

Huskers sweep Cyclones

By Vince D'Adamo
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska swimming and diving team doubled its fun on Saturday against Iowa State in the Cornhuskers' final Big Eight Conference dual meet.

The Husker men downed the Cyclones 136-107. On the women's side, Nebraska pummeled Iowa State 153-71.

"We've had some tough meets this year," Nebraska coach Cal Bentz said. "Both teams wanted to win, and they put themselves on the line to do it."

The Nebraska men were propelled by Travis Niemeyer's record-breaking performance in the 3-meter dive. Niemeyer set a Husker dual record with a score of 348.975.

"Right now I'm feeling really consistent," Niemeyer said.

Danny Bergman placed first in the 1-meter dive with 315.15 points. Francois Boshoff won the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1 minute, 41.15 seconds. Juan Benavides took first place honors in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle with times of 20.96 and 45.96, respectively.

Eric Rasser paced the 200-meter backstroke with a 1:52.49 effort. Conny Wennberg won the 200-meter breaststroke at 2:08.57. The 400-meter freestyle team of Benavides, Boshoff, Josh Mathias, and Alex Schleifman earned a first-place finish with a time of 3:03.33.

On the women's side, the 200-meter relay team of Janet Danberg, Penny Heyns, Julia Russell, and Erin Carew took first with a time of 1:46.56.

BriAnna Wilkins won the 1,000-meter freestyle with a time of 10:33.11. Melanie Dodd paced the 100- and 200-meter freestyle with times of 52.06 and 1:50.83. Russell took first-place honors in the 50-meter freestyle and the 200-meter breaststroke with times of 24.41 and 2:18.33.

Heyns headed the 200-meter intermediate medley with a 2:09.57 effort. Danberg garnered a first-place time of 2:07.06 in the 200-meter backstroke. Heather Park won the 500-meter freestyle with a 5:09 outing. And freshman T.D. Rowe swept the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events with scores of 276.9 and 270.15.

The Husker men now have a dual record of 4-7, while the women's final mark is 5-3. The Big Eight Championships begin Feb. 14 in Oklahoma City, Okla.

Injuries contribute to runner-up finish

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

After being upset by New Mexico at the Rocky Mountain Open a year ago, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team went back Friday looking for revenge.

But injuries plagued the Cornhuskers' attempt that fell short. A healthy New Mexico finished first among the college teams with a score of 221.525, Nebraska placed a close second with a team total of 220.475.

"They had more to win than we had to lose," Nebraska coach Francis Allen said. "New Mexico was at full strength."

Allen said he thought the health of the teams played a big factor in the meet.

Two key Husker freshmen, J.D. Reive and Marshall Nelson, did not compete in the meet because of injuries. Allen said he expected both athletes to return in the next month.

"A 220 without those two guys is a respectable score," Allen said.

Senior Jason Christie led the Huskers, finishing second on the horizontal bar and fourth on the pommel horse. Christie finished

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FRANCIS ALLEN

NU men's gymnastics coach

fifth in the all-around with a score of 55.725.

Sophomore Jim Koziol, who competed with a sore back, finished sixth with an all-around score of 55.55 after making the finals in the high bar, rings, and the pommel horse.

Former Husker Dennis Harrison competed for the Olympic Training Center and finished fourth in the all-around. Harrison was the 1994 NCAA all-around champion.

The Olympic Training Center, a team consisting of athletes ranging from high school to college graduates, finished with the top overall team score at 226.675.

Richard Grace, another former Husker, won on the parallel bars with a score of 9.70. Grace was the 1995 all-around champion.

Gymnasts finish third after delay; performance strong on uneven bars

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

Because of gusting winds and icy runways in Chicago and Milwaukee, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team did not arrive in Tuscaloosa, Ala., for its Friday night meet until 2 a.m., that day.

Cornhusker coach Dan Kendig said there weren't many complaints from the team members, but it was not the way he wanted to spend the night before facing Alabama, the No. 1 team in the nation.

Alabama had the top two finishers in all four events, scoring a 195.725 to easily outdistance 12th-ranked Penn State. The Nittany Lions finished with a score of 191.70, and Nebraska finished third at 189.45.

Kendig said he felt the score should have been a little closer. He said Nebraska's performances were scored accurately by the judges, but he felt

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DAN KENDIG

Nebraska women's gymnastics coach



Kendig

Alabama may have been given the benefit of the doubt in some aspects of the competition.

"Alabama looked good," Kendig said. "They got some pretty good scores from the judges."

As for Penn State, Kendig said he thought the Huskers had just as much talent as the Lions.

"Our team is very anxious to go up against Penn State in March. We feel we owe them one."

Kendig said Nebraska, 1-2, had a strong performance on the uneven bars, and improved from its first meet in the vault. But Kendig said he would not be satisfied until his team hit all 24 routines at a meet.

The top two all-around scores belonged to the Crimson Tide's Meredith Willard, who finished with a 39.875, and Marna Neubauer, who finished

with a 38.875. Nebraska senior Joy Taylor finished third with a score of 38.525.

Husker freshman Misty Oxford filled in for junior Kim DeHaan, who sat out with sore hamstrings. Oxford finished with an all-around score of 36.875 and freshman Arnie Dillman, who was bothered by a sore hamstring, did not participate in the floor exercise. Kendig said he expected DeHaan and Dillman to be back in action this weekend.

The Huskers will face Missouri at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"This week is going to be a big week for us," Kendig said. "The biggest thing we need is to get the word out and get people to come out to our meet. The bigger the crowd, the better we'll do."

Huskers earn NCAA berths

By Andrew Strnad
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams opened their 1996 indoor campaign at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Saturday as they played host to the Nebraska Open in front of 2,895 spectators.

Although no team scoring was kept, a number of Cornhusker athletes assured themselves berths in the NCAA Indoor Championships

by posting automatic qualifying performances.

A pair of Husker shot putters stole the show as they both eclipsed Big Eight records in the shot put.

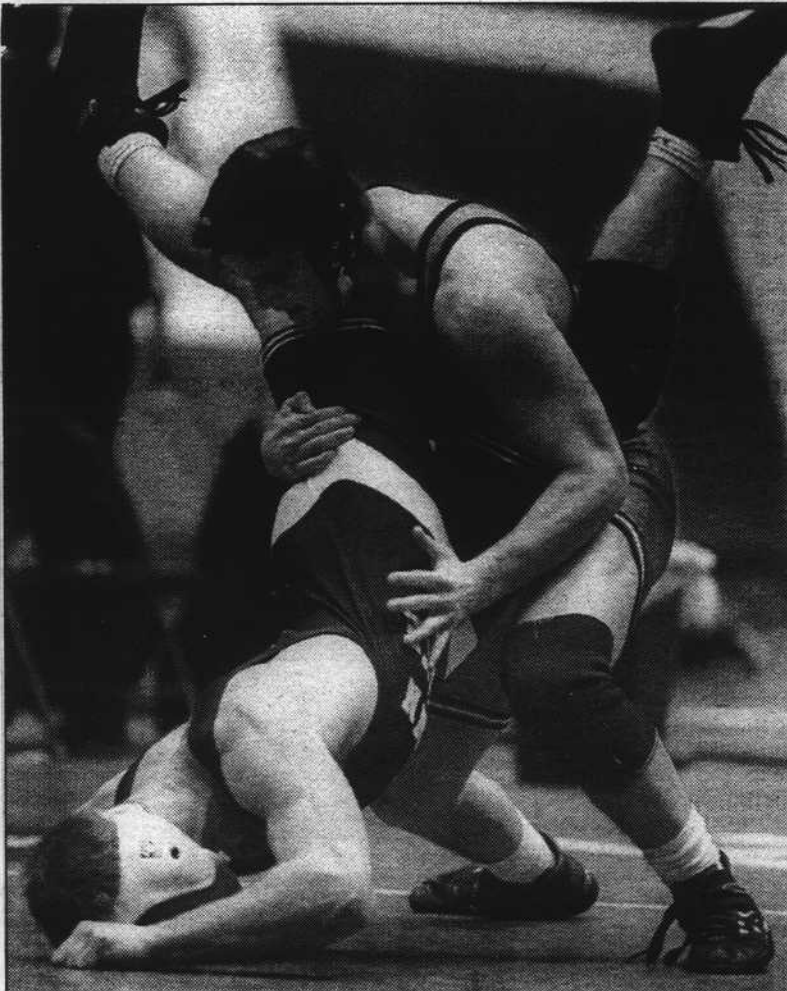
Junior Tressa Thompson first snapped senior Paulette Mitchell's school and Big Eight record of 55 feet, 5 inches.

Not to be outdone, Mitchell, a five-time All-American, regained her school and Big Eight record with a 56-11 1/2 toss.

Several other Huskers posted NCAA qualifying marks on Saturday, including Nicola Martial, two-time NCAA defending champion in the outdoor triple jump.

For the men, senior Greg Armitage won the 35-pound weight throw with a mark of 58-6 3/4.

The Huskers will be back in action Saturday at the Devaney Center, playing host to Colorado State and Abeline Christian in a triangular, which will start at noon.



Nebraska's Mike Roller wrestles Penn State's Matt Hardy Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Roller won 12-4.

CU

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period caused them to commit 15 turnovers and fall behind 37-23 at halftime before losing 69-61.

In the second half, Nebraska came back, outscoring the 17-4 and 4-1 Buffaloes 38-32.

"I think that we didn't play aggressively enough in the first half," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said. "They just killed us on the boards, and set the pace of the game. That really hurt us. We had a long talk in the locker room and decided that in the second half we were going to be the aggressors and come after them."

"They got started right from the beginning of the second half," Barry said. "It was really hard for us to get momentum in the second half. The break really benefited Nebraska."

The Huskers cut Colorado's lead to seven points early in the second half when Nebraska senior Pyra

Aarden rebounded her own miss and made a layup with 17:43 remaining.

The Buffaloes responded by going on an 18-8 run to increase their lead to 17 points when sophomore point guard LaShena Graham hit a 10-foot shot with 10 minutes remaining.

Graham established career highs with four steals, eight assists and 14 points.

Nebraska responded with a 21-8 run of its own to cut the score to 65-61 when sophomore guard Anna DeForge made a layup with 1:15 remaining in the game.

But Nebraska didn't score for the remainder of the game while the Buffaloes made four free throws to ice the game.

Nebraska senior Kate Galligan led the Huskers with 14 points while Aarden chipped in 13 and junior Tina McClain added 12 points.

Erin Scholz led the Buffaloes with 19 points and seven rebounds. Amy Palmer added 14 points for Colorado.

Duals

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Nebraska took the final three weight classes, but didn't have enough time left to overtake the Hawkeyes.

At 177 pounds Erik Josephson,

ranked No. 11, won in overtime against No. 10 Curt Heideman, giving Nebraska its first points since 118 pounds. But Iowa still lead 20-6.

Ryan Tobin scored again for Nebraska on a decision over Lee Fullhart by the score of 9-3 to make it 20-9.

Gable elected to forfeit to top-

ranked Tolly Thompson, giving Nebraska its final team points and ending the competition 20-15.

"It was probably the hardest National Duals that I've been in," Gable said. "Nebraska came out strong and showed me a lot. We just refused to let them take the trophy."

OSU

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pulled the Cowboys to within two points at 19-17, Badgett nailed a 3-pointer to give Nebraska a 21-17 lead with 7:39 left in the first half.

Oklahoma State was led by Alexander, who scored 12 points, and Jerome Lambert, who scored 11 points and grabbed six rebounds.

See also praised the contribution of the rest of the Nebraska bench, including freshmen Andy Markowski and Leif Nelson. Nelson, a 6-foot-11 center, battled in the paint and snagged four rebounds.

For the game, Oklahoma State was outrebounded 34-32, marking the first

time this season that Nebraska has outrebounded a Big Eight foe. The Huskers are 10-0 this year when they outrebound an opponent.

Nebraska's team effort smothered the Cowboys in the first 20 minutes, creating 11 turnovers. The Huskers led by as many as 15 points and 40-28 at the half.

Despite a 5-for-11 shooting performance from the field in the second half, the Huskers shot 66 percent from the free-throw line and continued to hold off Oklahoma State.

In the second half, the Cowboys forced 15 Husker turnovers.

The fans were drawn back into the game when the Cowboys pulled to within three points after two more Alexander free throws at the 11:03

mark. But Strickland quieted the crowd with a 23-foot jumper that gave Nebraska a 51-46 advantage.

The Cowboys had a final run stopped when Boone stretched the Husker lead to eight points on a 15-footer at the 2:05 mark.

See said the most valuable performance of the second half came on the free-throw line from Garner.

The 6-7 forward buried 7-of-8 second-half free throws and hit 9-of-10 from the stripe for the game.

The victory was especially gratifying to the Husker seniors, who have never won in Stillwater. Last year, Nebraska lost 93-53 in Stillwater.

"It feels real, real good," Strickland said. "Last year we felt terrible. We felt like we got cow manured on."