

Ed Weir Stadium hosts games, junior nationals

By Darran Fowler
Senior Editor

For all track and field buffs, Nebraska's Ed Weir Stadium looks like a place to be this week.

On Saturday, the sixth-annual Cornhusker State Games, featuring amateur athletes from around the state, will host its track and field events there. Then, starting Tuesday and continuing to Sunday, about 6,500 athletes from all 50 states will compete in the 24th-annual National Junior Olympic Track and Field Championships.

In addition, both competitions will feature opening ceremonies at Seacrest Field. The state games are Friday, while the Junior Olympics will be Wednesday.

"If you want to see a full week of track and field, you can certainly do that," said Mark Kostek, a Nebraska assistant track coach and organizing committee chairman and meet director of the Junior Olympics.

This is the eighth time Lincoln has hosted the Junior Olympic nationals. The last time it was held here was 1986.

"Obviously, people think Lincoln does a good job," Kostek said.

Ages range from 8 to 18 in the junior nationals, with each athlete needing to qualify in regional competition and be a member of The Athletic Congress.

The 6,500 entries is an estimate, but the meet has the potential of 9,600

considering each of the 20 events has a maximum of 48 athletes and there are 10 divisions.

An additional 13,000 family members, coaches and fans are expected to attend, Kostek said. Thirty-three committees were needed to organize the event, he said.

"You're looking at a really, really big meet," he said. "It was a real, real test of administrative procedures. It takes a lot of people handling tasks in order to make the thing run smooth."

"We have had tremendous support from the people at the University of Nebraska."

Those attendance numbers are advantageous for the Nebraska track program, Kostek said.

"It really gives us a recruiting edge," he said. "Obviously you get to show off your facilities and the campus, and that helps."

"In 1986, the next two years after that were great recruiting years because we had a handle on some of the kids."

How much of a handle Husker recruiters have on prospects depends a lot on the public, he said.

"One thing we're interested and concerned about is that Midwest hospitality... come through," he said.

"With an estimated 13,000 in Lincoln, and if Lincoln puts its best foot forward and they have a good experience and feel they have been treated fairly, then we in turn athletically have a great advantage when we go in the home of those athletes."

Former NU gymnast loses lead due to last-second reaction, fall

By Darran Fowler
Senior Editor

Former Nebraska gymnast Mark Warburton led the 1990 U.S. Olympic Festival men's all-around competition up until the last event, and then something strange happened.

"It was weird because I was having a pretty flawless meet," Warburton said, "then on the last pass of the last event (the floor exercise) I thought I was going to under-rotate the final flip of my routine so I pulled my tuck in tighter and ended up over-rotating."

The last-second reaction in the final run of his floor exercise resulted in a fall and ended his chances at a possible all-around gold medal. Instead, he took the bronze at the festival held in Minneapolis last week, finishing six-tenths out of the lead with a score of 56.80.

Warburton, a senior member of this year's national championship Nebraska team, bounced back to later capture an individual event gold medal in the pommel horse and two silvers in the still rings and parallel bars.

Former Cornhusker teammate Patrick Kirksey was scheduled to compete at the festival, but backed out because of a sore shoulder. Husker recruit Dennis Harrison won the bronze

in the vault. Another recruit, Scott Barnes, competed but did not medal. In track and field at the festival, former Husker Harald Graham placed fifth in the steeplechase.

Had Warburton not suffered the major break in the floor exercise, he still was not sure he could have held the lead.

"It would have been close," he said. "The floor is not the highest scoring event for me, and the other guys were on events that were high-scoring events for them, so there's no way of knowing for sure."

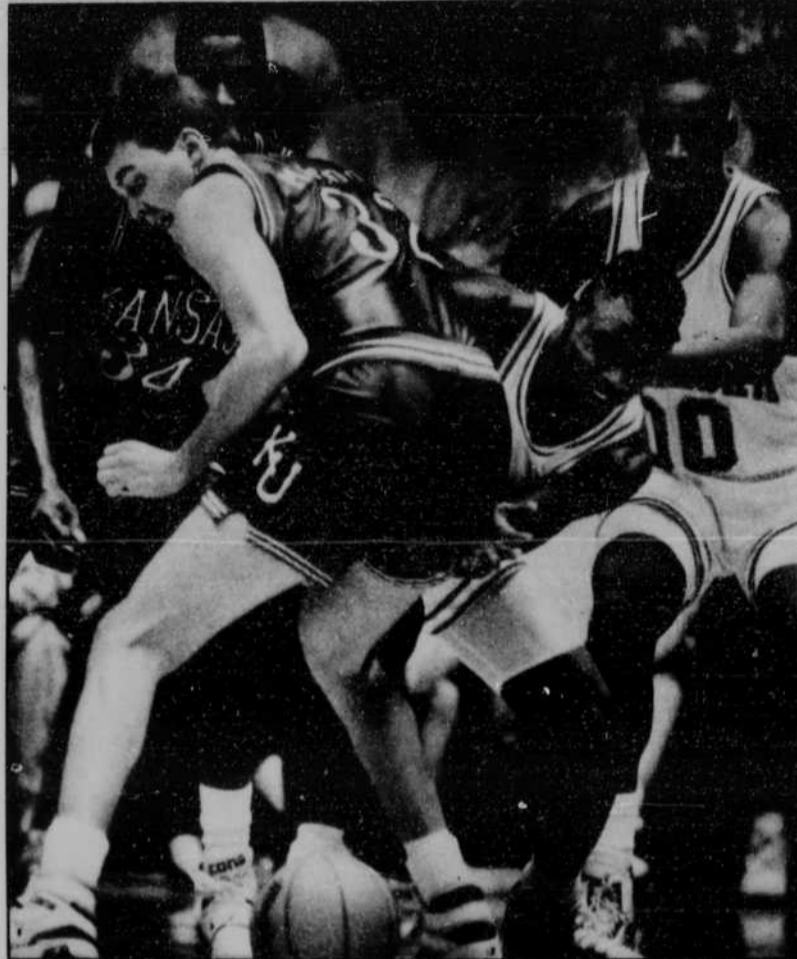
Although the floor exercise is not his forte, Warburton said he was confident going into the event.

"It's one of my weaker events, but I've been fairly consistent in it all year, so I didn't expect any problems," he said. "It was just one of those things I missed."

He said his four-medal effort at festival was pleasing.

Warburton has competed in several national and international competitions, but this was his first appearance in the festival.

And he will have another meet this summer when he competes for the U.S. national team against the Soviet national team in San Jose, Calif., Aug. 5. He will join former Husker Tom Schlesinger on that team.



Daily Nebraskan file photo
Nebraska's Dapreis Owens (00) and Carl Hayes were members of a Big Eight Select team that competed in Spain last week.

NU player leads basketball team to bronze medal in sports festival

By Darran Fowler
Senior Editor

Cornhusker Karen Jennings' North basketball team at the U.S. Olympic Festival found success whenever the Nebraska sophomore was its leading scorer.

From another perspective, whenever the North played the South, which had Nebraska coach Angela Beck as an assistant coach, Jennings' team was successful.

Jennings produced 16 and 19 points in two victories over the South to lead her team to a 2-2 record and the bronze medal at the festival, held last week in Minneapolis. That left Jennings' college coach without any hardware to take home.

"That made me feel pretty good," Jennings said about the correlation of team victories to her scoring output. "It went really well for me. I started every game at power forward, and I was pretty happy with the way I played."

NU football coach moves to varsity

From staff reports

Nebraska volunteer assistant football coach Shane Thorell, who coached the junior varsity team, will move to the varsity this fall, Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne announced July 19.

Thorell, who posted a three-year

record of 10-4-1 with the junior varsity, will assist defensive backfield coach George Darlington. Thorell's replacement will be second-year graduate assistant Bill Weber, a four-year letterman from 1981 to 1984 at defensive end for the Huskers.

After the trip to Czechoslovakia, where she was introduced to a more physical style of game, Jennings said she thinks she may have found her

niche in life. "International ball is excellent," she said. "I hope I have a chance to play that type of ball in the future. I like it because it's real aggressive and fast-paced. That was one of the best basketball experiences I've ever had. I really enjoyed that trip."

Jennings said she concentrated on adding a couple more inside moves and running the floor better during her summer outings.

"Any time you play a lot... spend time with the game working on defense, passing, the fundamentals, hopefully in time you're going to get better," she said.

But now that the summer team competitions are over, she said she is looking forward to continuing work on her own moves to post inside and improve her outside shot for next season.

"Being able to go inside and outside is what I like to do," she said. "If they leave me open I want to be able to hit the shot."

After spending four years as a bank

NU forwards gain experience, but hate food in Spain

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Excluding the cuisine, Nebraska forwards Carl Hayes and Dapreis Owens returned from the Big Eight Select team's trip to Spain with a favorable taste of international and Big Eight basketball.

"The food was terrible," Hayes said. "I probably lost about five pounds."

"We couldn't associate very well with the people, either."

Owens added that "other than the food, the Canary Islands were a lot of fun."

Their appetite may not have been filled, but Hayes and Owens said their experience playing against the international teams and with their Big Eight counterparts will be valuable in the upcoming season.

"They play real physical overseas," said Hayes by phone from his Chicago home. "After a game, I just said to myself, I need to settle down and get stronger for next season."

Owens agreed. "The physicalness of the older guys especially gave me a chance to test what I've worked on in practice," he said by phone from his home

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examiner, Weber joined the Husker staff last year, coaching the junior varsity receivers for Thorell.

Weber started three years for the Huskers, earning academic All-Big Eight honors three times, and was named all-conference his senior year.