

## Nebraska gymnasts take first in regional

### Huskers advance to championship

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

After a comeback win in the NCAA West Regional, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team is looking toward a showdown with Ohio State at the NCAA Championships in two weeks.

Nebraska won the regional Saturday at Norman, Okla., scoring 285.375 and outscoring second-place Stanford (282.80) and Oklahoma (282.775).

Ohio State, which won the East Regional, appears to be Nebraska's main hurdle to winning a national championship at Albuquerque, N.M., in less than two weeks, according to Cornhusker coach Francis Allen.

At the West Regional, Oklahoma had threatened Nebraska after three events and had taken the lead on the pommel horse. But Nebraska responded with a meet-high 48.5 out of a possible 50 points on the high bar to walk away with the team title.

"We were in control the whole way," Allen said. "The thing I like about the team is that they responded. We had a tremendous meet."

The meet improved the Huskers' record this season to 22-0.

Allen said Nebraska received a slight edge in the competition when a Stanford athlete went down with an injury in a floor routine.

The injury cost the Cardinal at least two points, Allen said, and will give the Huskers a slight edge over Stanford at the NCAA meet.

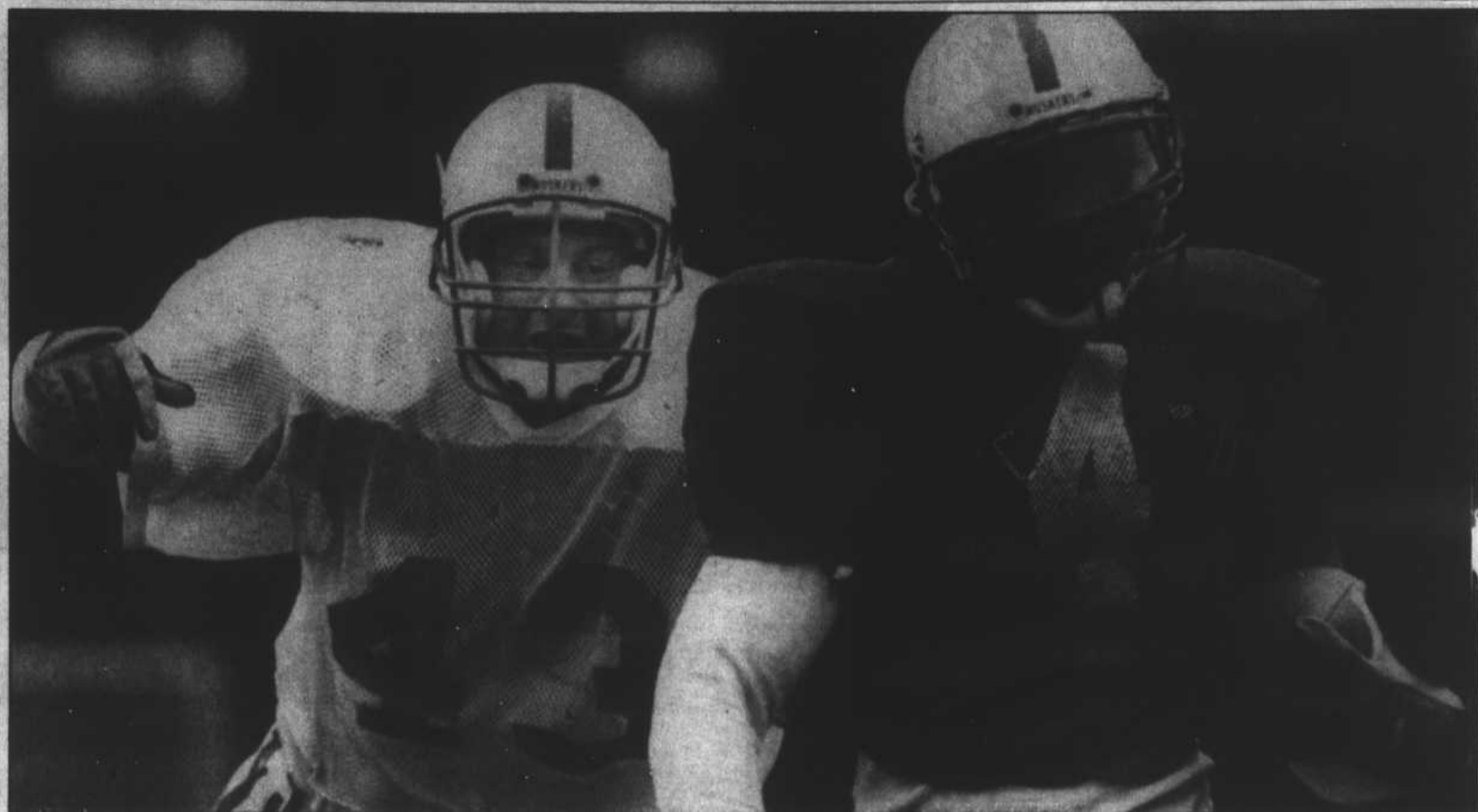
"We are going to be the team to beat," he said. "We have a pretty good control of the national championship."

Allen, whose team includes eight letter winners from last season's national runner-up team, said he would be looking for the experience to pay dividends at the national meet this season.

"I am looking to (score) 286," said Allen, who has coached seven national championship teams at Nebraska. "I want to do an impressive job."

Allen said the Huskers even have more on the line than just a bid for this season's team national championship. He said they are also hoping to host the NCAA Championships next season in Lincoln.

"We are bidding for the national championship next season and a strong performance will strengthen that bid," Allen said.



Kiley Timperley/DN

Austin Wertz, left, tries to run down Jason Fisher during the first scrimmage of the spring Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

## Defense prevails at scrimmage

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

Defense dominated the Nebraska football team's first scrimmage of the spring season.

And the quarterbacks knew it. The offense was held out of the end zone for most of the first half of the scrimmage, and by the end of Saturday, quarterbacks Tony Veland and Brook Berringer were knocked out of action by the Blackshirts.

Veland suffered a leg bruise and Berringer a groin strain as the Cornhuskers finished their first week of practices in the spring.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said as spring practices continue, the quarterback depth chart might

be a little slim.

"We're going to be a little banged up at quarterback," Osborne said.

But, Osborne said, he is optimistic that the quarterbacks will return soon.

"I don't think we had any real serious injuries, but we had a lot of guys who may not be feeling real good tomorrow or Monday," he said. "But hopefully, nobody will be out for any great length of time."

The offense stalled through most of its initial series with quarterbacks Tommie Frazier, Ben Rutz, Veland and Berringer running the offense, and the Huskers didn't score until fifth-string Matt Turman was able

to connect with wingback Riley Washington on a 43-yard touchdown pass.

Osborne said it was tough for his offenses to get on track against the defense.

"The defense was very aggressive today; I thought they did a good job," Osborne said. "Offensively, we got untracked a little bit as time went on. With only four practices, it's awful hard to look real good offensively."

The quarterback who posted the best numbers while being able to avoid injury was Rutz. The freshman, who sat out last year as a redshirt, completed three of five

passes in his first spring scrimmage as a Husker.

Rutz said he was happy to get back onto the field.

"It was fun just to get used to things and get back in the groove," Rutz said. "It's kind of like getting out of jail."

### Notes:

●Players who didn't play Saturday due to injuries included I-back Calvin Jones (sore hamstring), wingback Abdul Muhammad (sprained ankle) and linebacker Ed Stewart (groin).

●Nebraska will have a scrimmage every Saturday up until the annual Red-White game on April 24.

## Two players win Lifter of the Year Award

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

Although the Nebraska defense outshined the offense in the first football scrimmage of the spring season, they tied in the awards presentation.

For the first time since 1986, two Cornhuskers will share the Lifter of the Year Award.

Outside linebacker Donta Jones and fullback Cory Schlesinger were named co-winners of the award, which is voted on by the players.

Jones, a sophomore from La Plata, Md., said he worked hard during the off-season to improve

his strength.

"I wanted to win (the award)," he said. "I got my work ethics together and worked hard."

Jones said he expected his extra work to pay off for him on the field next fall.

"I hope I'll have more explosiveness to make plays," he said. "And I hope I'll be more motivated to keep the team up."

Jones said winning the award put him in good company.

"There's been a lot of top athletes who've won it," he said. Jones played in all 11 regular

season games last season. He recorded 21 tackles and two sacks.

Schlesinger, a sophomore who played for Columbus High School, said he also worked hard in the weight room over the winter.

Schlesinger said he spent at least two hours a day during the winter trying to improve his strength and conditioning by stretching, running and lifting.

"I kind of felt like I deserved the award. I lifted really hard," he said.

Schlesinger said he didn't mind sharing the award with Jones.

"I don't mind it at all," he said. "I didn't care if all of us won it."

Schlesinger also played in all 11 regular season games last season. He carried the ball 15 times and ran for 57 yards. He scored one touchdown in the Huskers' 52-7 victory over Colorado.

Both Jones and Schlesinger are listed at the top of the spring depth charts.

Tight end Gerald Armstrong, I-back Calvin Jones and linebacker Mike Anderson were nominated for the award. Anderson won the award in 1991, and defensive tackle John Parella was last year's winner.

## KU sweeps Huskers in weekend tennis play

### Coach says play not disappointing

By Beau Finley  
Staff Reporter

Close doesn't count in tennis, much to the disappointment of Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott.

The Cornhusker men's tennis team lost 5-2 to Kansas on Sunday afternoon in the team's second Big Eight outing at Woods Tennis Center in Lincoln.

McDermott said he was encouraged by the play of the team despite the difficult defeat.

"I was disappointed in the loss but not in the effort we gave," McDermott said. "Those things happen."

The dual included three three-set

matches, all of which Nebraska lost. The Jayhawks also won the first point of the dual by winning 2-1 in the doubles competition.

McDermott said the closeness of the match was unnerving.

"My heart fell into my shoes when I realized we had lost," McDermott said.

Nebraska had taken a 2-1 lead in the match after a default victory by No. 1 player Matthias Mueller, but the Jayhawks bounced back with the three straight three-set wins over Mike Garcia, Andy Davis and Anthony Cunningham to clinch the dual.

The bright spot for the Huskers was Mueller, who won his singles match and also teamed with Anthony Kotarac to record the only doubles victory for the Huskers. The tandem is ranked in the Top 20 nationally.

Mueller and Kotarac had lost in a third set tie-breaker to the same Jayhawk tandem of Carlos Fleming and Manny Ortiz earlier in the season.

Mueller said after the team loss, the Huskers were at a crossroads.

"We can go either way from here," Mueller said. "(The match) can be a letdown or, on the other hand, we can believe it's not over yet."

McDermott said he was confident Nebraska would rebound from the loss and be mentally ready for the rest of the season.

"They knew that it was an important one this week, and it's a more important one next week," McDermott said.

Kansas coach Michael Center agreed that it was too early in the season to relax.

### Loss follows win over Missouri

By Chris Hain  
Staff Reporter

Effort doesn't always equal results.

The Nebraska women's tennis team wasn't short on effort in Sunday's match against the Kansas Jayhawks, but they were short on victories.

After beating the Missouri Tigers 9-0 on Saturday, the women lost 9-0 to Kansas, but according to Coach Kerry McDermott, who was filling in for an absent Coach Craig Jacobsen, the women competed well.

"They played a very good match," McDermott said. "Yesterday they knew they would beat Missouri, and

went out and took care of things.

"I think the goals today were changed because they were facing a Top 20 team, and knew it would be a tough match, but they competed as hard as they could."

Against Missouri, the Huskers didn't surrender a set all day. No. 1 singles player Zarina Galvan didn't surrender a game. In fact, the Huskers shut out the Tigers in 11 of the 18 sets during the match.

On Sunday against KU, Galvan was involved in the only two matches in which the Huskers won a set. In the third set of Galvan's singles match against Rebecca Jensen, she held a 5-4 advantage before falling 2-6, 7-6, 5-7.

"Zarina had a chance at 5-4 in the

See MEN'S TENNIS on 8

See WOMEN on 8