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NU gymnasts beat Southern Utah

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team posted its second win of the season Monday night with a 193.725-190.750 victory at Southern Utah.

Thunderbirds Coach Scott Bauman said the fifth-ranked Cornhuskers were dominating throughout the meet.

"Nebraska did a heck of a job," Bauman said from Cedar City, Utah, after the meet. "Nobody got hurt, and they absolutely looked incredible on bars. (Nebraska Coach) Dan Kendig has done an incredible job; that team is extremely well-coached."

Shelly Bartlett led the Huskers by winning the all-around with a score of 39.2.

Bartlett won two events — the uneven bars (9.85) and the balance beam (9.85) — and finished second on the vault with a 9.775.

Bauman said NU's 49-point performance on the uneven bars was a key to the victory.

Senior Kim DeHaan also had a strong showing against the Thunderbirds, finishing second on bars with a 9.825. DeHaan also joined teammate Courtney Brown in a three-way tie with Southern Utah's Julie Grant for first in the floor exercise (9.75).

Sophomore Misty Oxford, the 1996 Big Eight Newcomer of the Year, won the vault with a 9.875.

Freshman Heather Brink, who won the all-around in Nebraska's victory over Iowa State on Jan. 11, did not compete in the floor exercise. But Brink finished tied for third on the bars (9.8) and seventh in both the vault (9.625) and the balance beam (9.3).

Freshman Nicole Wilkinson finished third in the all-around with a 38.425. Wilkinson placed fourth on the vault with a 9.7 and sixth on the bars with a 9.75.

N.Y. Giants sign former Husker Peter

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The only thing standing in the way of Christian Peter's return to football is a signature from the New York Giants.

The former Nebraska defensive tackle who did not play last season because of off-field problems has agreed to a three-year contract with the Giants.

Peter, drafted and then released by New England last April, signed a three-year deal on Friday that will pay him the rookie minimum salary of \$131,000 next season.

The Giants were expected to sign the contract Monday, but spokesman Aaron Salkin said the deal has not been finalized.

"I'm thrilled to have this over with, finally," Peter said. "I think the contract's great. I know I'm getting the minimum, but beggars can't be choosers."

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Huskers to sign four top recruits

RECRUITS from page 7

said. Instead, she expects to learn as an understudy to Becky Hornbacher, a third-team All-American as a junior last fall.

Greco, a member of the Omaha-based Gladiator El Pique club team and Marian's 1996 state-championship squad, chose Nebraska after witnessing the Huskers' immediate impact nationally.

In only its third season, NU qualified for the NCAA Tournament quarterfinals last month, losing to national powerhouse Portland. The Huskers finished 23-1 and ranked No. 6 in the nation. Every player but Kim Ratliff, Nebraska's first-ever senior, returns next fall.

"They've become so successful," Greco said. "That's something that drew me to the program. I don't really expect to play right away. If I do get to play, it will be a privilege."

Walker offered Greco a scholarship after her club team played in the NIKE San Diego Surf Girls Cup, a prestigious international event, Nov. 29 through Dec. 1. The tournament, played at the San Diego Polo Club in Del Mar, Calif., annually draws 25,000 fans and dozens of college coaches.

NU Assistant Coach Megan Bechtold discovered Gluck at the same tournament.

"Nebraska wasn't even in my plans

"I don't really expect to play right away. If I do get to play, it will be a privilege."

JULIE GRECO
NU soccer recruit

until I went to the Surf Cup," Gluck said. "After Megan called me, I looked into it, and I liked what I saw."

Gluck never saw the Huskers play in Lincoln, but she watched them defeat Baylor 2-1 on Oct. 25 in Waco, Texas, while on a recruiting trip to Baylor.

"I see great potential for their team," said Gluck, whose hometown of Chino is 60 miles east of Los Angeles in the San Bernardino Valley. "To do this good so fast is unreal, and they're just going to get better."

Gluck, who also considered Baylor, Southern California and Connecticut, skipped her final season at Don Lugo High School to concentrate on her club team and women's team seasons.

McCrea, first contacted by Walker after a Seattle club tournament last June, will receive 60 percent of her schooling paid by the Athletic Department and also plans to apply for academic aid. Walker has 12 scholarships available for his team, which included 21 players last season.

"It was definitely something I wanted to be a part of," said McCrea, who visited Nebraska and accepted Walker's offer in mid-October after watching Husker wins over Oklahoma State and Colorado. "I was impressed with everything I saw, and even the academics seemed like a good situation."

While in Lincoln, she attended NU's 49-0 football victory over Baylor. "The whole thing was pretty overwhelming," she said.

For her club team, Arsenal, McCrea plays defender, sweeper and midfielder. McCrea's high school team, Green Valley in Henderson, Nev., is currently unbeaten in its winter season.

She chose NU over USC after visiting the Los Angeles campus one week before traveling to Lincoln.

"It wasn't really a tough decision," she said.

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