

McLaughlin

Continued from Page 7

The request for a hardship season would have been denied if she had competed in one more meet.

"She was just under the limit," Kendig said. "If she would have competed this past weekend and then got hurt, she couldn't have received it."

The freshman from State College, Pa., said she was happy she could regain her year of eligibility and have four years of collegiate gymnastics left.

"Since I can redshirt, I guess I picked a good time to get hurt," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin, the only newcomer to this year's team, had been showing signs of having a great first season as a Cornhusker.

In the first meet of the season against Utah State, she recorded a personal-best 9.6 in the balance beam.

At the meet before her injury against Missouri, McLaughlin recorded a personal-best 9.725 on the uneven bars.

That score is tied with sophomore Kim DeHaan for the best Nebraska score in the uneven bars this year.

"Everything has been falling into place," McLaughlin said. "I was starting to get better, but this will give me more time to prepare for the all-around next year."

McLaughlin said she couldn't move her knee for the next three to four weeks. Then she must undergo rehabilitation before returning to her gymnastics career.

"I can play on the bars as long as I don't do any landings," McLaughlin said. "I should be good for the summer."

Last year, McLaughlin went through a similar situation when she dislocated her left kneecap.

After both the women's and men's teams defeated Oklahoma Saturday night, McLaughlin said both teams visited her and men's gymnast William Mulholland, who also had surgery Saturday for a knee injury.

"After the meet all of them came to the hospital," McLaughlin said. "This injury is tough because we have a very small team in numbers."

Against Missouri, senior Martha Jenkins suffered a hyper-extended elbow warming up on the uneven bars. The injuries have left the Huskers with only eight healthy gymnasts.

Cowboys dethrone Jayhawks

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Bryant Reeves played his best game of the season Monday night, scoring 33 points and grabbing a career-high 20 rebounds as No. 24 Oklahoma State beat No. 2 Kansas 79-69 to move into first place in the Big Eight.

Oklahoma State (16-6, 6-1) took control of the game by outscoring the Jayhawks 20-6 over the final 13 minutes of the first half. Kansas (17-3, 6-2) cut a 12-point second-half deficit to four with 33 seconds left, but the Cow-

boys sealed the victory with free throws.

Reeves was outplayed by Kansas' Greg Ostertag in all three games a year ago, but dominated this time. He had 14 points and 12 rebounds in the first half, while Ostertag scored just two points and grabbed one rebound. Ostertag finished with eight points and two rebounds.

The Cowboys held Kansas to three field goals over the final 13:10 of the half to take a 31-20 lead. Reeves scored eight of those points and point

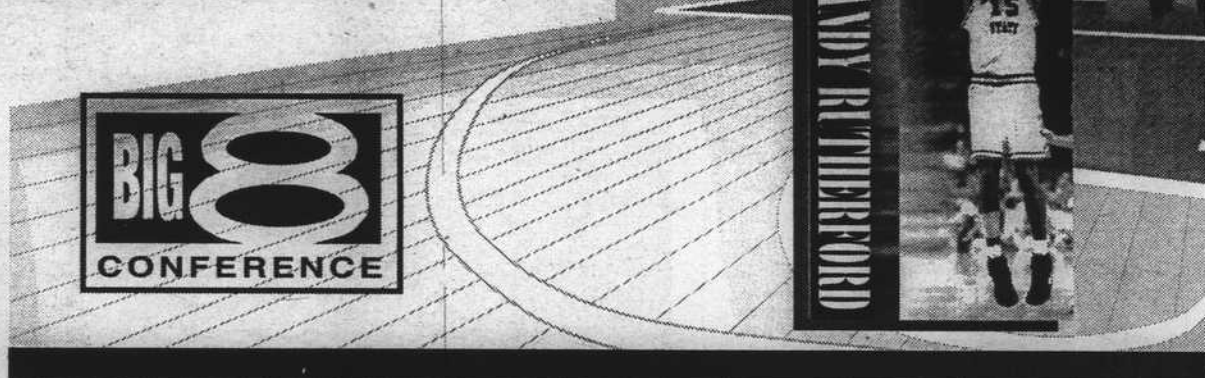
guard Andre Owens had five.

Reeves picked up his third foul on the Jayhawks' first possession of the second half. Kansas promptly started getting the ball inside and outscored the Cowboys 8-2 in the opening three minutes to cut the lead to 33-28.

But then Reeves scored baskets on two straight trips, widening the lead to nine and giving the Cowboys breathing room. Their largest lead was 60-48 on a 3-pointer by Randy Rutherford with 4:36 remaining.

Big Eight Basketball Standings

	Conference					Overall					
	W	L	Pct.	H	A	W	L	Pct.	H	A	N
Oklahoma State	6	1	.857	4-0	2-1	16	6	.727	9-0	3-4	4-2
Kansas	6	2	.750	4-0	2-2	17	3	.850	11-0	4-3	2-0
Missouri	5	2	.714	2-1	3-1	16	3	.842	8-2	6-1	2-0
Oklahoma	3	3	.500	3-0	0-3	16	5	.762	11-0	2-3	3-2
Iowa State	3	4	.429	2-1	1-3	17	5	.773	11-1	4-3	2-1
Nebraska	2	4	.333	2-2	0-2	15	6	.714	10-2	2-3	3-1
Kansas State	2	6	.250	2-2	0-4	11	9	.550	8-3	1-6	2-0
Colorado	1	6	.143	1-2	0-4	10	8	.556	6-4	4-4	0-0



Player of the Week
RANDY RUTHERFORD

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Grace

Continued from Page 7

meet here or there, that was fine, because it really didn't count."

"This year, he said, it does count. "It does matter," said Grace,

who led the Huskers to a 9-point victory over Big Eight rival Oklahoma on Saturday with a season-high all-around score of 57. "With all the freshmen, it gives them the experience they need to compete in the big meets."

Four freshmen and two sophomores are expected to play an integral role in the Huskers' campaign to repeat as national champions.

Without freshmen Jim Koziol, Daniel Burianek, Don Kinison and Lev Schieber, and sophomores Ryan McEwen and Ted Harris, Grace said, Nebraska doesn't have a chance this season.

"I think they have the talent to win another national title," he said.

"I try to motivate the freshmen, and I tell them I want them to experience what it was like walking out and receiving their first-place trophy. It's an experience you can't even tell them. You can't explain how it felt. I want them to experience that for themselves."

A year ago, the Huskers ran away from the field at the NCAA meet, outdistancing runner-up Stanford by nearly 2.5 points.

Grace said last year's team had enough raw talent and experience that it did not need to work hard during the regular season.

"It's weird," he said. "I used to enjoy just coming in and having fun. This year it's more structured. You don't want to have too much fun, because the freshmen will look at that and think this is just a joy ride."

"Last year, we knew how we needed to work out, and we could kind of slack off. These guys don't know what to expect, and you don't want to let them take the easy way

and let up." At this point, he said, the team had a long way to go.

"Sometimes, Rick (Kieffer) and Ted (Harris) and Jason (Christie) and I will start reminiscing about NCAAs, saying how great it was, the feeling," Grace said.

"Our first meet, we hit on 50 percent (of our routines). At NCAAs last year, we went 97 percent. I told them we have got a long way to go.

In addition to serving as an informal director of the Huskers, Grace is also looking toward 1996 — as in the '96 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

"He's got a jump," Nebraska coach Francis Allen said. "He's been out there, and they know he's there."

Grace placed fourth in the 1994 NCAA all-around competition and first in the parallel bars at the same meet. As a sophomore, he won the floor exercise at NCAAs.

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Advanced E-Mail	Thursday, February 9	12:00 - 1:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Gopher	Thursday, February 9	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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