

NU gymnastics coach says team is talented

Top recruit adds depth to already powerful lineup

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen knows a great team when he sees one.

After all, Allen has coached seven Cornhusker teams to national championships.

And, Allen said, this year's Husker team ranks right up there with all of them.

"It's a pretty talented team with no holes," he said. "Usually we have some guys that are strong tumblers or vaulters. But this year we have six all-arounders who are talented."

"We've taken Tom Osborne's football money and assembled the best team money can buy."

Last season, the Huskers finished second to Stanford at the NCAA Championships in Lincoln and scored a school-record 288.95 points at the meet.

Allen has all of his gymnasts back from last year and has added Jason Christie of Lincoln, the top high school all-arounder in the country last year.

Christie adds depth to an already strong Husker lineup, Allen said.

"He gives us that depth so everybody can relax a little bit," Allen said. "That's why I think this is the best team I've ever had."

The Huskers opened their season last weekend at the Rocky Mountain Open and won the meet with a score

Date	Opponent	Site
Dec. 4-5	Big Eight Invitational	Lincoln
Jan. 23	Big Eight Triangular	Lincoln
Jan. 30	Ohio State	Columbus, Ohio
Feb. 6	Winter Nationals	Colorado Springs, Colo.
Feb. 13	Minnesota	Lincoln
Feb. 20	Big Eight Triangular	Ames, Iowa
March 7	Penn State	Lincoln
March 14	New Mexico	Albuquerque, N.M.
March 19-20	Big Eight Championships	Norman, Okla.
April 3	NCAA Regionals	Norman, Okla.
April 16-17	NCAA Championships	Albuquerque, N.M.

Nebraska Gymnastics Schedule

of 276.80. Allen said it was a typical first-meet performance.

"We made a lot of mistakes. We missed every routine on high bar," Allen said.

Still, Allen said he was satisfied with the progress of his team.

"We feel we're at about a 280 pace," he said.

At the Rocky Mountain Open, sophomore Richard Grace won the all-around title. Allen said Grace would play a big role on this season's team.

"Richard Grace was the top freshman in the country last year," Allen said. "I look for him to pick up the pace. We're expecting him to score high this year."

Also impressive at the meet, Allen said, was Christie, who made his first collegiate appearance.

"He's better than I thought he was,"

Allen said. "He's ahead of where we thought he'd be."

Allen said he expected All-American Dennis Harrison to be the team's top scorer again this year. Also returning to the squad is Che Bowers, the NCAA pommel horse champion last season.

Rounding out the team are Sumner Darling, Richard Kieffer, Burkett Powell, Josh Saeger and Louis Ball.

Nebraska will get a chance to iron out some of last weekend's mistakes Friday and Saturday at the Big Eight Invitational in Lincoln.

Iowa State, Oklahoma, Air Force and athletes from the Olympic Training Center will compete in the meet. The meet starts at 7 p.m. both nights in the track area at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. UNL students may be admitted for free with a valid student ID.

Scott Maurer/DN

Yedsena bears weight of team's success well in Cornhusker opener

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

As the Nebraska women's basketball season opener approached, Meggan Yedsena felt the weight of the Cornhuskers' success resting squarely on her shoulders.

She carried the load effectively in her first assignment of the year.

Yedsena, a junior point guard from Mahanoy City, Pa., scored 17 points, dealt out six assists and grabbed six rebounds in the Cornhuskers' 86-79 win over Arizona State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Tuesday night.

Not only was Yedsena running the Husker offense, but she also drew the defensive assignment of guarding Ryneldi Becenti, Arizona State's prospective All-American guard. Becenti was held to only four first-half points.

Yedsena used aggressive and penetrating ballhandling to spark the Huskers' scoring.

She said her play was dictated by the pregame strategy set up by Husker coach Angela Beck.

"My penetrating was a part of our game plan," Yedsena said. "I was freelancing on offense to get their guard (Bicenti) in foul trouble."

The Huskers' ability to play their own game and not let the Sun Devils dictate the tempo was a key to the victory, Yedsena said.

"We played good basketball," Yedsena said. "We were intense and only worried about our own game."

“I'm the vocal and emotional leader of the team but when the game's on the line, it's my responsibility to get the ball to (Nebraska center) Karen (Jennings).”

Yedsena
junior point guard

Yedsena said that despite the win over a team that had been ranked as high as ninth in pre-season polls, the Huskers needed to be more physical under the boards if they were going to improve.

"We need work on our rebounding. We're not boxing out the way we want," Yedsena said.

Despite her success, Yedsena is keeping the win and her role on the team in perspective.

"I'm the vocal and emotional leader of the team but when the game's on the line, it's my responsibility to get the ball to (Nebraska center) Karen (Jennings)," she said.

Though Yedsena may downplay her role, she is not downplaying the goals and prowess of the Husker team.

"This is a big game for us because we wanted to prove something," Yedsena said. "We are not going to be beaten in this complex."

Wrestling team anticipates meet

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

This weekend is payoff time for the Nebraska wrestling team, as the Cornhuskers will compete in the meet they have been dedicating this semester to winning.

Husker coach Tim Neumann said he feels as confident as ever about his team's chances in the Las Vegas Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

"This weekend is real important because we have geared this whole first semester towards it," Neumann said. "If we don't compete at a top level, then there is work that will have to be done."

The Huskers will get a good look at some of the nation's best, including five of the top eight teams in the country.

However, there are a few teams that Neumann will have his eyes on.

"Arizona State and Iowa State potentially have great teams, so I'm looking forward to see how we stack up against them," he said.

Nebraska senior Corey Olson was ranked first in the country at 177 pounds for the first time ever this week, and the Las Vegas tourney will be his first chance to defend that ranking.

Ruland Gardner and Matt Lindland are coming off big wins in the North-

ern Open last week. The 158-pound Lindland was rewarded for his first-place finish with the Big Eight wrestler of the week award.

"The ratings came out and he is number four, but the funny thing is that he beat the number two and three," Neumann said. "I didn't really understand how he was rated behind them."

Neumann named John Buxton as one of the wrestlers that needs to have a very strong showing at 126 pounds.

"John is going to have to wrestle as good as he ever has because the number one, two, three and four ranked wrestlers at 126 are going to be there," he said.

Huskers

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"I'm real excited, I probably wouldn't want to play any team more," she said. "We didn't compete as hard as I know we are capable of competing on Saturday, and now we have a second chance to improve ourselves, and I'm just excited about that opportunity."

Tonniges said she thought losing Thater suddenly on Friday hurt Nebraska's chances against Colorado, but she said the team had recovered and were ready to face the Buffaloes.

"We came in and didn't even have a chance to run through anything,"

she said. "Billie (Winsett) came in and played middle for us and did a great job — she hasn't played middle this year."

"And we hadn't had time to prepare anything," she said. "After this week, I feel much better about it, and I'm ready to go."

Notes:

• The Cornhuskers are 9-1 in first-round appearances in the NCAA tournament.

• Tickets for the match are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Tickets are on sale in the ticket office in South Stadium.

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