

Season ends; clock winds down on men's gymnastics

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

A group of world-class athletes gathered last weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center to compete in the NCAA Gymnastics Championships.

Many hearts were broken and several dreams were fulfilled during the two days of

competition, but every athlete left with an empty feeling.

The emptiness wasn't caused by loss in the meet or any single event. Rather, it was caused by the inevitable end of an entire sport.

For the last 30 years, men's gymnastics has been a part of Nebraska sports, and since 1969, Francis Allen has been at the helm.

Allen carried his eighth national championship trophy off the podium Saturday.

It may be his last. Proposal 158, which states that a sport must have at least 40 participating schools to be recognized by the NCAA, will go into effect on Aug. 1, 1995.

Thirty-six schools participated in men's gymnastics this season, Allen said, and there

is no hope of adding four more schools in the near future.

Allen can only hope the NCAA changes its mind.

"We have got to fight this thing," Allen said. "There is a chance that the NCAA will take the rule away. Now, all of a sudden, the

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Coach: Revenge to motivate baseball team

Huskers to play two against Tigers

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

After dropping three straight games at home against Kansas during the weekend, the Nebraska baseball team will look to rebound against Missouri in a doubleheader Wednesday at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Cornhuskers, 26-19 overall and 10-10 in the Big Eight, will open the two-game set with the Tigers, 29-14 and 9-9, at 2 p.m.

After winning 12 straight games, the Huskers were stunned by the Jayhawks at Buck Beltzer Field, where Nebraska was 17-1 before the series.

Nebraska coach John Sanders said the Huskers must forget the frustrations of the weekend if they were going to stay in the Big Eight race.

"Fortunately, we don't have to wait long to get back on the field and get back to winning some games," Sanders said. "We are looking at the games with Missouri as a chance to put the losses this weekend behind us and get back in stride."

Along with trying to regain their winning ways, the Huskers may also be looking for a little payback against the Tigers.

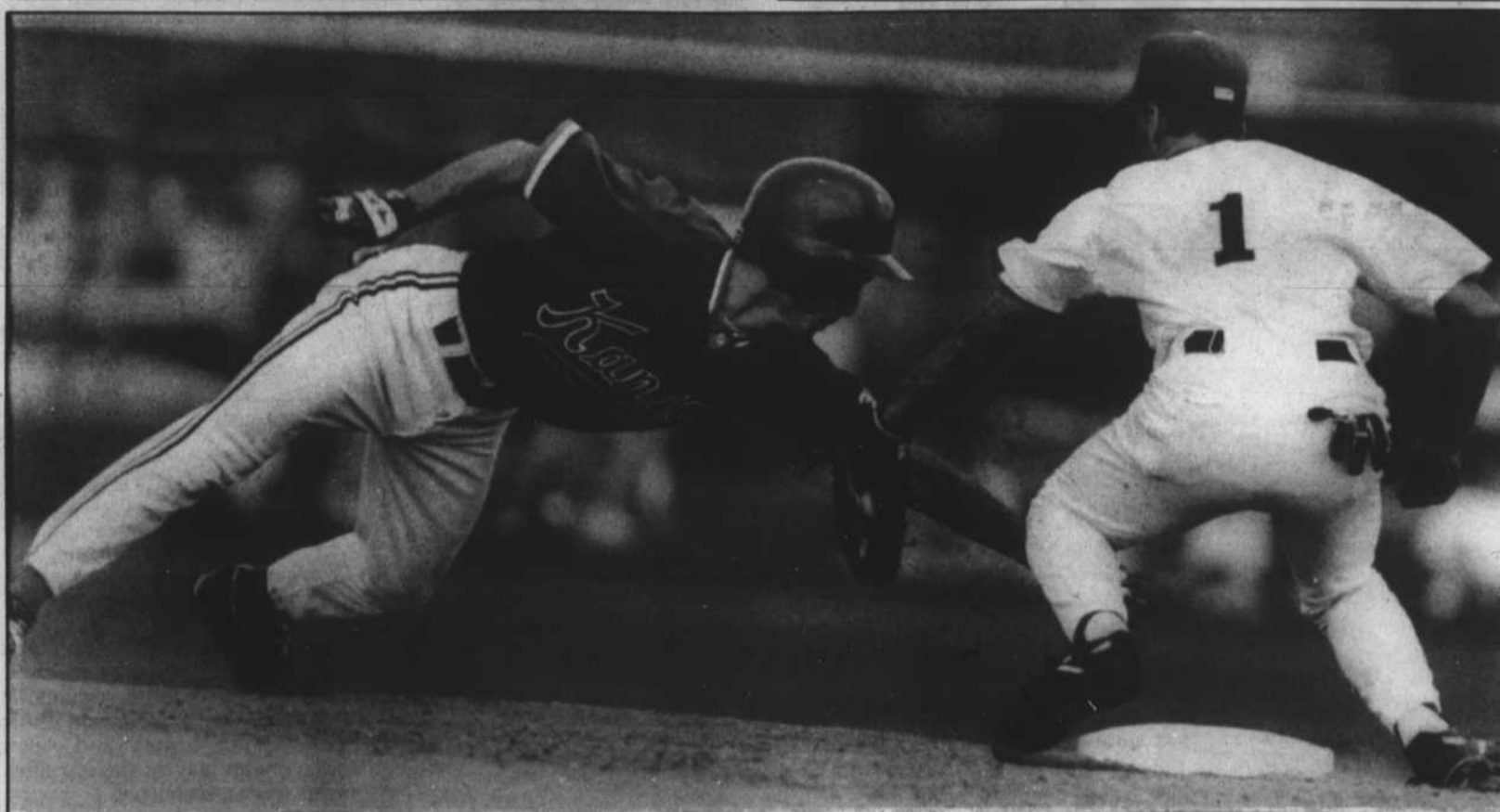
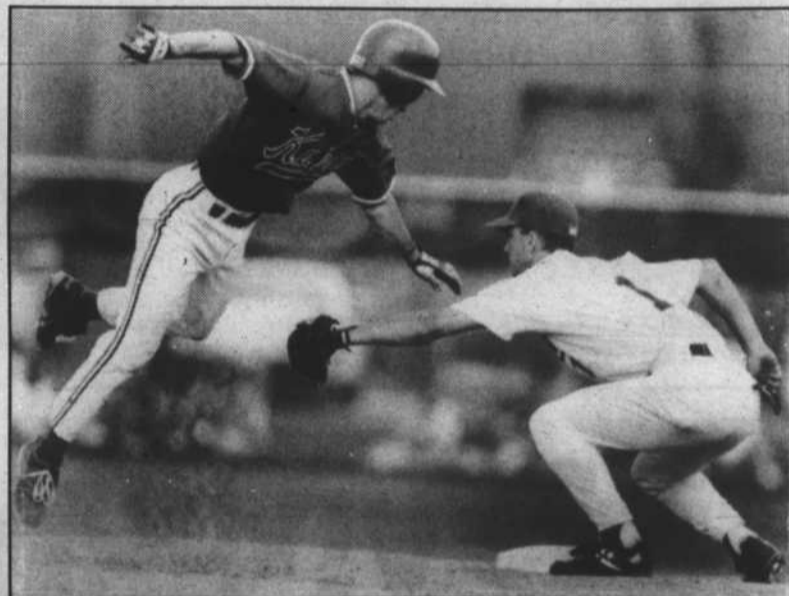
Nebraska was swept by Mizzou in a three-game series on March 25-27 in Columbia, Mo.

"I think there is definitely some extra incentive there," Sanders said. "I think our players are looking at it just like they did with the series against Oral Roberts earlier in the year."

The Huskers were swept by the Golden Eagles to start the season, but NU returned the favor on April 8-10 at home.

Sanders said that because of Nebraska's success in avenging early-season losses, he expected his team to bounce back this week.

"I think we are taking our losses in stride, and we are ready to get on with the next phase of our season," Sanders said. "We have an opportunity to get some important wins in the Big Eight and improve our chances in the conference race."



Going, going, gone

Clockwise from top left: Kansas' Joe DeMarco tries to avoid the tag of Nebraska's Scott Wulfig at second base. DeMarco then scrambles before diving for the base and getting tagged out by Wulfig. Nebraska will try to atone for three straight home losses to the Jayhawks when the Huskers face Missouri in a doubleheader today beginning at 2 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

Jon Waller/DN

In a rare instance, Alberts causes noise off the field

Who would have thought Trev Alberts could have possibly started such a commotion?

But that is exactly what the former Nebraska linebacker did during Sunday's National Football League draft.

In the first controversial — and probably most disputed — pick of the day, the Indianapolis Colts used the fifth pick of the draft to select Alberts.

Then the fireworks started to fly. The Colts traded their seventh pick of the draft, along with their third-round selection, to the Los Angeles Rams for the fifth pick.

Indianapolis had already used the second pick of the draft to snatch San Diego State running back Marshall Faulk. The next expected pick for the Colts, who will have Jim Harbaugh calling the signals next fall, was Fresno State quarterback Trent Dilfer.

But when NFL commissioner Paul

Tagliabue announced, "The Indianapolis Colts select Trev Alberts, linebacker from the University of Nebraska," the crowd buzzed and boomed, as did ESPN draft expert Mel Kiper Jr.

Kiper strongly stated Harbaugh wasn't the guy to lead a team to the Super Bowl. And Kiper might be right, because Harbaugh probably couldn't take a Class D team to the state championship in Nebraska.

After Kiper finished criticizing the Colts for the decision to draft Alberts, ESPN went live to Indianapolis to interview Colts vice president Bill Tobin.

Tobin defended the selection of Alberts, stating he was the second-best defensive player in the draft. Then he took his shots at Kiper.

"Who the hell is Mel Kiper?" Tobin said while clutching a glass of ice water as if it were Kiper's neck. "He sits there and criticizes every choice



Derek Samson

by every team. Mel Kiper has no more credentials to do what he's doing than my neighbor, and my neighbor is a postman."

Tobin went on attacking Kiper's credentials, saying he doubted Kiper had ever put on a jock strap to play the sport. Further, Tobin said, Kiper certainly had never been a coach or a top official for an NFL team.

Now it was getting really good. And look who started it all?

None other than Alberts.

Kiper refused to let the subject drop when ESPN switched back to him.

"I'm secure about what I do and my

job," he said. "Obviously, Bill Tobin is not. ... It's these kind of picks that lead to the Colts continually being the laughingstock of the NFL."

ESPN2 later reported that Tobin had received phone calls from 16 NFL teams congratulating him for the verbal attack on Kiper.

But Alberts is the one who should be congratulated, since he turned the draft into an all-out war.

However, Alberts wasn't out of the spotlight yet.

During "Calling All Sports," CNN's sports talk show, on Monday night, the Colts' selection of Alberts took up about 15 minutes of air time from callers.

During the show, Len Pasquarelli, the pro football beat writer for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, said Alberts provided draft day with quite a spark.

"I think Trev Alberts is really one of the most compelling stories of the

NFL draft," he said. "Tobin, if you're listening, I liked your draft. Tobin went for another fine defensive player in Trev Alberts."

"I don't know if Alberts was the choice at No. 5, because they probably could have got him at No. 7, but he's a quality pick."

After Pasquarelli went on boasting about Alberts' character, sports agent Leigh Steinberg jumped in to give his opinion on the ordeal.

"I thought the Colts drafted very well," Steinberg said. "They needed to reconstruct their defense. Put Alberts there ... and you have some very active linebackers."

How Alberts, Mr. All-American Everything, could cause so many people to fight, name-call and lend opinions is beyond me.

But wasn't it great to watch?

Samson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.