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Weekend performances put NU gymnasts in good position

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Two weekend meets away from home have propelled the fifth-ranked Nebraska men's gymnastics team to a level Coach Francis Allen said he did not expect to see at this point of the season.

A Cornhusker victory over Oklahoma on Friday in Norman, Okla., and a loss to top-ranked New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., on Sunday put Nebraska in good position, Allen said, as it heads toward regionals next month.

"It was a very good weekend for our team," he said. "I did not think we could go to Norman and win. It's a very tough place to go, just like Lincoln is a tough place to go."

Nebraska hammered the injury-riddled Sooners 226.550-223.650. Oklahoma, which is ranked 16th, will not qualify for regionals if it doesn't improve quickly, Allen said. The Sooners have been hampered all year

because of injuries to sophomore all-arounders Casey Bryan and Jeremy Killen.

Killen returned to the lineup against the Huskers, but Allen said he was not at full strength.

On Sunday the Huskers scored a season-high 230.125 points, but were edged out by the Lobos, who scored 231 points. Allen said the Huskers' score would probably boost them to the No. 2 spot when the rankings were released later this week.

Despite two critical injuries, Allen said Nebraska still was able to perform as well as it had all season against New Mexico.

Junior all-arounder Jason Christie, who injured his wrist in practice last week, was not at full strength, and freshman Ryan McEwen sat out the final four events after landing on his head during his floor exercise routine.

Allen said Christie and McEwen should be in top form Saturday against No. 3 Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio.

"It lets these guys know that we're going to create a lot of havoc before everything is over this year."

FRANCIS ALLEN

Nebraska men's gymnastics coach

"The thing about New Mexico was that scoring was very easy," Allen said. "And it was a contest. The whole meet was overscored, but we competed like tigers."

"That will be a good one to look at," he said. "It lets these guys know that we're going to create a lot of havoc before everything is over this year."

Buffs savor flavor of road-trip victory

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Nebraska coach Danny Nee is glad Colorado's Donnie Boyce is gone.

Nee said Monday that he was glad he wouldn't have to face the Buffaloes' senior guard in Lincoln again.

"Boyce played as well as I've seen all season," Nee said. "He's what I call a slashing-type player that makes things look easy. He's the whole ball of wax."

"I'm sure he'll have a solid pro career."

But Boyce and his teammates are still focused on this season, especially after the Buffaloes' 80-74 win over Nebraska Saturday.

Thirty minutes after the win, most of the Colorado players were still celebrating outside of their locker room.

They didn't want to leave. And nobody could blame them.

Not one member of the Colorado team had ever tasted victory on a Big Eight court away from Boulder, Colo., until Saturday.

"To be a part of this is something I will never forget," said freshman forward Ted Kritza, who established a career-high with 15 points. "I've lived in Colorado all my life, so this was one of the biggest goals I've had."

Colorado last won a conference road game on Feb. 16, 1991, an 84-78 win over Iowa State. Before that, the Buffs hadn't won a Big Eight road game since a 75-74 win over Kansas on Feb. 10, 1983.

All totaled, before humbling the Cornhuskers, Colorado had dropped 28 straight Big Eight road games, 84 of its last 85 and 99 of 101.

"It feels wonderful," Colorado coach Joe Harrington said after notching his first win in Lincoln. "Donnie

Boyce came to play today. But it was a team effort. Ted Kritza hit some big shots. I think that's the first win since 1800. It feels good."

Boyce, a 6-foot-5 senior guard from Maywood, Ill., scored 28 points to become the Buffaloes' all-time leading scorer, passing Cliff Meely. His 1,946 points ranks 16th in the Big

Eight. With his performance Saturday, Boyce also passed former Nebraska player Eric Piatkowski.

But Boyce and Harrington are looking toward greater things.

For Boyce, the victory not only carried the Buffs closer to the postseason, but it gave them a chance to play the role of spoiler.

"It just feels good to finally put a damper on somebody's season," Boyce said. "It could have been a big chance for them to go back to the NCAA. And now we hurt that. I think we earned a little respect."

But Boyce said his mind was not completely focused on the basketball court Saturday afternoon. He missed Wednesday's game against Washington in Boulder after his wife, Tina, who is four months pregnant, was hospitalized with internal bleeding.

"It was very hard not to think about her," Boyce said. "Every chance I got, I was thinking about her and the baby and wondering if everything was all right and if she was going to be there when I get home or if she was going to be in the hospital. It's pretty tough right now."

Tina was released from the hospital Thursday. Boyce said Tina and the baby were probably out of danger, but it was still difficult to leave her side.

"When you are in the lowest part of your life, that's what I felt like. Everything was crumbling. I just prayed and believed in God, and he answered my prayers."

Huskers drop to 1-3 as Wichita State slides by

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's tennis team is off to a slow 1-3 start, but Coach Kerry McDermott said his team's play was getting better.

The Cornhuskers won both the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles pairs against Wichita State Saturday.

But it wasn't enough to hold off the Shockers as Wichita State took a 4-3 victory over the Huskers at the Varsity Courts at 17th and Vine streets.

The Huskers dropped to 1-3 and 0-1 in conference play.

McDermott said the Huskers' performance in single play was the difference in the match.

"It would have been nice to pull a win out 4-3, rather than going down 3-4," he said. "I'm disappointed because I felt they were a beatable team, but as a team our play is improving."

Senior Andy Davis and sophomore Adrian Maizey won in No. 1 doubles, as did sophomore Fredrik Riesbeck and freshman Thomas Wheat in the No. 2 spot.

At No. 3 doubles, freshman Markus Bergerheim came out of his redshirt year to compete with senior co-captain Rick Stempson. But the duo lost 8-5.

Nebraska will look to rebound next week in the H.E.B. Tournament March 3-5 in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Congratulations!!

Diane Dorn

Daily Nebraskan
February
Account Executive
Of The Month



Tuesday, February 28th is Mardi Gras in New Orleans, and since our General Manager is a transplanted New Orleanian, the festivities are coming to Chi-Chi's! We'll have all the fixin's in our cantina for a traditional New Orleans party! The "good times" start at 5pm with:

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