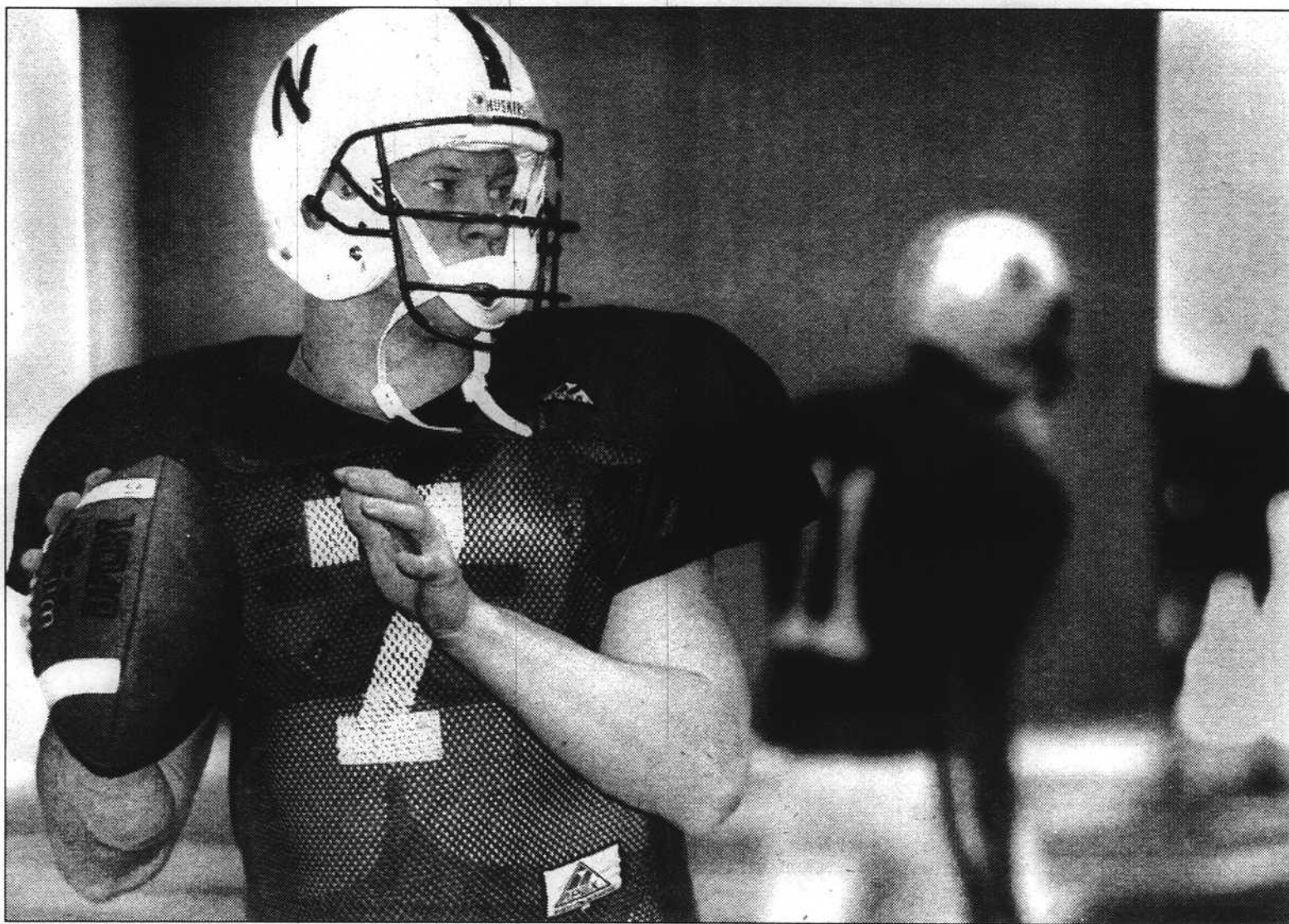


SPORTS

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Page 5



Matt Miller/DN

Husker quarterback Scott Frost warms up before Saturday's scrimmage. Behind Frost stands Matt Turman, who is the No. 1 quarterback on the Husker depth chart.

Injuries hamper Huskers' offense

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

With only one week of spring practice under its belt, Nebraska is beginning to look more like a MASH unit than a football team.

By the end of the Cornhuskers' first spring scrimmage Saturday at Cook Pavilion, six players were either injured or had not practiced because of injury.

Included among those injured were three offensive backfield players, Husker coach Tom Osborne said.

"We're just a little thinner at the backfield spots than we have been in a long time," Osborne said. "For four practices, we probably have a little bit more than our share of injuries."

with the injuries at the I-back position. Sophomore-to-be Ahman Green, the No. 1 I-back, did not

scrimmage Saturday because of a sore quadricep and groin muscle.

No. 3 I-back James Sims pulled a hamstring at the end of a 28-yard run during the top unit's first drive. Sims, a junior, probably will be out most of spring practice, Osborne said.

No. 1 tight end Tim Carpenter sprained his knee midway through the workout and also may miss the rest of spring practice.

Also missing the scrimmage Saturday because of injuries were fourth-string quarterback Frankie London (shoulder), No. 2 Will linebacker Ryan Terwilliger (calf) and top right cornerback Mike Fullman (groin).

But despite the injuries, Osborne said, the Huskers had a satisfactory workout.

"It went about how a first scrimmage usually goes, some good, some bad, some sloppy plays, some

not so bad," Osborne said. "But overall I was encouraged."

Osborne said he paid close attention to the play of senior Matt Turman and junior Scott Frost, the Huskers' top two quarterbacks.

Both Frost and Turman directed the top offense, and while Turman ran for 20 yards on five attempts, Frost gained 51 yards on 12 attempts. The big difference, however, was passing. Turman completed 2-of-13 passes for 20 yards. Frost, after completing only one pass on his first five attempts, finished 6-of-12 passing for 89 yards.

Playing against reserve defensive units, sophomore Monte Christo completed 8-of-12 passes for 155 yards. Redshirt freshman Jeff Perino hit 3-of-8 attempts for 65 yards and a touchdown.

"I thought Scott Frost had a pretty good day today," Osborne said. "Matt did OK. He had one or two

bad plays and several good plays. He did all right.

"Just looking at it from the sidelines, Frost probably had the best day of the group."

Frost, who transferred to Nebraska from Stanford and sat out last season, said he felt good in his first live action with the top offensive units.

"It took me awhile to shake off the rocks, and I still have a long ways to go," Frost said.

Turman said he was pleased with his first performance as the No. 1 quarterback, but he said the Husker offense would have to improve before the April 20 spring game.

"Offensively, we've got some work to do still," Turman said.

NOTE:

● Senior rush end Jared Tomich was selected in a vote by his teammates as 1996 Nebraska Lifter of the Year.

Cowboys use five home runs to defeat NU

From Staff Reports

The Oklahoma State baseball team, powered by five home runs, defeated Nebraska 18-8 Friday at Buck Beltzer Field.

The 19th-ranked Cowboys improved to 7-1 in the Big Eight and 21-7 overall. The Cornhuskers dropped to 2-7 in the Big Eight and 10-17-1 overall.

Husker freshmen Seth Williams and Jay Sirianni combined to allow 11 earned runs in the first five innings. Williams, who was credited with the loss, fell to 1-2.

Saturday and Sunday's games against the Cowboys were canceled because of snow. The Huskers are scheduled to play host to No. 26 Oklahoma on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Huskers finish in 25th at NCAA Championships

From Staff Reports

Despite being shut out on the final day of competition, the Nebraska men's swimming and diving team placed 25th at the NCAA Championships in Austin, Texas, this weekend.

Nebraska finished the competition with 37 points. Texas used the home pool to its advantage to win the championship, racking up 479 points. Auburn, the favorite heading into the meet, finished second with 443.5 points.

The Cornhuskers did not help their cause in the preliminaries when the 400-yard freestyle relay team of Juan Benavides, Francois Boshoff, Mark Bennett and Josh Mathias was disqualified. The Husker relay team was

seeded ninth before the meet.

With the exception of Mathias, all of the relay members competed in the 100-yard freestyle. Benavides finished 25th with a time of 44.43 seconds. Boshoff recorded a time of 45.23 seconds, good for a 44th-place finish. Bennett posted a time of 45.59 seconds, finishing 51st.

In the 200-yard freestyle on Friday, Boshoff recorded a time of 1 minute, 39.55 seconds to place 35th. Mathias finished a whisper behind Boshoff at 1:39.61, and Bennett came in at 1:39.67. In the 100-yard breaststroke competition, Adrian Costello finished 23rd with a time of 55.99 seconds.

Senior diver Travis Niemeyer finished 11th in the 3-meter event with 499.30 points.

Miiller earns three titles at Arizona invite

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams posted winners in eight events this weekend at the Sun Devil Invite in Tempe, Ariz.

Senior Kathy Travis Miiller won three of those titles for the Cornhuskers. Miiller won the 100-meter dash with an NCAA provisional qualifying mark of 11.56 seconds. She won the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.77 and also helped the 4 x 100-relay team to a win.

Sophomore Tressa Thompson won the women's shot put, junior Andrea Bourland won the triple jump, junior Willie Hibler won the 110-meter hurdles, senior Brady Bonsall won the 5,000-meter run and junior David Amet won the pole vault.

Huskers capture Big 8 title

By Gregg Madsen
Staff Reporter

AMES, Iowa—Nebraska women's gymnastics coach Dan Kendig usually doesn't pay attention to team scores during the course of a meet.

Saturday night at the Big Eight Championships, the third-year coach made an exception.

"I hate to admit it, but I was watching," he said. "Sometimes it just occupies my mind.

I wasn't checking every score, but I was looking."

Kendig was checking the Hilton Coliseum scoreboard because the heavily favored Cornhuskers trailed Iowa State by 2/10 of a point heading into the final event.

But an outstanding performance from senior all-arounder Joy Taylor paced the Cornhuskers to a season-high 49.1-point performance on vault. That finish propelled Nebraska to its third consecutive Big Eight title and a 195.05-194.15 defeat of the Cyclones.

The score, a Big Eight meet record, was the second-highest score in Nebraska history, trailing only the Huskers' 195.75 set against Southern Utah on March 23.

Oklahoma finished third with a 192.425, and Missouri was fourth at 187.55.

Taylor won the vault with a career-high 9.9 and claimed the all-around title with a new conference- and school-record 39.375. Junior Kim DeHaan held the old school record, a 39.275 last year against Iowa State.

Taylor also won the balance beam with a 9.85 and finished second on the uneven bars with a 9.85.

"I just wanted to come out and hit everything," Taylor said, "and that's what I did. So I'm happy."

Although he was checking the scores, Kendig said he was confident in his team's chances heading into the final two events.

Taylor agreed with Kendig, who was named Big Eight coach of the year for the third straight season on Saturday.

"We knew it wasn't over," Taylor said. "This team fights and doesn't give up. We knew we were fine."

Although Taylor played a large part in erasing that deficit, she wasn't the only gymnast who garnered praise from Kendig.

Misty Oxford finished second in the all-around with a career-high 38.9. Oxford placed third in the vault (9.85) and fourth on the uneven bars (9.8). Oxford, a freshman from Kelso, Wash., was named Big Eight newcomer of the year.

"I'm very happy," Oxford said. "To get an award like that, it's just great. I don't know how to describe it really."

Two other freshmen had clutch performances for the Huskers.

After falling on her uneven bar routine, Laurie McLaughlin responded with a 9.75 on the beam.

Amie Dillman scored a 9.8 on the vault after she suffered an asthma attack following her 9.775 performance on the floor.

DeHaan won the uneven bars with a 9.9 and finished in a three-way tie for first in the floor exercise with a 9.85.

Junior all-arounder Shelly Bartlett struggled on the balance beam, but still finished sixth in the all-around with a 38.3.

"Shelly struggled a little bit tonight, but it's nothing we can't fix," Kendig said. "If we can go 195 with her having a little trouble, we'll take that."



Taylor