

Team victorious over Houston Baptist

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's gymnastics team finished its regular season unbeaten Saturday night with a win over Houston Baptist University.

The No. 1-ranked Cornhuskers, led by senior All-America selection Patrick Kirksey's first-place finish in the all-around competition, beat the Huskies 279.85-274.30 to finish the season with a 19-0-1 overall record and a 7-0-1 dual record.

Kirksey edged teammate Bob Stelter 57.35-56.60 to capture the all-around title. Kirksey earned first-place finishes in the floor exercise, with a score of 9.75, and the high bar, with a career-high 9.90.

Kirksey has won six of the nine all-around competitions he has competed in this season.

Nebraska coach Francis Allen said it was just another meet for Kirksey.

"It's good to be able to score a 57.35 in the all-around with a fall on the pommel horse," he said.

Houston Baptist's Miguel Jorge was third in the all-around with a 56.40. He won the vault with a 9.50, and finished second in the pommel horse and floor exercise competitions.

Houston Baptist's team score was its highest of the season, and it was the team's second loss this season to the Huskers.

Stelter won the still rings with a 9.70, while teammate Mark Warburton was second with a 9.60.

Warburton won the parallel bars with a 9.80, and finished second to Kirksey on the high bar with a career-high 9.85.

Stelter and Kirksey tied for second place on the vault with scores of 9.40.

Nebraska freshman Trent Dimas missed the meet because of a throat infection. Freshman Josh Saegert replaced him and scored a 54.75. It was his first all-around competition as a Husker.

Allen said he thought Saegert did well.

"Josh just did a super job for his first collegiate all-around competi-

tion," he said. "He had a lot of family watching (Saegert is from Austin, Texas), so it was kind of his night."

Nebraska earned season-high team scores in the high bar (48.50) and still rings (47.90). But the pommel horse was a different story.

The Huskers combined for a score of 43.65 in the event.

"We missed all six routines on pommel horse and still had a decent team score," Allen said. "Our pommel horse score was probably our lowest ever."

The meet was the last for the Huskers before the Big Eight championships next Friday and Saturday in Norman, Okla.

Now that the regular season is over, Allen said, the Huskers can concentrate on the conference championships, NCAA regionals and NCAA championships. The Midwest regionals also will be in Norman, Okla., on April 7.

The NCAA meet will be in Minneapolis on April 19-21.

"I think we're in good shape to win all three," Allen said.

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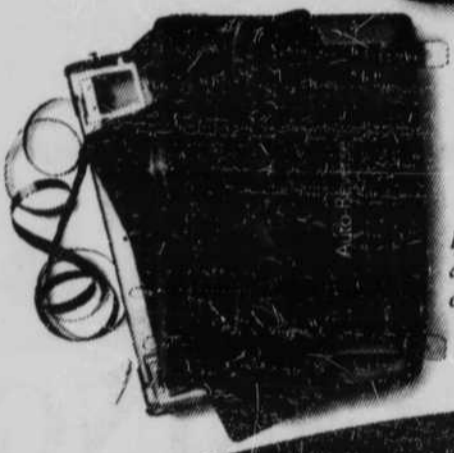
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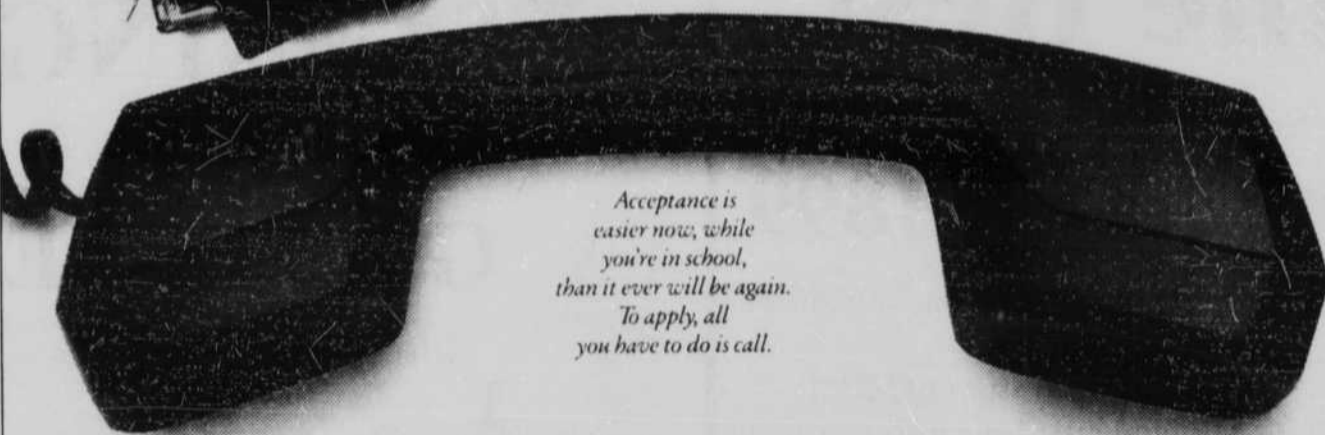
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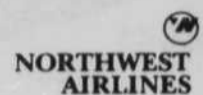
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