

Huskers defeat Ohio State

Pommel horse win separates teams

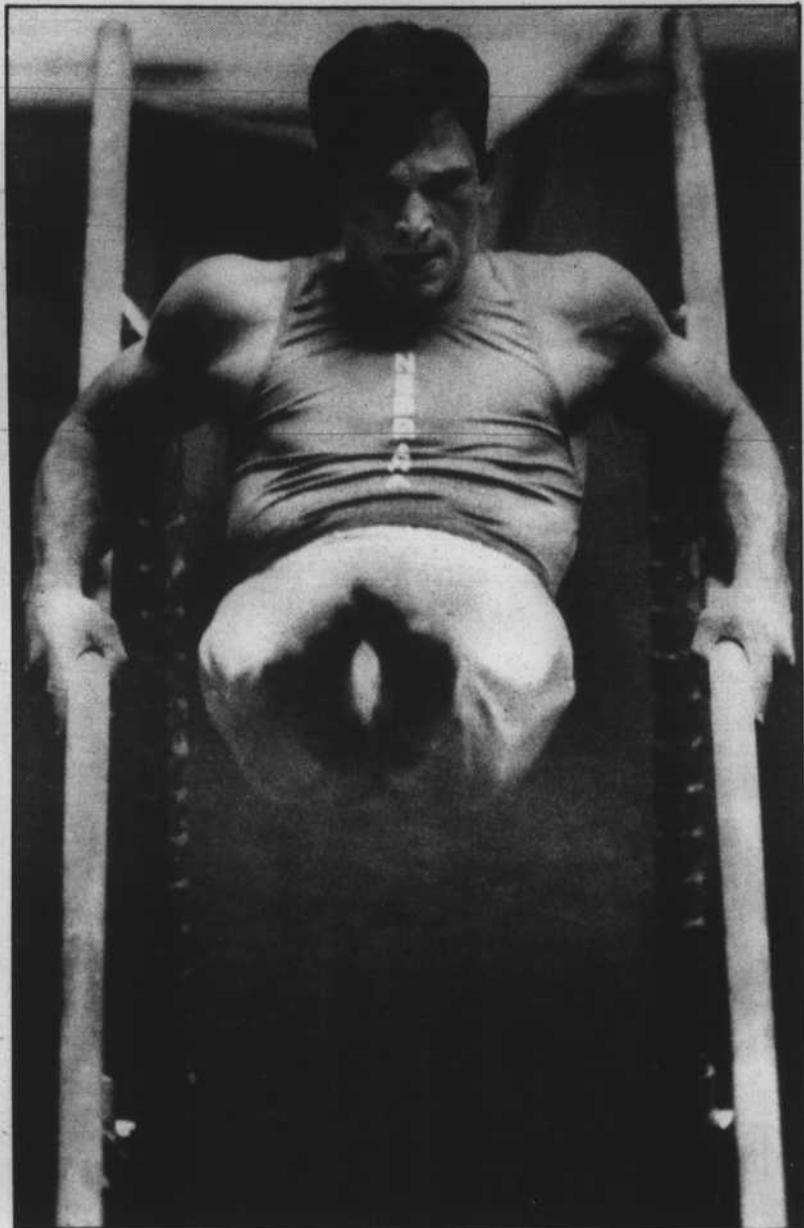
By Susie Arth
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's gymnastics team Sunday defeated Ohio State 283.60-280.05 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in a dual meet between the nation's top two teams.

Cornhusker coach Francis Allen said the victory over the Buckeyes was an important one for his team.

"We beat the No. 2 team in the country with a good score," he said. "I think this victory will help us mature."

Allen said the Huskers' performance on the pommel horse was the difference in the meet. Nebraska outscored Ohio State by nearly 1.5 in that rotation.



Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska sophomore Dennis Harrison competes on the parallel bars Sunday against Ohio State. Harrison scored a 9.55 in the event and helped lead the top-ranked Cornhuskers to a 283.60-280.05 win.

“We're well-balanced and we feel equally comfortable on all events. We've got three, four or five of the best all-arounds in the country.”

Francis Allen
NU men's gymnastics coach

"The horse carried us today," Allen said. "That was the whole meet for us."

Allen said the Huskers' main weakness was on the rings.

"We only had five guys on rings and we had a major break," he said. "That hurt us."

Allen said the meet would have been much closer if Ohio State's Kip Simons would have competed for the all-around title.

Simons, who has an injured ankle, competed only in the pommel horse and the rings.

"Add Kip and they get hot," Allen said. "You can add a whole point to their score with him in there."

The Huskers, who lost to Ohio State twice last season, were led by Dennis Harrison.

Harrison, a sophomore from Omaha, won the all-around title. He placed first in the floor exercise and vault and tied for second place in the parallel bars.

Husker freshman Richard Kieffer tied for second place in the all-around with Kevin Crumley of Ohio State.

Allen said he also was pleased

with Richard Grace's performance on the pommel horse, Louis Ball's performance on the vault and Che Bowers' overall performance.

"We're well-balanced, and we feel equally comfortable on all events," he said. "We've got three, four or five of the best all-arounds in the country."

Allen said he thought his young team would show much improvement before the NCAA Championships.

"We only have one upperclassman on the whole team," he said. "Some of these guys will improve a lot before the NCAAs."

Allen said his team had a difficult schedule left ahead of it to help prepare for the NCAA meet.

"There's not another easy meet for us," he said. "It's time to pick up the pace."

The Huskers' next meet will be Feb. 15 at Minnesota.

NU baseball team comes back to win

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

It took nearly four hours, but the Nebraska baseball team finally caged the Peru State Bobcats in dramatic fashion.

Second baseman Dale Hagy's two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth inning capped a rally that saw Nebraska come back from an 8-4 deficit in the eighth inning to upend the Bobcats 9-8 Saturday at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Cornhuskers, who were outhit 12-11, played before 415 people in the earliest season opener in school history.

Hagy said his dramatic hit over the left-field fence was more a matter of timing than anything.

"It just happened to be the right pitch at the right time," Hagy said. "It was what you play the game for."

The Huskers had scored three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to get within one at 8-7.

After the Bobcats were shut out in the top half of the ninth, Hagy followed left fielder Troy Brohawn's leadoff walk with his home run.

Hagy said Nebraska coach John Sanders was questioning what to have him do, with Brohawn already on base, representing the tying run.

"Coach asked me if I'd rather bunt or swing," Hagy said. "I'm glad he let me swing."

The Huskers dug themselves into a hole early, as they allowed the Bobcats to have consecutive three-

run innings in the fifth and sixth.

But Nebraska came back from the 6-2 deficit, thanks in part to a solo home run in the seventh inning by center fielder Marc Sagmoen.

Peru State increased its lead to 8-4 in the eighth inning, which set the stage for Nebraska's rally.

The NAIA Division II Bobcats' ability to play competitively with the Huskers on Saturday means Peru State is a team that shouldn't be taken lightly, Sanders said.

"A lot of teams in the NCAA tournament last year had trouble with NAIA teams," Sanders said. "So being down 8-4 and coming back to win is good against anyone."

Sanders said his team was confident of a win even when it was behind by four runs late in the contest.

"Our team felt we would win even when we were down," Sanders said. "We had the attitude to just find a way."

To go along with their home runs, Hagy and Sagmoen had big days overall. Each had two of Nebraska's 11 hits and also drove in four of the Husker runs.

Steve Boyd pitched a perfect ninth inning for Nebraska, as he struck out two Bobcats in the inning to earn the win. Peru State's Mike Fitzpatrick, who exited the game nearly as quickly as he entered it, pitched only to Hagy, giving up the homer to take the loss. NU baseball team comes back to win

Wrestling

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Neumann said he didn't know why the Huskers looked so sluggish against Missouri.

"We had the greatest two weeks of practice we've had all year preparing for Oklahoma State (last weekend)," he said. "We didn't wrestle to our potential, and it's time to do it."

Sunday night's results:

118 — Jeremie Eckley (NU) won by forfeit.

- 126 — Buddy Smith (MU) dec. Jared Johnson (NU), 6-4.
- 134 — John Hifferman (NU) pinned Eric DeVenney (MU), 6:44.
- 142 — Kenny Liddell (MU) maj. dec. over Joe Stephens (NU), 21-9.
- 150 — Chip Bunner (MU) by injury default over Rick Coltvet, 3:19.
- 158 — Shaon Fry (MU) dec. Matt Lindland (NU), 3-1.
- 167 — Tommy Robbins (NU) drew with Jason Sexton (MU), 3-3.
- 177 — Corey Olson (NU) pinned Steve Nuhn (MU), :52.
- 190 — Chris Nelson (NU) tech. fall over Dale Maxville (MU), 27-11, 5:08.
- Hwt. — Rulon Gardner (NU) dec. Jeremy Lay (MU), 3-0.

NU women gymnasts lose dual to Missouri

By Robert Birkeland
Staff Reporter

Missouri's 11-year drought against Nebraska in women's gymnastics came to an end Saturday night as the Tigers beat the Cornhuskers 190.35-188.25 at Columbia, Mo.

It was the first time Missouri beat Nebraska since Feb. 21, 1981, and the first-ever loss to Missouri for Husker coach Rick Walton.

The Huskers were led by Robin Richter and Nicole Duval.

Richter, a sophomore from Lincoln, had a career-best performance of 9.8 on the balance beam. Duval, a Lincoln Christian High School graduate, placed second in the floor exercise with a score of 9.75 and third in the all-around behind Missouri's Kim Leslie who had a score of 38.70 and Jennifer Sand at 38.20.

Walton said the reason for the loss was easy to see.

"We didn't perform — that is the whole thing," Walton said. "We got to the beam with a chance to win the meet and didn't do it."

The Tigers took advantage of Nebraska mistakes throughout the dual. Missouri hit 22 of 24 routines and Nebraska hit only 15 of 24.

"You're just not going to win any meets falling off that many times," Walton said. "We had nine routines that had falls in them."

Walton said Missouri did about as well as was possible.

"They are not going to get any better than they were," Walton said. "They did a nice job; you have to give credit to their kids for taking the opportunity and getting it done when they had the chance."

Walton said his team should be embarrassed and he said he hoped the loss would give his gymnasts motivation to work harder.

"Hopefully, we will get in the gym and prepare better for the next meet and not take things for granted," he said. "The competition just gets better every week we go. The better the competition, the (fewer) mistakes you can afford to make."

"Sometimes you need to lose a meet to get a wake-up call."

The Huskers will have the opportunity to show that they heard it Friday when they meet Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

"If certain members of this team answer the call by the time the (Big Eight championships) roll around, we will be in position to win the meet," Walton said.

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