

Tennis teams' 5th-place finish ends season



Nebraska's Zarina Galvan returns a volley in a meet earlier this season against Oklahoma.

Kiley Timperley/DN

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

Five was the lucky number over the weekend for the Nebraska men's and women's tennis teams.

Both Cornhusker squads entered the Big Eight Tennis Championships in Kansas City, Mo., as the fifth seed, and each left the tourney with a fifth-place finish following Sunday's victories in the consolation brackets.

On the men's side, the Huskers defeated Iowa State 6-2 Sunday to earn a fifth-place finish in the conference. The victory over the Cyclones came after a first-round 5-1 loss to Colorado on Friday and a bye on Saturday that put Nebraska in the fifth-place match.

Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said the Huskers' end result was expected.

"Our realistic goal was to finish among the top five teams in the conference, and I think a fifth-place finish was up to our ability," McDermott said.

Nebraska No. 2 singles player Joseph Rahme said Sunday's victory helped make the most out of a fair season.

"We're not happy and we're not disappointed; fifth place is an average year and helps pave the way for next year," Rahme said. "It was good to end on a winning note, and I'd rather end on a good note than have a good season and lose at the end."

Rahme played his first matches of the season at No. 2 singles this weekend after playing at No. 1 all year. He

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Gymnastics team's confidence mounts going into next season

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Editor

If you liked the 1992 NCAA men's gymnastics championship, just wait until 1993.

Over the weekend, the national scoring record fell by the wayside at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and fans witnessed a team race that went down to the last routine.

Stanford won the team title with an NCAA-record score of 289.575. Nebraska was second with a school-record 288.95 — a score that also broke the national scoring record.

A couple Cornhusker gymnasts said next year's meet should be much the same.

"We're going to be a better team, but Stanford's also going to be a good team," Dennis Harrison said. "So I think it's going to be the same thing as this year — an incredible battle between Nebraska and Stanford."

Sumner Darling offered a similar prediction.

"Stanford's going to be real tough next year," he said. "It might be the same kind of dual next year that it was this year."

Nebraska appears to have the advantage heading into next season.

“We’re going to be so deep next year. We’re going to have eight guys who can score 57 in the all-around.”

Burkett Powell
NU mens gymnast

The Husker lineup consists of five sophomores, two freshmen and two juniors. And Jason Christie, one of the top high school gymnasts in the country, already has committed to Nebraska. Stanford loses two gymnasts.

"We'd better be better or we ought to get a new coach," Coach Francis Allen said with a laugh. "When you have a young, talented team, another year always helps. But when you have a young, aggressive, talented team, it helps — and we have that."

Gymnast Burkett Powell said the Huskers couldn't help but get better.

"We're going to be better next

year, no doubt about it," he said. "We're going to be so deep next year. We're going to have eight guys who can score 57 in the all-around."

"We've just got to find a lineup that can max out our score and I think we'll be all right."

Darling said next season's success depended on improvement.

"Looking at our sophomores this year," he said, "we really improved a lot over last year. And if we can keep on improving into our junior year I think we're going to be real tough to beat."

Nebraska also will benefit from previous NCAA experience, Allen said.

"There are a lot of schools that have had good, young teams that didn't really mature that well," he said. "But this team will mature. They matured from last year. They matured this whole year. They matured up to and through this championship, and I think what they've learned from here is going to be hard to take away from them."

Che Bowers summed it up in one sentence.

"I'd say we're going to be awesome next year," he said.

NU's Mitchell one of few Big Eight players taken in draft's early rounds

From the Associated Press and Staff Reports

Big Eight coaches weren't kidding when they said that most of the league's good players were non-seniors.

In the opening five rounds Sunday of the NFL draft, only three Big Eight players were taken. Nebraska tight end Johnny Mitchell — who elected to come out

early after completing his sophomore season — was the only Big Eight player taken in the first two rounds.

This draft has been a sharp contrast to most years when Big Eight athletes have received many prominent selections. In 1991, nine Big Eight players were taken in the first four rounds, including four in the first round.

Mitchell, a 6-2, 258-pounder and

first-team All-Big Eight selection, was taken by the New York Jets as the fifteenth selection in the first round.

Two Big Eight seniors were taken in the third round. Joel Steed, a Colorado defensive lineman, was taken by Pittsburgh as the 67th player overall. Five picks later, New Orleans went for Nebraska corner-

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DN file photo

Nebraska gymnast Sumner Darling competes on the parallel bars last weekend at the NCAA championships in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.