

## Gymnasts aim for top spot at NCAAs

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Heading into this weekend's NCAA women's gymnastics championships, Nebraska coach Rick Walton is right where he wants to be.

Nebraska is the fifth-seeded team in the meet, which will begin at 9 CDT tonight in Corvallis, Ore.

Walton, who has coached the Cornhuskers to three consecutive top-10 finishes, said he thinks being the No. 5 seed is a good starting position.

"Actually, I think our chances are better than they were a year ago," he said. "We drew a good rotation, and I think our team will do well. All of the teams in the evening rotation are capable of performing well, and we're right where we want to be."

The Huskers are 28-2 on the season, having lost only to Utah and Alabama -- the nation's top two teams. Both losses came in the team's home arenas.

The Huskers lost April 7 to Utah in the NCAA Midwest Regional in Salt Lake City. The top-ranked Utes defeated Nebraska 194.95 to 191.225, but Walton said the Huskers aren't about to be intimidated by Utah.

"Utah had a real good night," he said of the regional meet. "I don't think they could do better than they did. But the question is, can they do that in someone else's gym?"

In the regional, Utah gymnasts won all five events and captured the top-four spots in the all-around competition, solidifying their top ranking and making them the consensus favorite

to capture the national title.

But Walton still isn't completely convinced.

"Utah had a great meet (at the regional), and everybody likes to think that if you have a great performance, you're invincible," Walton said. "But there are six teams that can win it."

Including Nebraska, he said. The Huskers have beaten four other top-10 teams this season -- UCLA, Cal State-Fullerton, Oregon State and Arizona. All four of those teams will be at the NCAA championships this weekend.

Four senior Huskers -- Tami Bair, Michele Bryant, Angie Burdette and Jane Clemons -- will be trying to end their careers on a positive note. They were members of the first Nebraska

team to qualify for the NCAA championships (in 1987) and finished in 10th place.

After another 10th-place finish the next year, the Huskers finished fourth last season, which was the highest ranking for a Nebraska women's gymnastics team.

Bair and Bryant also earned All-America status, making them the first women gymnasts at Nebraska -- along with Crystal Savage -- to earn that honor.

The returning experience this year has Walton optimistic for this year's championship.

"I think our seniors will do fine at nationals," Walton said. "They have been there three times before, and they want to go out in the best pos-

sible way. They want to go in, compete to their fullest potential and see how we come out at the end of the whole thing."

Walton said he doesn't think the Huskers have peaked yet.

"I hope we can do it at nationals," he said. "The only thing we need to do Friday night is get excitement in our routines and be pumped up for the competition."

"You can't compete like a robot at a meet like this."

Given the Huskers' record, Walton said, Nebraska "should be a team to deal with at nationals."

"We performed (at regionals) better than our score indicated," he said. "I think this team is ready for the NCAAs, mentally and physically."

## NU tennis team anxious for combat against rivals

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott makes this weekend's duals against Oklahoma State on Saturday and Oklahoma on Sunday sound like gang warfare.

"We're anxious to go out and do some combat," he said.

Combat?

"It will be this weekend," McDermott said. "Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are just big rivalries with us."

The turf at stake is first or second place in the Big Eight heading into the conference tournament next week.

Kansas leads the Big Eight with 35 points and has a match at Colorado remaining. The Cornhuskers are second with 27 points and two matches

left. Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, who play Nebraska, Iowa State and each other, are third and fourth with 19 and 18 points, respectively.

Nebraska will try to solidify its conference standing when it faces Oklahoma State on Saturday and Oklahoma on Sunday. The matches begin at 10 a.m. at the Cather-Pound courts or, if the weather is bad, in the Woods Park tennis bubbles.

The Sooners and Cowboys have a history of hurting the Huskers. In 1988 Nebraska was 5-1 in the Big Eight, losing only to Oklahoma. In 1989 Nebraska was again 5-1 in the Big Eight, with its only loss coming against Oklahoma State.

Last season's loss especially was bitter. The Huskers went to Okla-

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## Wolforth stresses intensity against Big Eight opponents

By Darran Fowler  
Staff Reporter

Even though Coach Ron Wolforth admits his softball team is struggling, he is not off his rocker when he says Nebraska can win all four of its games this weekend.

Nebraska heads to Columbia, Mo., for a pair of Big Eight round-robin doubleheaders against Oklahoma and 12th-ranked Missouri on Saturday through Sunday.

"Some may call me crazy, but for some odd reason I just feel we're going to go down there and have a good showing," Wolforth said.

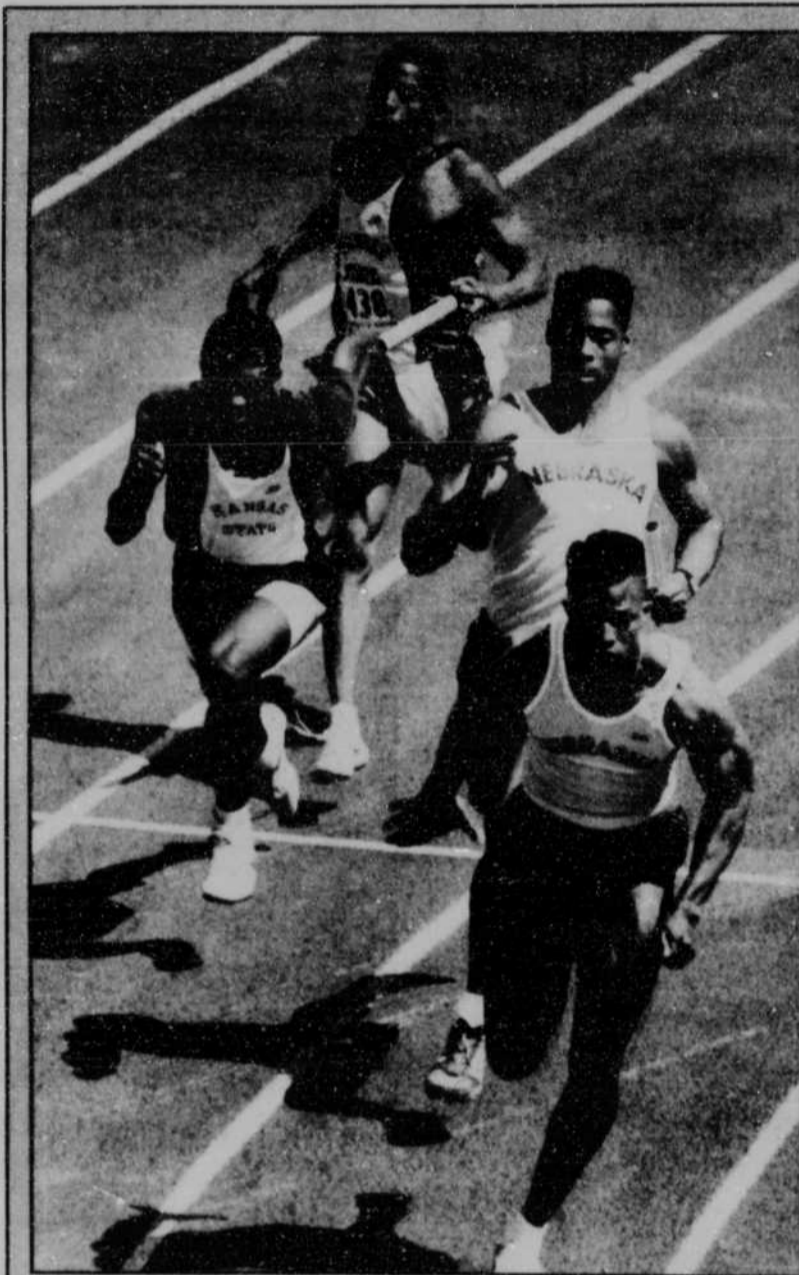
Although he feels that way,

Wolforth said, he won't make any promises. He said a team can play well and still not win four-straight games, making the task this weekend difficult.

To win four straight, the 21-16 Cornhuskers must rebound from a shutout doubleheader sweep at Creighton on Wednesday night. Creighton bombed Nebraska 7-0 in the first game and won 1-0 in the nightcap.

Creighton's sweep puts Nebraska in a "tough spot," Wolforth said. If the Huskers want to remain in contention for any at-large bids for postsea-

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David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan  
Nebraska's James Cobb gets ready to accept the baton from Mark Perry during the running of the 400-meter relay competition last Saturday.

## Tough competition awaits tracksters, Coach Pepin says

By Sara Bauder  
Staff Reporter

With the outdoor track season near its halfway point, Nebraska will face stronger competition in the rest of its meets, according to Coach Gary Pepin.

That tougher competition will begin this weekend when most of the Cornhuskers travel to Seattle to compete against the Washington Huskies and Montana State Bobcats.

Three Huskers -- Sammie Gdowski, Dieudonne Kwizera and Yvonne van der Kolk -- will skip the meet in favor of traveling to the Mount Sac Relays at Walnut, Calif., Pepin said the meet is one of the biggest in the nation.

A few Huskers also will compete in the Kansas Relays at Lawrence, Kan., this weekend.

Pepin said the Huskers who travel to Washington will be competing against one of the top teams in the nation.

"Washington's men may very well be the best dual-meet team in the country," he said. "Their women are a very good, solid team as well."

The scored meet against strong competition will be a chance to see where the Huskers sit at this point in the season, Pepin said.

Gdowski, a three-time outdoor All-America selection in the 3,000-meter run, will lead

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## Vosik eager for Oklahoma's weekend series challenge

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

When Nebraska shortstop Bill Vosik originally became a Cornhusker, he wasn't ready to make the jump to Division I baseball.

That was in 1986-87, and Vosik spent his first year with Nebraska as a redshirt. After sitting and realizing there were better players ahead of him, he decided to transfer.

Vosik said that decision proved to be a wise one, as he honed his skills while starring for two seasons at Central Arizona Junior College in Coolidge, Ariz. Now, Vosik is ready to star this weekend when Nebraska faces Oklahoma State in a



Vosik

four-game series at Buck Beltzer Field.

Nebraska opens its homestand against the Cowboys with a single, nine-inning game at 7 tonight. The Cowboys are ranked 13th and 14th in the latest Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball/ESPN ratings. The two teams will play a pair of seven-inning contests at 4 p.m. Saturday, and will conclude their series with a nine-inning game at 1 p.m. Sunday.

All four games will be broadcast by KRNU (90.3 FM). University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student ID cards will be admitted free.

Vosik said he is looking forward to the series because it will give him a chance to flash his talent in front of one of college baseball's best teams. He said those who remember him as a prep third baseman at Kearney High School might be surprised when they see him starting at shortstop this weekend.

Vosik said the source of the surprise is Central Arizona, which made him a better player.

"Arizona was the right choice," Vosik said. "If I would have stayed here, I would have been just another player."

"There, I was a big contributor."

Vosik also has been a big contributor at Nebraska this season, as he leads all Husker regulars with a .360 batting average. He has 50 hits in 139 at bats, and also has scored 30 runs while knocking in 32 more.

Vosik said the key to his season has been confidence.

"I had a lot of confidence when I came here, which really helped me," he said. "I suppose getting off to a good start helps, too."

Vosik's success has carried over to his teammates, as Nebraska will take a 29-13 record overall and a 4-4 mark in the Big Eight into the Oklahoma State series. The Cowboys lead the

conference with 31-11 and 7-2 marks.

Vosik said Nebraska is confident about its chances against Oklahoma State.

"We're really motivated right now," he said. "We know this is a big part of our season, and we're playing very well."

"Right now, we're sitting pretty well in the conference."

Vosik said Nebraska must use a philosophy created by Husker coach John Sanders to defeat the Cowboys. That philosophy states that teams don't win games -- they win innings.

Vosik said Sanders has been emphasizing that philosophy because Oklahoma State is an explosive team. He said Nebraska must take one inning at a time if it is going to offset that explosiveness.

The Cowboys average 8.98 runs per game.

"Our goal is to score every inning," Vosik said. "We're going to

try and get at least one run every inning."

Vosik said Nebraska has a lot of respect for Oklahoma State.

"We're going to go into the weekend with a lot of respect," he said. "But we're not going to go in scared or intimidated."

"We can beat them."

Notes:

● Nebraska tuned up for its Oklahoma State matchups by dropping a 4-2 decision to Wichita State on Wednesday night in Wichita, Kan.

The Huskers took 1-0 and 2-1 leads against the Shockers, but lost when relief pitcher Armando Garza surrendered a solo home run in the seventh inning. Vosik said the setback would not hinder Nebraska entering the Oklahoma State series.

"Overall, we didn't play a bad game," Vosik said, "so I don't think

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