

National title within reach of NU gymnasts

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Should Nebraska do well enough in tonight's qualifying round to make Friday night's team finals at the NCAA men's gymnastics championships in University Park, Penn., senior Ted Dimas said the Cornhuskers have a pretty good shot at winning.

Should the Huskers win, freshman Che Bowers said he probably will faint.

Should Francis Allen's words prove prophetic, Bowers won't be the only one fainting.

"I think all of my guys will tell you we can win this meet," Allen said. "We have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

"This is the team of the future if it's not already here. It'll be nice to see all these

coaches say, 'Doggonit, Nebraska's back here again when they weren't supposed to be.' If we win it, I can't wait to hear what they say."

But Allen said he won't hear any of those comments unless his gymnasts improve their scores on parallel bars. Two weeks ago at the regionals meet, the Huskers scored just 44.75 on the parallel bars, dropping them from a tie for second into fourth place.

"I told my guys (Tuesday at practice) that with a 48 on parallel bars, we can just go get our trophies and leave," Allen said. "Today, we scored a 47.5 in our intrasquad meet, so they can do it."

Dimas said the Huskers need that score. "Every meet, we've been in first place after three or four events and then we've had a

breakdown," he said. "Last week we were up after two or three events and I was just unbelievably excited, but then I couldn't have foretold what happened on p-bars."

"But I think that's helped us to focus; we know where our problems are and we've worked to correct them."

Senior Brad Bryan, Nebraska's top all-arounder this year, finished 19th in the individual competition at regionals. But a virus kept him from training as hard as he wanted to.

"I feel really good now," Bryan said. "Before regionals, I didn't feel like I was prepared at all. I had to rely on my competition skills to do the best I could."

Nebraska's four competing freshmen will depend on Bryan, Dimas and Josh Saegert to

cope with the intensity of the national title.

"It's complete chaos," said Saegert, a sophomore who competed in pommel horse, parallel bars and vault at the NCAA championships last year. "There are so many people in such a little bitty area that you don't have time to go through your regular rituals."

That worries Bowers.

"It's kind of scary," he said. "But if we don't worry about that and keep everybody at the same level of intensity, we can pull this out."

For Allen, it would cap a "pretty damn memorable year."

"Some of those years get cloudy," he said, "but I already have some pretty fond memories of this year."

"In fact, I have some of the fondest."

NU electrifies Wichita State

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

After suffering a disappointing loss, the Nebraska softball team went batty Wednesday in the second half of a doubleheader against Wichita State.

The Cornhuskers, rebounding from a 1-0 extra-inning setback, exploded in the nightcap by racking up 11 hits and pounding the Shockers 9-1 in Wichita, Kan.

The Huskers scored three runs in the first inning and tacked on four in the sixth to improve their record to 14-13. The game was called after the sixth inning. Husker pitcher Marie Bowie raised her record to 5-8 with the win.

"We took it to them really well in the second game," Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said. "But I thought we played well enough to win both."

In the first game, Husker pitcher Stephanie Skegas surrendered only three hits and shut out Wichita State through the first seven innings. But Nebraska could not muster any offense either.

The Huskers failed to score, and Wichita State's Gina Blevins touched Skegas for a game-winning single in the bottom of the inning for the victory.

"I thought all the way, until the single fell in, that we were going to win the game," Wolforth said. "Stephanie threw well, but we just weren't swinging the bats very well."

Nebraska will continue its road trip at Missouri-Kansas City Friday night.

First game
Nebraska 000 000 00 — 0 1 0
At Wichita State 000 000 01 — 1 5 2
WP—Sanchez (12-5). LP—Skegas (9-5).

Second game
Nebraska 301 014 — 9 11 1
At Wichita State 000 010 — 1 3 4
WP—Bowie (5-8). LP—Jay (10-6).

Wednesday scrimmage defensively un-offensive

Nebraska's football scrimmage Wednesday was set up like Saturday scrimmages — with 168 plays among the top four offensive units.

Beyond the amount of plays, Wednesday's scrimmage for the offense had little similarity to the Saturday scrimmages so far this spring, Coach Tom Osborne said.

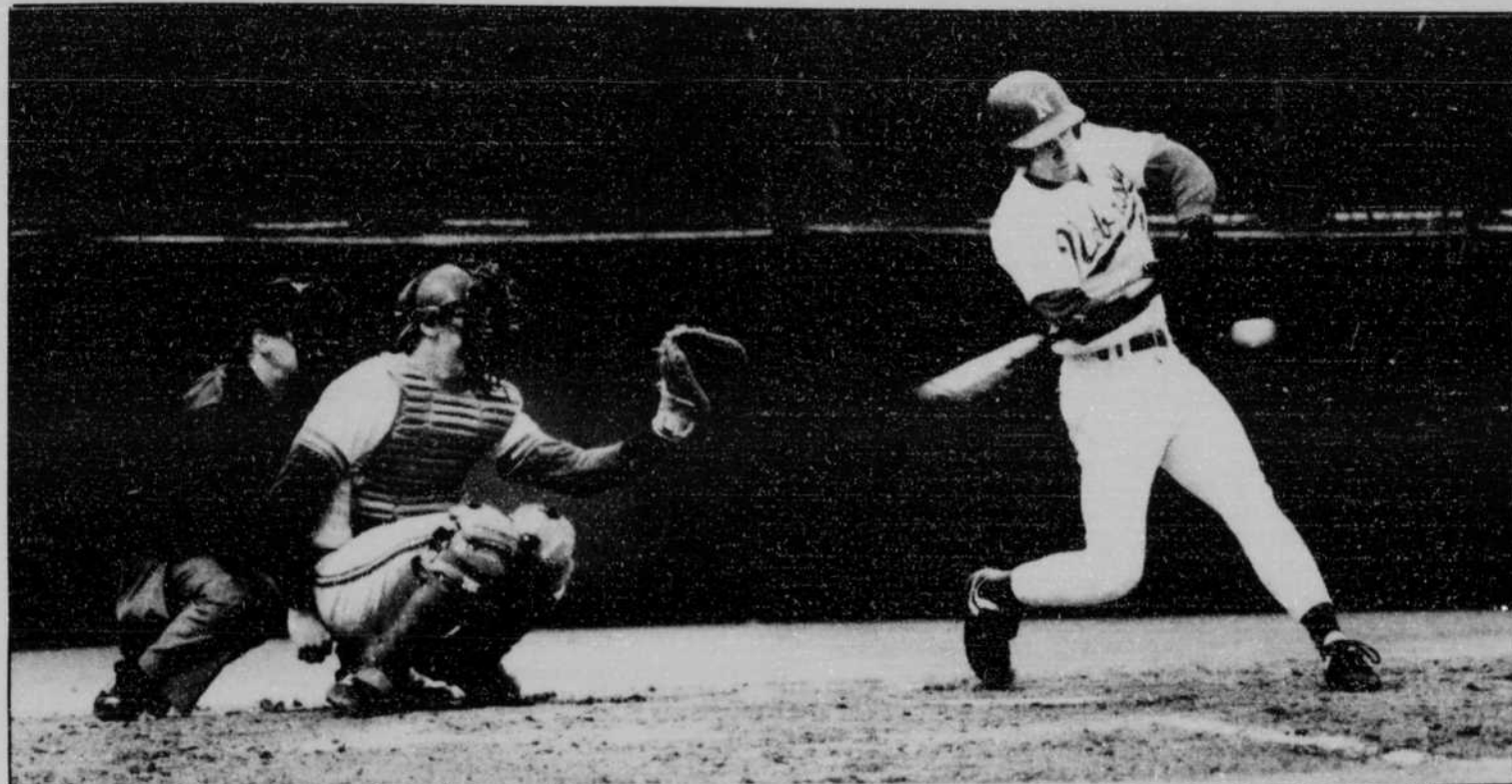
"I just had the feeling maybe we were a little bit too relaxed," Osborne said. "They probably didn't know we were going to have as major of a scrimmage as we had. I was just really disappointed in some of the execution on offense."

With first-string quarterback Tom Haase out because of bruised ribs, Mickey Joseph, Mike Grant and Keithen McCant each worked with the first team during the 1 1/2 hour scrimmage.

During the rain-soaked workout, the offense committed six turnovers against a defense which allowed only three scores in 15 drives.

After four halted drives, the offense's first touchdown was engineered mostly by McCant, who threw for 55 yards on three of seven passing attempts with one interception. McCant hit Tyrone Hughes for 33 yards. George Achola's runs of seven and 14 yards set up Leodis Flowers' touchdown from three yards out.

Three drives later, McCant again led a touchdown drive. After a 15-yard penalty, freshman I-back Calvin Jones ran for 22 yards. McCant



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Shortstop Vince DiGrandi swings at a pitch during the Cornhuskers' game against Kearney State Wednesday.

NU reaps damp win over Lopers

By Matt Herek
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team used four pitchers to ice a five-hit victory on a cold and rainy night at Buck Beltzer Field.

Jerry Madison, who had pitched only one inning this season prior to Wednesday night's game, started and recorded his first win of the season in the 8-3 victory over Kearney State.

Freshman Trey Rutledge relieved Madison in the fourth inning and pitched through the seventh without allowing a hit and walking only one batter.

Jeff Nollette pitched the seventh and eighth innings and allowed two hits while striking out

two batters. Aaron Bilyeu, who is coming off an arm injury, pitched the ninth. Cornhusker coach John Sanders said he wanted to allow Bilyeu some pitching time in game situations.

Sanders said his team put forth a solid effort. The Lopers had won 10 of their previous 11 games.

Husker right fielder Shawn Buchanan went 2 for 3 with two RBI while walking twice, stealing two bases and scoring.

Buchanan batted in the game's initial run with a first-inning single to left field that scored Eddie Anderson.

In the third, a Buchanan line-drive double down the third-base line allowed Brian McArm

to score from second base. The Cornhuskers outit the Lopers 12-5. Nebraska scored four runs off five hits in the fifth inning to take a 6-1 lead.

The Huskers added two runs in the sixth with the help of two Loper errors and a Certy Kulhanek RBI.

Kearney State scored two runs in the top of the ninth after Aaron Bilyeu walked four straight batters and allowed a scoring ground ball.

Kearney State 001 000 002 — 3 5 3
At Nebraska 101 042 00x — 8 12 0
WP—Madison (1-0). LP—Baines (4-3). KS—Baines, Jelkin (5), Berger (8) and Murray. N—Madison, Rutledge (4), Nollette (7), Bilyeu (9) and McKenna, Arntzen, Dinges. 2B—Ni Ruff, Niewenhaus. N Vosik, Buchanan, Anderson. SB—Buchanan 2, McArm 2, Kulhanek.

A little bit of Nee, Munchkinball and rally scoring

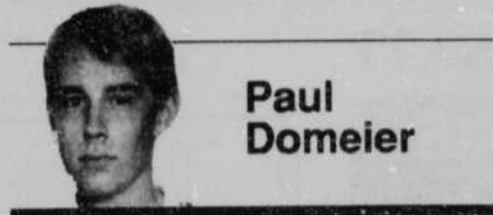
A little bit of this, and a little bit of that:
● Danny Nee will be mentioned as a candidate to be Notre Dame men's basketball coach. Whether or not he should be offered or should take the job is a matter for another time (probably next week's column).

A drawn-out discussion, though, will hurt Nebraska. If Nee can get the job, Nebraska needs time to find his replacement. And as long as the Notre Dame job remains vacant, recruits will say to Nee, "Why should we sign with Nebraska if you might be leaving?"

● The NCAA took a chance putting Nebraska's Lisa McCrady on the poster for the 1991 NCAA women's gymnastics championships. The NCAA would have looked stupid if McCrady, not even a returning All-American, hadn't qualified for the meet.

But McCrady came through and will compete in the all-around this weekend. She is cruising now, with an all-around victory in the Big Eight championships and a second-place finish in regionals.

The poster is nice, too.
And maybe a good omen. Nebraska's Jason Kelber was on the NCAA wrestling poster, and he won the national championship in his weight class.



Paul Domeier

● The fifth game of NCAA volleyball matches has been changed to rally scoring. In rally scoring, every serve counts for a point. The side-out is eliminated. A match can end on a serve into the net.

Well, heck, why stop there? Make basketball overtimes sudden death. Extra innings in baseball should work on the one-pitch rule. NFL overtime winners should be decided by coin toss.

Yes, I think rally scoring in the fifth game is stupid. Attempts to speed up sports are admirable, but drastically changing the most exciting part of the game is insane. The rules committee might as well allow only two touches per team each time the ball crosses the net. That would speed up the games, too.

Putting rally scoring into the fifth game destroys one of volleyball's greatest advan-

tages: The length of a match is directly related to the competitiveness of the match. When Nebraska obliterates a bad Big Eight opponent, the agony could last 45 minutes or less. A classic battle against Penn State or UCLA could go 2 1/2 hours. The last half hour, that fifth game, is the best part.

Conversely, rout or thriller, college football games last three hours; college basketball games, two hours; NFL games, 3 1/2 hours.

Volleyball matches will spend four games building toward the climax, then race to get done with the exciting part. Stupid.

● A popular wave is swelling to lower the basket in college women's basketball from 10 feet to 9-feet-6 or 9-2. The new professional women's league already is playing with the basket at 9-2. If the basket is lowered for the college game, people will push to reduce the court length.

This trend started with the smaller basketball for the women's game. At first I disagreed with that and all other changes.

I have learned to accept them, since the changes don't mess with basketball; they create the new sport of Munchkinball.

See DOMEIER on 14

See SCRIMMAGE on 14