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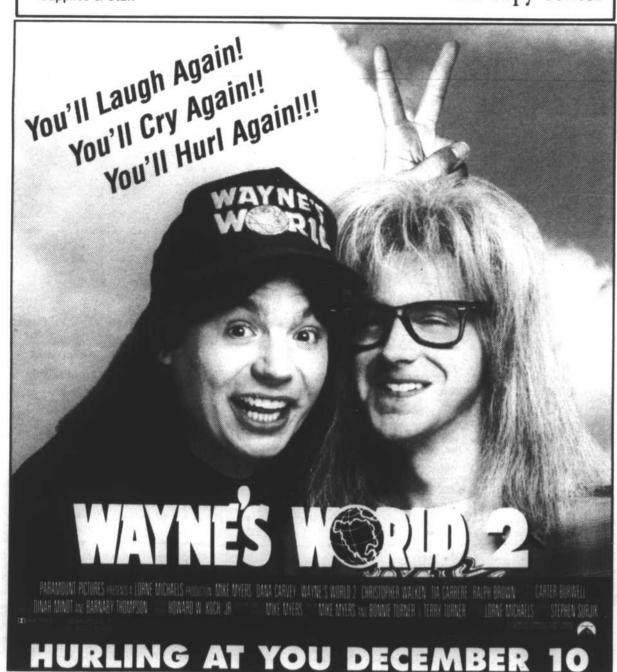


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Big 8 invite may boost already solid NU team

By Mitch Sherman Staff Reporter

After an easy victory at the Rocky

Mountain Open, where they scored an impressive 277 points, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team will be a little banged up going into the Big Eight Invitational this weekend, coach Francis Allen

said. But the Huskers, NCAA runnersup last year, hope to use the meet as a springboard to a second consecutive 10-0 season. Allen said he thought the Huskers, who are currently ranked No. 1 in the nation, have the ability to put together another perfect season.

"I expect us to go undefeated and win the national championship," he said. "Our top competition will come from Ohio State, Stanford and UCLA. And I think this team will be just as good as any team we've had here in

However, the team won't be at full-strength this weekend.

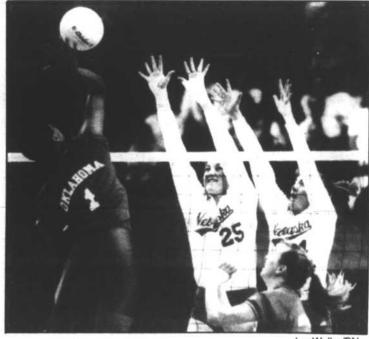
I expect us to go undefeated and win the national championship.

Nebraska men's gymnastics

Junior Richard Grace went down with a severely sprained ankle and will be out for about two weeks, Allen

"We're going to need to scrape a little bit this weekend," Allen said. "It's not going to be the same old Nebraska until we get (Grace) back.'

The meet, originally scheduled to begin tonight, will not start until Saturday at 7 p.m. The compulsory round was canceled when Oklahoma withdrew from the competition. Injuries forced the Sooners to withdraw, Allen said. Air Force and Iowa State will compete against the Huskers. The meet will be held on the track area of the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



Nebraska's Jen McFadden (left) and Billie Winsett attempt a block against Oklahoma in Nebraska's final Big Eight match. The Cornhuskers will travel to South Bend, Ind., to face Notre Dame Sunday in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Revenge

Continued from Page 7

"Our outside hitters are much more effective than they were six weeks ago," he said. "I think the team has been mentally together as a group, and we're going to go there and give it everything we

Outside hitter Kelly Aspegren said the Huskers had improved their level of play in the NCAA tourney.

"We're almost there," she said. We're gradually getting better. We'll be ready for Notre Dame.

"You might see our best against Notre Dame.'

ward

Continued from Page 7 something."

However, Connealy said, the entire Florida State offense concerns

"I think they're right up there with the best offenses," Connealy said. "They really move the ball up and down the field and score quite a few points. It won't come easy.'

•The coaches selected Nebraska coach Tom Osborne Thursday as the

Big Eight's Coach-of-the-Year. Outside linebacker Trev Alberts was named the defensive player of the year by the coaches. Husker cornerback Tyrone Williams tied with Kansas State linebacker Percell Gaskins for defensive newcomer-ofthe-year honors.

Colorado's Charles Johnson was named the offensive player of the year. Kansas State quarterback Chad May earned offensive newcomer-ofthe-year honors.

Kansas running back June Henley was selected the offensive freshman of the year. Kansas cornerback Tony Blevins was named defensive freshman of the year.

NU wrestlers face tough field in Nevada meet

Seven of the nation's top 10 wrestling teams will be in Las Vegas for the Las Vegas Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Eighth-ranked Nebraska, 2-1, finished second at the invite last year. The Cornhuskers are one of 42 teams

In the past seven years, the winner of the Las Vegas Invitational has gone on to win the NCAA Championship four times and been the runner-up

Senior Scott Gonyo, who is 9-1 and ranked fifth at 118 pounds, is one of two ranked Husker wrestlers. Junior Mike Eierman is ranked sixth at 142 pounds.

Senior Frank Velazquez suffered a lower left leg injury in last Sunday's dual against Clarion and will not make the trip to Las Vegas.