

Barley said he is playing well, though he said his inability to put away opponents in two sets has been annoying him lately.

"I was in situations where I felt I had matches won, then I lost concentration," he said.

But, he said, he can't complain with the results as long as he wins.

McDermott was taking the same stance after the matches. He said Drake is similar to Iowa State, a team which has beaten the Bulldogs twice by 5-4 scores this season. The Huskers won because of their mental toughness, he said, and they think they could steal a Big Eight title if they keep improving.

Graceland also gave some Huskers not normally in the lineup a chance to gather some wins, and the regular Huskers who played had to bear down.

"When I force players to go out and concentrate when they know they should win, it makes them better players in the long run," McDermott said.