

NU jumps on PSU early

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

Sunday's men's gymnastics meet between Nebraska and Penn State was over before it started.

NU Coach Francis Allen said the Cornhuskers' performance on the first rotation of the afternoon sealed the Nittany Lions' fate.

"We waxed 'em," Allen said. "Our first three or four floor routine spots put them away."

Penn State, which opened the meet on the pommel horse, counted two falls and fell behind the Huskers 38.625-37.975.

Fourth-ranked Nebraska, which opened on the floor exercise, never looked back and easily dispatched the sixth-ranked Nittany Lions 230.9-228.45.

The Huskers, who play host to the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships March 28-29, have scored a 230 or above in each of their last three meets.

Penn State Coach Randy Jepson said he was impressed with Nebraska's dominance.

"They're a very solid team," Jepson said. "Top to bottom every year they're the same way. I think they are beatable, but they were sharp today."

Jepson said PSU — which has been decimated by injuries and sickness in the past month — did show improvement.

"I was encouraged because even the kids who had been sick were able to get back in there and compete again," he said. "We didn't perform

terrific, but it's better than what we've been doing, so I'm encouraged."

NU again used a solid team effort to pull off the win — Nebraska's third straight against a Top 10 team.

Sophomore Marshall Nelson continued his dominance, winning the pommel horse (9.75), the vault (9.825), the parallel bars (9.775) and the high bar (9.75). Nelson finished second on the floor exercise with a 9.7.

Competing in the all-around for his first time as a Husker, sophomore J.D. Reive won the six-event competition with a 57.725 — the highest Nebraska all-around score this season. Penn State freshman Mike Dutka was second at 57.05.

Reive was second on the pommel horse (9.725) and the parallel bars (9.65), and third on the vault with a career-high 9.775.

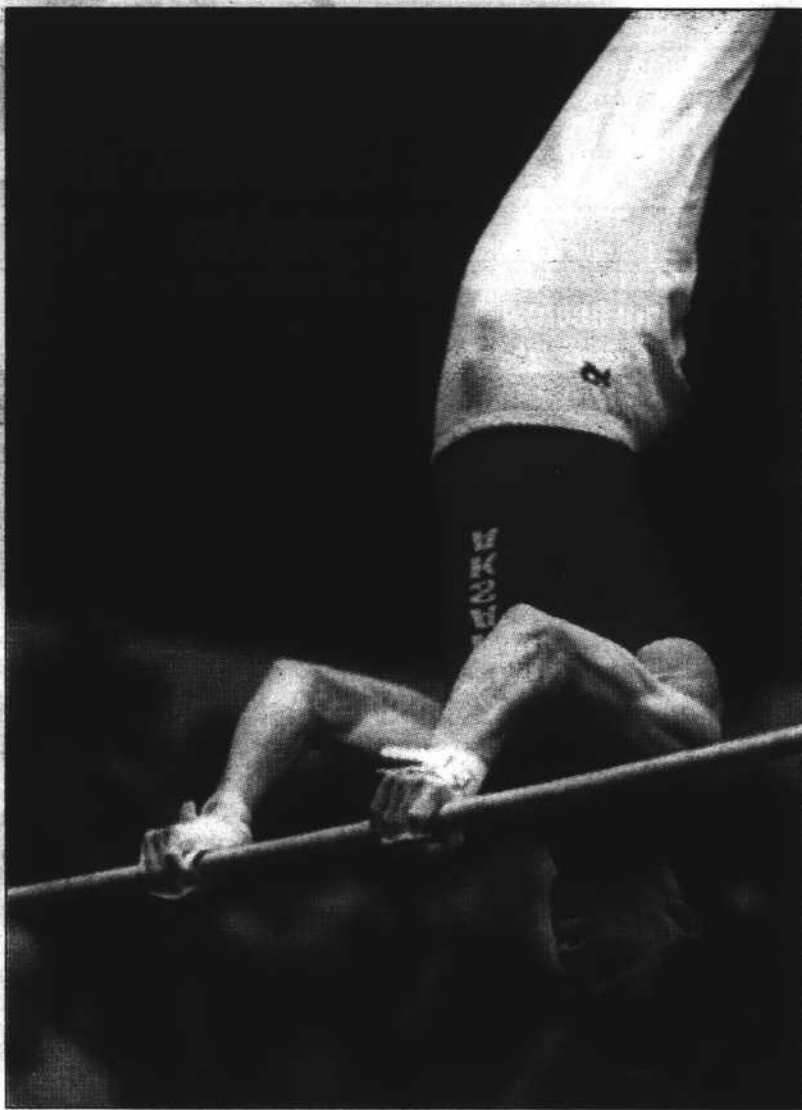
Allen said Reive's contribution to the team goes far beyond his all-around total.

"This is going to build a lot of confidence in himself," Allen said. "But, it's a two-way confidence. The team gets more confidence in him and then he feeds off of that."

Seniors Ted Harris and Ryan McEwen, competing in their final regular-season meet at home, had strong performances.

McEwen won the floor exercise with a 9.725, and Harris was second on the still rings with a 9.725.

"It's kind of like this is one of our last opportunities to compete well," Harris said. "We all wanted to take advantage of that."



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

MARSHALL NELSON swings on the high bar on Sunday against Penn State. NU won the dual 230.9-228.45.

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Three qualify for meet

From Staff Reports

Three Nebraska divers qualified for the NCAA Championships at the NCAA Zone D Diving Championships at College Station, Texas.

Freshman Bert Locklin and sophomore Danny Bergman qualified on the men's side.

Locklin finished third on the one meter and sixth on the three meter to finish a combined fourth. Bergman finished a combined six overall after a sixth-place finish on the one meter and a fourth-place finish on the three meter.

Sophomore T.D. Rowe, who quali-

fied for the NCAA's last season, finished sixth. Rowe struggled placing 11th on the one meter, but earned the sixth spot with a fourth-place finish on the one meter.

Rowe will compete with the Cornhusker women's team at the NCAA Championships this weekend at Indianapolis. The men's competition is March 27 through 29 in Minneapolis.

Also in the platform competition Saturday night, Nebraska's Kevin Gregory was fifth with a total of 406.85 points. Mark Naftanel of Texas A&M won the competition with a score of 588.70.

Bears beat Huskers

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's tennis team lost to Baylor 5-2 in a Big 12 Conference meet.

Winners for the Cornhuskers (5-6) were No. 2 singles player Dinko Verzi and No. 3 singles player Markus Bergerheim. Verzi defeated Baylor's Aaron Ramos 6-4, 6-0 and Bergerheim won 6-1, 3-6, 6-2 over Joey Michalsky.

In other results from the meet; No. 1 Johann Jooste defeated Nebraska's Magnus Grahn 6-2, 6-2, 6-1, No. 4 singles player David

Hodge beat Fredrik Reisbeck 7-5, 7-6(9-7), Jaro Turek beat NU's Todd Nicholl 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 and James Mathew beat Andrew Wiese 6-3, 6-2 in No. 6 singles.

The Bears swept all three double matches. The No. 1 team of Jooste and Hodge beat Verzi and Bergerheim 8-5, Ramos and Michalsky defeated Riesbeck and Fernando 8-6 in No. 2 singles and Waas and Mathew beat Grahn and Wiese 9-8 in No. 3 singles.

The Huskers will next be in action at Texas and Texas A&M this weekend.

Huskers take two from Missouri

WINS from page 6

Sanders said. "They've got some guys that can swing the bat."

But Husker left-hander Kenny Duebelbeis (1-1), who earned the win for NU, held the Tigers to just one more run through the fifth inning as Nebraska built an 8-3 lead.

"We're just not playing very good baseball. We had plenty of opportunities," Jamieson said. "I don't know how many people we left on base, but if we scored half of them, we would have won the game."

Sears, an All-America candidate, improved his team-high average to .456 going 9 for 13 and scoring nine runs in the three-game series.

"We had big hits throughout the game," Sears said. "That's big for us. A lot of people are trying to play within themselves. They're not trying to do

too much. We're becoming a team."

Third baseman Clifton Durham — who extended his team-long hitting streak to eight games Sunday — said the wins will boost the Huskers' confidence.

"These wins are huge," Durham said. "It's a chance to get out of the slump that we were in. We picked up some wins to get back on the right track. This gives us momentum."

Senior right-hander Spencer Van Linge threw two innings and allowed three earned runs, before lefty Brian Zubor was called on to finish the game for the Huskers.

Zubor earned the save pitching the final two innings for Nebraska while striking out three. But the Tigers didn't go down without a scare.

In the bottom of the ninth, a single by Moore was followed by two consecutive outs. Missouri trailed 10-6,

but it wasn't over.

Two infield hits by the Tigers' eighth and ninth hitters loaded the bases with two outs for leadoff hitter Matt Nivens, who represented the tying run.

Nivens, who homered twice in Saturday's second game, battled Zubor to a 2-2 count before striking out.

"We're keeping everybody here until the final out," Sanders said. "(Zubor) has done a good job for us. He's really stepped up."

Defense also aided the Huskers in their wins. Nebraska turned four double plays on Sunday, all of which included either second baseman Kevin Harrington or shortstop Bryan Schmidt in the middle.

"That was a goal of ours this year," Sanders said. "We had to play good ground-ball defense. Our middle play has been outstanding. That's huge in a game like this."

NU loses Classic in 11th

From Staff Reports

A one-out single by Oklahoma State's Leanne Tyler in the bottom of the 11th inning pushed the Cowgirls past the Nebraska softball team in the finals of the Cowgirl Classic at Stillwater.

NU — which went 3-1 during the tournament to improve to 7-9 on the year — took a 1-0 lead in the top of the eighth inning when a sacrifice bunt by Jenny Smith scored Kelly Pinkepank.

Nebraska pitcher Christie McCoy tossed five innings of two-hit ball before turning things over to Jenny Voss, (6-6) who took the loss.

Also Sunday, NU beat Southwest Missouri State 3-1 behind Voss' arm and a home run by Smith. Against Kansas Saturday, McCoy pitched a three-hit shutout as the Huskers scored three runs on only two hits.

NU second baseman Jennifer Lizama, Smith, Voss and Pinkepank made the All-Tournament team.

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