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Husker gymnast wins golden victory

By Mitch Sherman Staff Reporter

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At 5-foot, 125-pounds, Nebraska gymnast Richard Grace has been the butt of many jokes about his height over the years.

As a freshman, Grace dressed up as a Keebler elf when he went to cat at the training table on Halloween

"It was my first year here, and school was going kind of bum," he said. "So I said, 'Mom, make me a costume for Halloween.

Grace's mom, Lucille, who is a seamstress; whipped up a costume of an elf. "It was excellent," Richard said

Saturday, as he showed off the tat-too of a Keebler elf on his ankle.

'The guys dared me to wear it to go cat," Grace said. "They said that I wasn't going to wear it. So I said, OK, I'll wear it.

"Everyone at the training table loved it. I was the only one dressed up.

On Saturday night, the elf was one-of-a-kind again.

Grace, a junior from Omaha, was the only Husker to win an event during the individual finals Saturday. Grace, who was the defending national champion in the floor exercise, took home the crown in the parallel bars.

"It's incredible," Grace said. "I didn't even come into this meet thinking I could win the parallel bars. I got what I wanted — the team championship.

The individual title came after scoring a 57.25 in the all-around Saturday afternoon to help lead the Huskers to their first national championship in four years.

"I didn't have the attitude going into the p-bars that I would win, Grace said. "I didn't even want the individual championship, but I got

technique will be a major factor (in

the pros), but I was getting much

Wright

better every game.

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need to know to make it."

'That's the great thing about Ne- four or five years, instead of two," he braska. They are going to teach you said. "The people they have, from for a rookie camp in Los Angeles.

know football players and people understand that.

Wright said he will leave Thursday

William Lauer/DN

extra attention.

Looks like a

Vivarin night.

enough to take more swings than hot for the Big Eight tournament."

The big one's only 12 hours away. You could have paid more attention in class, but tonight you've gotta cram. First, you better keep those eyes from closing.

to complete season sweep "If you go six innings and it's 0-0, the tendency is to feel nervous," Revelle said. "But we stayed real calm and just executed. We weren't swing-ing the bat with real authority. We The Nebraska softball team completed a six-game sweep of intrastate rival Creighton by winning a double-header over the Lady Jays 1-0 and 7started attacking and good things hap-

Huskers rally past Jays

Nebraska coach

pened." Melanie Raimondi pitched a complete game, giving up only three hits to earn the victory.

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There was a night-and-day difference between the first and second game. Nebraska and Creighton com-bined for 19 hits in the nightcap, compared to five in the first game. After scoring two runs in the sec-

ond inning, Nebraska went ahead in the third when Amy Offenbacker's double and Denise McMillan's triple each knocked in runs to give the Huskers a 4-3 lead.

Nebraska added three insurance runs in the sixth inning, two coming off of an Offenbacker triple.

That pitcher (Creighton's Dede Pendleton) was a little more our style," Revelle said. "Our pitch selection was very good. We attacked really good and it seemed like we really came alive offensively.

Offenbacker went 2-for-3 with three RBIs and Tobin Echo-Hawk went 3-for-4, while scoring twice in the second game.

Cody Dusenberry pitched 4 2/3 innings for the win as Nebraska improved its record to 21-29.

usual," Erstad said.

Despite the extra swings, Erstad had an off day at the plate. The sophomore from Jamestown, N.D., has struggled during the past few weeks.

After his 2-for-15 hitting perfor-mance in the series with the Jayhawks, Erstad's batting average fell to .316.

But with football practice over, Erstad said things should begin to turn around.

"I am kind of glad it's over, be-cause it has been tough to switch pages both physically and mentally from baseball to football and back to baseball," Erstad said. "Mentally, it's going to be a lot easier for me to prepare for every game, and I'll be able to get back into my routine.

"Hopefully I'll be able to turn it up "I actually got over here early over the next couple of weeks and be

Draft

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"The people, the fans and the values that I have learned at Nebraska will always be a part of me and will travel with me," he said.

Adjusting to the level of play in the National Football League might take some time, Jones said.

Solich believes the 5-foot-111-back

has what it takes to play in the NFL. "I'm sure he'll fare very well," Solich said. "They're getting a com-plete player."

Jones will leave for the Raiders'

Nebraska's Richard Grace performs his national title-winning routine on the parallel bars Saturday night.

the fundamentals and technique you

And Wright is not about to forget Nebraska.

"I wish I would have been there for

coaches to trainers, were just incredible. That's why people (in the NFL) value Nebraska's word so much. They

batters of the game until Rachel Dunham singled in the sixth inning. Alycia Tiemann followed with a single and Sherry Allcorn reached base on an error to load the bases.

anytime.

Amy Erlenbusch's sacrifice fly to left field scored Sarah Sinclair, who was running for Dunham, to give Nebraska the 1-0 lead.

tobcat a team six times, but it's always

special when you can beat Creighton

In the opener, Nebraska ruined a

Byrge had retired the first 16 Husker

perfect game for Creighton pitcher

Stephanie Byrge in the sixth inning.

Erstad

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a lot of attention on me."

Erstad also said that being on the same field with some of the other Husker players added to his tension.

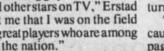
'After watching guys like Tommie Frazier and other stars on TV," Erstad said. "it hit me that I was on the field with some great players who are among

fans and players, a camera crew followed Erstad's every move on and off both playing fields.

the best in the nation."

Along with the stress created by

But Erstad wasn't slowed by the



Rhonda Revelle said Nebraska had a mental advantage over Creighton this year "I just feel like our kids feel they have the edge," she said. "They didn't panic at anytime Revelle tonight. I really enjoyed being out here. It's always good

By Derek Samson

Senior Reporter

3 Monday.

