

Allen joins ranks of women's gymnastics

From Staff Reports

Coaching Nebraska men's gymnastics for 24 years wasn't enough for Francis Allen.

Now he's going to be the women's coach as well.

Allen was named Tuesday to replace Rick Walton, whose contract

was not renewed for next year. Allen has coached the men's team to seven NCAA championship titles and has been named the U.S. Olympic coach twice.

Allen said he would not be stretching himself thin by coaching both teams.

"(Athletic Director) Bill Byrne is

going to allow us to hire a full staff for the women, so I won't have to do anything that will take away from the men's team," he said. "I think the feeling from the administration is that they are committed to women's sports and women's gymnastics."

Allen said the women's gymnastics program at Nebraska was already

successful, and only needed improvement.

"Last year's women's team was an excellent team, they just didn't do well at the end of the year," he said. "They had a couple of really freak injuries."

"The Nebraska women's program is no slouch. I'm excited to think I can help the program, so I'm going for it."

Shields looks to excel with NFL's Chiefs

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

After the Kansas City Chiefs obtained quarterback Joe Montana from San Francisco, they started looking for people to protect him.

The Chiefs took a step in that direction when they chose Nebraska Outland trophy winner Will Shields as their first selection in the NFL draft.

Although Kansas City did not have a selection until the third round when Shields was picked, Sports Illustrated's draft analyst Peter King said Kansas City grabbed exactly what it was looking for.

"The Chiefs have changed their offensive blocking philosophy," King said. "They used to just steam-roll over people, but now they need to be quicker."

Shields quickness goes along with his 6-foot-1, 305 pound frame.

"What I remember about Shields was how much quicker he played than a normal guy that size," King said. "Obviously, he is huge, but it was his quick feet and quickness off the ball that attracted them to him."

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne has coached three Outland award winners: Dave Rimington, Dean Steinkuhler and Shields. Osborne said Shields ranks with the best of the linemen he's coached.

"He's one of the better ones," he said. "He's intelligent, has a lot of quickness, excellent speed and his maneuverability is good. One thing he needed to work on and he did improve was his strength."

Shields, an All-American and three-time All-Big Eight selection, wasted no time in signing with the Chiefs.

"Now I can get right into the workouts and everything," Shields said. "There are a lot of new techniques and a lot of new things to learn, so I wanted to get going right away."

Osborne said Shields decision to sign quickly would benefit him in the long run.

"It is very important for a player not to miss any training camp because things move so quickly," he said. "A lot of agents will tell you to wait for the money, but if you don't get in there, you'll be left behind."

Shields, who is from Lawton, Okla., said he was eager to start proving himself.

"I know where I need to improve to become a dominate lineman like I want," he said. "Right now, I'm just looking to help contribute in any way that I can."

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