

NU earns 39th place in championships

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert did not let a 39th-place finish at the NCAA championships cast any gloom over his team's success.

Huppert said Nebraska had a "phenomenally successful" year even though it failed in its attempt to record a top-25 finish at the NCAA's. The Cornhuskers tied Notre Dame for 39th-place by tallying six points this weekend at the Texas Swim Center in Austin, Texas.

Texas won this year's title with 632 points, while heavily favored Stanford finished second with 622.5.

The only other Big Eight team besides Nebraska to score at the meet was Kansas, which finished 36th with seven points.

Huppert said he was proud of Nebraska's performance.

"Our team did a phenomenal job," Huppert said. "I'm not going to tell you I was content on scoring six points. But to say I was disappointed with the team, no. We had a great year."

Huppert said the highlight of the meet occurred when junior Jenell Garcia finished 14th in the 100-yard fly and freshman Michelle Butcher tied for 24th in the 200 freestyle. He said those performances were a surprise because the Nebraska coaching

staff did not consider them to be the swimmers' best events.

Garcia tallied three of Nebraska's points when she recorded her 14th-place finish in the 100 fly. Butcher tied for 24th in the 200 freestyle with a lifetime best clocking of 1:50.75 minutes.

The Huskers remaining top performance was compiled by junior Amy Aarsen, who tallied three points by finishing 14th in the meet's tower diving competition. Points were awarded on a 1-through-16 basis, with 16 given to first-place finishers.

Huppert said Nebraska knew it did not have much of a chance to earn a top-15 finish entering the meet because it did not have any relay teams

that qualified. Relays were scored double at the meet.

Huppert said the meet was a valuable experience for Nebraska.

"There's certainly a certain amount of disappointment, but not at the kids," he said, "because I think the people we took down are all going to come back next year as improved swimmers."

Huppert said the meet was an exciting one, as Texas and Stanford battled nip and tuck throughout the three-day competition. The Longhorns claimed their sixth national championship in seven years by winning the 400 relay, which was the meet's final event.

Stanford's charge was led by Janet

Evans, a gold medal winner at the 1988 Olympics who set a NCAA record in the 400 individual medley with a 4:07.59 clocking. She also broke her own American record en route to defeating Butcher in the 1,650 freestyle with a time of 15:39.14.

Butcher finished 19th in the 1,650 with a 16:38.35 clocking.

"That meet was probably the most exciting NCAA I've watched," Huppert said. "I thought Stanford would win, but Texas swam better."

Huppert said he does not have much time to recover from the NCAA's, as he will travel to Nashville, Tenn., to watch the U.S. senior national cham-

See NCAA on 8

NCAA tournament shows weakness of Big Eight, NU

If there is one area that shows the Nebraska men's basketball program needs a change in its direction, it's the NCAA tournament.

Throughout the year, Nebraska coach Danny Nee masked his team's sub-par performance behind an ex-



Jeff Apel

cuse that the Big Eight was the toughest conference in the nation. He argued that the Cornhuskers could have done better if they were playing in a weaker conference like the Missouri Valley, which watched in horror as conference-champion Southern Illi-

nois lost to Wisconsin-Green Bay in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament.

Well, Danny, the NCAA tournament has shown that the Big Eight isn't as strong as you made it out to be by disposing of Missouri and Kansas State in the first round, and getting rid of Oklahoma and Kansas in the second. Those losses show that the Big Eight still is striving to establish itself firmly in the basketball world, and also show that a change is needed at the helm of the Nebraska program.

Think back to four years ago, when Nee took his first team to the finals of the NIT. He was hailed as a lifesaver, as he took a team that wasn't expected to do anything to Madison Square Garden.

But since then, consider that Nebraska fans have had to:

- suffer through frustration with

Nebraska basketball, the most obvious of which is the lack of a decent point guard.

It is amazing that it's going to take Nee and his staff at least three years to realize they can't win without a true point guard. Nee had a point guard during his first season in Brian Carr, but has been operating with a bunch of makeshift players who are playing out of position ever since.

Even Eric Johnson, who now plays for the National Basketball Association's Utah Jazz, wasn't a true point guard. He arrived at Nebraska as an off guard, and switched to the point during a redshirt season so he could follow brother Vinnie to the NBA.

- put up with Nee's comments, which occasionally border on ridiculous.

The best comment Nee ever made occurred before Nebraska's final

regular-season home game this year. He was discussing his senior class of Richard van Poelgeest and Ray Richardson, and said he wasn't going to try to make either player graduate.

"I'm through trying to make people graduate," Nee said. "That's not my job."

Hmmmm.

That comment seems strange considering it's coming from a coach at a school whose chancellor, Martin Massengale, is president of the NCAA President's Commission. The commission was formed to, among other things, find ways to improve graduation rates for student-athletes.

- continue to hear an avalanche of excuses after seeing one blowout after another.

Setbacks against real teams like Michigan State and Oklahoma are

understandable, but blowout losses to patsies like Northern Illinois and Miami of Ohio are inexcusable. Perhaps the most difficult aspect about these losses is Nee refuses to recognize them as a fair barometer of how little his program has progressed.

Rather than admit that Nebraska's program has declined since he arrived, Nee continues to argue that he is rebuilding it. The only thing that is being rebuilt at Nebraska is the record book, which continues to enter new marks for losses.

Apparently, all of these shortcomings have not sunk in to Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney, who continues to show strong support for Nee. Devaney even went so far as to say recently that he still felt Nee was the man to rebuild the Nebraska pro-

See CHANGE on 8

Baseball team scores four weekend wins

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Mike Zajeski and Kevin Jordan sparked the Nebraska baseball team to four weekend victories, including 2-0 and 17-11 wins over Tarkio College on Sunday.

Zajeski tossed a one-hit, seven-inning shut-out in the first game Sunday. He had 10 strikeouts, tying his career high, and no walks. Joe Shapley homered in the second inning to give Zajeski, 4-0, the only run he needed.

In the second game, Jordan went 3-for-5 with three runs scored as the 17-7 Cornhuskers used 13 hits and seven walks to rally from a 8-6 deficit. Charlie Colon, 1-1, took the second victory.

Nebraska defeated Briar Cliff College on Saturday, 9-5 and 7-6 (in 11 innings). Dave Matranga won both games in relief to push his record to 5-0.

Husker coach John Sanders said he was glad to get four more games in before the Big Eight season. The weather gradually dropped from frosty to frozen, but the teams were able to play the Tarkio games which had been rescheduled from March 15.

Sanders said he was pleased to work some reserves into the games. Going into extra innings against Briar Cliff was bad, he said, but at least they have an 11-inning win on their record.

That win was particularly good, he said, because the Huskers came within one out of losing. Nebraska was down 6-5 with two outs and nobody on in the bottom of the ninth but came back to tie.

The offensive outburst on frigid Sunday, when the ball doesn't carry as well, didn't surprise Sanders either.

"This team is capable of scoring," he said. "This team could make the temperature rise."

For the weekend, the red-hot Jordan, a junior transfer from Canada (Calif.) College, went 9-for-18 with five runs, five RBI and his fifth home run. Jordan, who raised his average to .376, is batting fourth for the Huskers, but said he considers himself a line-drive hitter, not a home-run hitter.

"I concentrate on putting the ball in play," said the team's new second baseman.

See HUSKERS on 8

CAMPUS RECREATION

Semi-Final, A Ind. Jays (4-2)	Feb 20 6 pm	April 4
Semi-Final A-Ind. The Edge (6-3)	Feb 21 6 pm	
Feb. 19 C-2 TBA	Feb 20 6:55 pm	April 4
Res. Hall A Winner Abel 11 (8-1)	Feb 22 6 pm	
Ind. B Winner Law I (11-0)	Feb 20 7:50 pm	April 4
Res. Hall B 2nd Abel 12 (7-2)	Feb 21 6:55 pm	
Ind. A Winner Running Reptiles (7-3)	Feb 20 8:45 pm	April 4
Ind A 2nd A-Team (7-2)	Feb 20 6 pm	
Res. Hall B Winner Burr I West (9-0)	Feb 21 7:50 pm	April 4
TBA	Feb 20 6:55 pm	
Frat B Winner SAE (10-0)	Feb 22 6:55 pm	April 4
Frat B 2nd Sigma Nu B2 (9-1)	Feb 20 7:50	
Ind. B 2nd Law II (10-2)	Feb 21 8:45 pm	April 4
Frat A Winner Beta A2	Feb 20 8:45 pm	
TBA		April 4

ALL-UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS
Gretchen Boehr/Daily Nebraskan

OCR-sponsored contest to reward winner with network guest appearance

From Staff Reports

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who always have dreamed of seeing themselves under the glitter and glamour of television lights now have a chance to fulfill their fantasy.

Craig Christensen, the relations director at the Office of Campus Recreation, said his organization is sponsoring an intramural basketball contest which will reward the winner with a guest appearance on the OCR Network. The contest is being held in conjunction with the all-university basketball playoffs, which begin tonight.

Christensen said people interested in entering the contest should predict the winner of each of the games listed in the tournament bracket. He said people should continue picking winners until they have selected a champion in the single-elimination competition.

Christensen said the Office of Campus Recreation will reward persons with one point for each first-round game they correctly pick. Two points will be awarded for each second-round game, while third-round matchups will be worth three points and the championship game worth four. The person who tallies the most total points will be declared the winner.

In case of a tie, Christensen said all persons entering the contest should predict the total number of points which will be scored in the championship game. The person who comes closest to that total will be declared the winner in the event of a deadlock.

Entries for the contest must be received by 5:30 p.m. today at the Office of Campus Recreation, which is located in the Lee & Helene Sapp Recreation Facility. All entries must include the student's name, ID number and a telephone number which they can be reached at.

The winning student will be contacted about making an appearance on the OCR Network and also will be rewarded with an intramural champion T-shirt.