



Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck helps Kimberly Gottula of Lincoln get psyched up for the Nebraska Special Olympics basketball tournament held this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Shaun Sartin/DN

Huskiers help out

Basketball clinic held for Special Olympians

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Many of Nebraska's basketball players, men and women, took time out of their schedules this weekend to help with the Special Olympics at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Under the supervision of Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck and assistant coach Brenda VanLengen, more than 200 Special Olympians participated in a weekend of hoops with the Cornhuskers.

Beck said the weekend was a highlight for her just as it was for the Special Olympians.

"This is their Olympics," she said. "This is the biggest thing of their year. It was great."

Athletes with ages ranging from 8 to 40 took part in a Friday night clinic led by Husker players.

Among the Nebraska players in action were Pyra Aarden, Chris Dillavou, Kate McEwen, Gretchen

Rose, Emily Thompson, Belinda Bynum, Rometris Davis, Tom Wald, Lee Steinbrook, Terrance Badgett and Mikki Moore.

"Coach Beck gave a fire-up speech on Friday night," VanLengen said. "Then the Olympians went out and ran through cheers, relays and skills."

Beck said the clinic was held so the Nebraska players could have more of an effect on the Olympians.

And Beck said the effect definitely was seen.

"The clinic was really touching," she said. "One of the highlights was when Mikki Moore held up a female Olympian for a dunk. That's something she'll never forget."

Friday night's clinic was followed by an autograph session.

On Saturday, the Special Olympic state basketball tournament was held at the Devaney Center. VanLengen said more than 40 teams participated in the competition,

which has been held in Lincoln for the last two years.

"Before last year," VanLengen said, "they had the basketball tournament in Omaha with all the other Special Olympic state events."

"We feel like basketball is a very important part of the Special Olympic program, so we became involved and moved it to the Devaney Center."

Women's assistant coach Amy Kramer, who helped out on Friday and Saturday, said the players and coaches enjoyed their time with the Special Olympics.

"We feel strongly about our association with the Special Olympics," Kramer said. "We like to show them what we know about basketball, and all the players want to give back to the community."

Under the direction of Beck, the Husker basketball programs have developed an extensive rela-

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Former Husker aiming for gold

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

After winning a bronze medal at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, former Nebraska volleyball player Lori Endicott made a decision about her life.



Endicott, a two-time All-American at Nebraska in 1987 and 1988, decided she would continue her volleyball career in hopes of getting a gold medal.

"After the 1992 Olympics, it was time to re-evaluate my goals," Endicott said. "I wanted to stay four more years. I want to win a gold medal, and I want to put all my effort into volleyball."

In preparation for the 1996 Olympics and possibly a gold medal, Endicott and the U.S. volleyball team are on a tour that has taken them to three countries this season.

The tour also will bring the team to Lincoln on May 15 when the U.S. team takes on Japan at Pershing Auditorium.

The 5-foot-9-inch setter said this year's national team was young, but she said playing against Japan in Lincoln would help in the team's quest for the gold medal.

"Tours like this one are times for young players to get experience," she said. "Overall, it's to get people excited about USA Volleyball and to get ready for the Olympics."

With so many younger players on the team, Endicott has had to step up

and become a leader. "The young players look for leadership on and off the court," Endicott said. "They want to know about other teams, how to travel, just small and large adjustments."

Endicott, a native of Springfield, Mo., has been involved with the U.S. volleyball program since January 1989 and has been a major part of the program ever since.

The optimism is high for the U.S. Volleyball team despite its inexperience, she said.

"We just need to play and get that experience," Endicott said. "It looks very good for Atlanta in 1996."

Playing for the U.S. team has given Endicott a chance to do a lot of things she probably wouldn't have done, including playing in the Olympics.

However, Endicott said she had to make sacrifices.

"It has its upside and its downside," Endicott said. "You see places you might never have had the opportunity to see. However, I just got married and that's difficult."

Endicott said playing in Nebraska coach Terry Pettit's program for four years was a big help in getting ready for international competition.

"Nebraska has a top-caliber program," she said. "It has the type of program in order to be ready to (play) for the national team."

Endicott, who completed her eligibility as a Cornhusker in 1988, said she was eager to return to Lincoln to play in front of the Nebraska fans.

"Nebraska always has great enthusiasm towards volleyball," she said. "I really look forward to playing there."

Greco-Roman champion refining his freestyle skills

By Matt Olberding
Staff Reporter

Nebraska freshman wrestler Jeramic Welder is a national champion and a world contender in Greco-Roman wrestling.

But he's concerned with improving his skills as a collegiate wrestler.

Welder won the 125 1/2-pound title Friday at the USA Wrestling Espoir National Championships in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was also named the outstanding wrestler of the Greco-Roman meet.

In 1992, he won the U.S. World Team Trials and was eighth at the Greco-Roman World Championships.

Even though his accomplishments are numerous, Welder knew he needed to improve to stay competitive in college, because of the talent he would go up against at Nebraska.

"We have a lot of talented guys coming in," he said.

Greco-Roman wrestling is completely different than collegiate wrestling, so Welder knows he has his work cut out for him.

Collegiate wrestling uses the

“I'll think about the Olympics someday, but right now I have a long way to go. I'll just keep working and see what happens.”

— Welder
NU wrestler

freestyle format instead of the Greco-Roman style, Welder said. In freestyle, wrestlers can attack all parts of an opponent's body, but in Greco-Roman, the wrestlers are limited to upper-body contact.

Welder considers Greco-Roman his strong point, and he must improve on his freestyle.

Redshirting last season gave him a lot of time to improve his freestyle skills, Welder said.

"I could see myself improving

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Despite cold, Husker women win 3 at Drake Relays

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

The weather was the Nebraska track team's worst enemy at this weekend's Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa.

Adverse weather conditions hampered the Cornhuskers, Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said.

However, three Husker women were able to brave the elements and win their events at the 85th annual running of the relays.

Pepin said the bad weather was disappointing to him, especially in an event the caliber of the Drake Relays.

"It was pretty dangerous," Pepin said. "It was kind of tough and frustrating for our team." Despite the weather, sophomore Nicola

Martial won the triple jump with a leap of 42 feet, 4 3/4 inches on Friday.

In cold weather Saturday, shot putter Paulette Mitchell and sprinter Kwani Stewart both posted victories.

Mitchell, a sophomore from Council Bluffs, Iowa, won the shot put with a toss of 50 feet, 2 3/4 inches. Three Huskers—Mitchell, Dagmar Pesakova and Krista Mader—made the shot put finals.

Pesakova finished third in the event. Stewart posted a win in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 13:45. Stewart beat Arizona's Trecia Roberts by .04 seconds.

Pepin said he was proud of the way Stewart and Mitchell came through.

"It showed a lot of heart and effort to win

under adverse conditions," Pepin said.

The women's 4x400-meter relay team of Jill Myatt, Kathy Travis, Stewart and Jenny Johnson finished second to Baylor with a time of 3:42.81.

Also, the women's 4x200-meter relay team of Travis, Angee Henry, Mikaela Perry and Stewart placed second with a time of 1:34.28.

The Nebraska men's team didn't have any first place finishers, but Pepin said it did well.

Nick Kutovy had a career-best throw in the javelin with a toss of 226 feet and 4 inches. That was good for a second-place finish, behind Alabama's Jaokin Nilsson, who won with a throw of 240-7.

Senior Travis Grant lost by one-hundredth

of a second to Iowa's Anthuan Maybank in the special 200-meter dash.

The Nebraska 4x800-meter relay team—Jeremy Skinner, Marlon Jones, Renier Henning and Balazs Tolgeysi—finished third with a time of 7:28.33.

Discus thrower Andy Meyer, who won the discus last year, finished sixth this year. Also, Marlon Jones finished fourth in the 800-meters.

Pepin said both the men and women did well under the circumstances.

"We had some very fine competitive performances," Pepin said. "We had some more positive and solid performances."