



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska pole vaulter Kanani Morris goes over the bar in a quadrangular April 8. Morris set his season-high at the meet with a height of 15 feet, 5 1/2 inches.

## Track coach says meet may be stepping stone

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska track and field coach Gary Pepin said this weekend's meet could be a good stepping stone to prepare for the Big Eight Championships in three weeks.

The Cornhuskers will travel to Eugene, Ore., for the Pepsi Invitational this weekend in a quadrangular meet. Along with Nebraska and host Oregon, Washington State and Michigan also will be competing.

"This meet is always really tough," Pepin said.

And with the Big Eight Championships set for May 15-16 in Ames, Iowa, Pepin said the high level of competition should be very beneficial to his team.

"This is a really good meet for us," he said. "We'll get the chance to kind of see where we are."

Pepin said he thought the team had done fairly well this season despite the cool, damp and windy weather conditions.

"This week has been very disap-

pointing for us with the weather," Pepin said.

Along with the weather, injuries and scheduling problems have also led to difficulties for the team as of late.

With the poor weather conditions, Pepin said indoor practices would have been beneficial. But he said the team was unable to practice inside because of other scheduled events.

"It's a little difficult and frustrating ... when you can't even get indoors to practice," Pepin said.

He said the events that would suffer the most because of the conditions were the "technique" events like the high jump.

But despite the situations the team has had to deal with, Pepin said he thought both the men and women had a shot at upsetting favorite Oregon.

"I think it's definitely between us and Oregon on both sides," he said. "I think we have a good shot, but we're really going to need a good team effort on both sides to do that."

## Erstad second in NCAA hitting

OVERLANDPARK, Kan. (AP)—Nebraska outfielder Darin Erstad's .475 batting average ranks second in NCAA Division I, according to statistics issued this week.

Erstad, with 79 hits in 165 at bats in 38 games, trailed New Hampshire senior Doug Spofford's .514 for 37 hits in 72 at bats. To make the list of leaders, 2.5 at bats a game were required.

Erstad also was ninth in RBIs with 1.5 a game based on his total of 57, 14th in triples with 0.16 a game from the total of six and 22nd in home runs with 0.32 per game and 12 overall.

As a team, Nebraska ranked sixth with 9.64 runs per game and 15th in batting with a .325 average.

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## NCAA

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be able to show how good Nebraska is," Kendig said. "We dug a hole after two events, and in a meet like this, you can't get out of it."

Nebraska tried to finish the meet strong.

On the balance beam, Camp rebounded with a 9.75, and the Huskers scored a 47.75.

The Huskers followed that up, scor-

ing a 48.425 in the floor exercise. Nebraska had three athletes place in the top 15.

Bartlett scored a 9.85 for an 11th-place finish, and DeHaan finished 15th with a 9.8. Jenkins scored a 9.775 in her last event for the Huskers.

But Kendig said all was not lost with Nebraska's senior class of Jennifer Hawkinson, Camp, Jenkins and Duval.

"It'll take a little bit of time to really reflect on it," Kendig said.

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