

## Sports Opinion



**Gregg Madsen**

### Former Husker makes impact outside gym

During his career as a Nebraska gymnast, Brad Bryan became accustomed to success.

He was a key part of three consecutive Cornhusker national championship teams from 1988 through 1990.

For four years, Bryan's life was dominated by the handstands, backflips and somersaults he honed to perfection every day.

Now, Bryan is a key member of another successful team.

This success isn't from gymnastics, but from a daily routine that hasn't gotten any easier.

Bryan is the executive director of City Impact, a newly-formed, non-denominational ministry that teaches biblical principles to disadvantaged youths.

When Bryan helps lead activities for the youths involved in City Impact, he isn't performing in front of the thousands of people he used to at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

His crowd consists of about 80 Lincoln children, many of whom come from broken homes.

He doesn't take orders from Nebraska men's gymnastics Coach Francis Allen on how to stick a high bar dismount, and he doesn't dazzle judges with his floor exercise routine anymore.

His events are now a Bible study on Tuesdays for 5- to 12-year-olds and one every Thursday for high schoolers and middle schoolers.

He is a mentor for young boys... He helps coordinate monthly activities that range from helping out nursing home residents to serving food at the People's City Mission.

Bryan is now an all-rounder for God.

"The kids are looking for someone to spend time with them and to listen to them and just be a part of their lives," he said. "I want to share the love of Christ that I have in my life because that can give them hope."

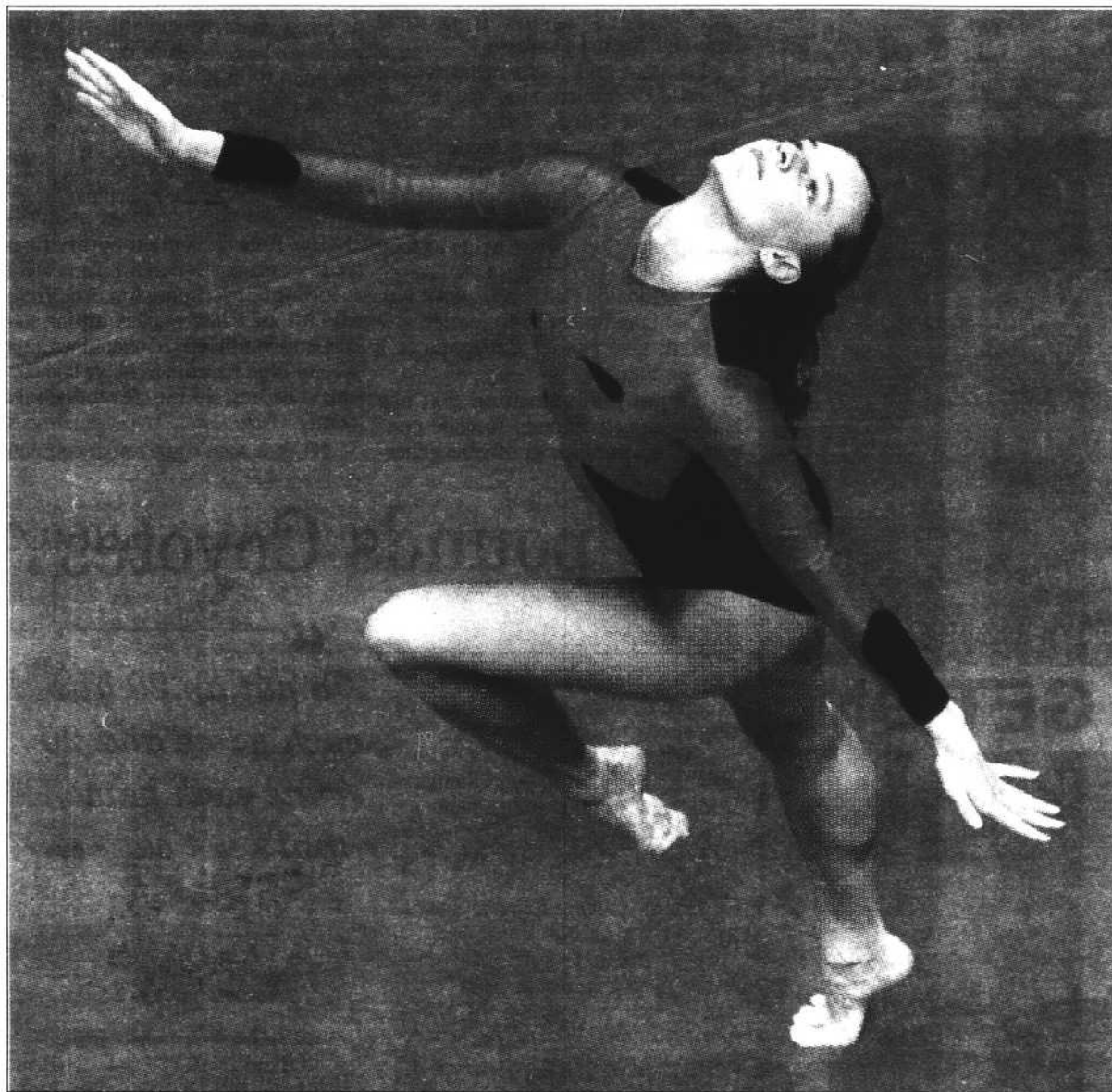
City Impact, which meets at the Central Church at 28th and O streets, is instilling values that will prevent the next generation from growing up fatherless and godless, Bryan said.

Through all the hours Bryan sacrificed in the gym, he learned the value of setting goals and discipline. Now he's sharing those same values with the children of City Impact.

"We want to be a holistic ministry," he said. "We want to share Christ with them, but we also want to teach them values."

He won't be winning another national title anytime soon, but the impact Bryan is having on the lives of children through City Impact makes any trophy look pale in comparison.

Madsen is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraska staff reporter.



MATT MILLER/DN

**KIM DEHAAN** has never lost a conference meet in her four years at Nebraska and she hopes to continue that on Saturday at the Big 12 Championships in Norman, Okla.

### NU pounds Coyotes for 43 runs NU win streak continues with 43-hit effort.

BY DAVID WILSON  
Staff Reporter

Hitting is contagious. The Nebraska baseball team pounded out 43 hits and scored 43 runs en route to a doubleheader sweep of South Dakota Thursday at Buck Beltzer Field.

The Cornhuskers, who improved to 12-14, won the first game 22-3 and defeated the Coyotes 21-6 in the nightcap.

"The bats are heating up a little bit," NU sophomore Craig Moore said. "They weren't doing it at the beginning of the season, but I think now everyone is gaining confidence. When one guy starts getting on a streak, everybody does."

Moore, who started both games as the designated hitter, finished the day 4 for 7 with three runs scored and four RBIs.

"You see a guy in front of you get a base hit, that just makes you more focused to get a hit too," Moore said.

All-America candidate Todd Sears finished with seven hits in 10 at bats and five RBIs. The junior first baseman raised his team-high average to .485 and also spanked his sixth home run of the season.

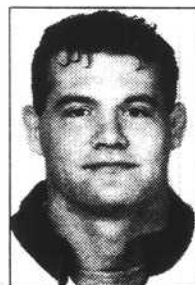
Center fielder Francis Collins and third baseman Clifton Durham each added six hits in the thrashing of the

Please see **HIT** on 8

### Thompson wins, NU 12th at NCAAs

BY ANTONE OSEKA  
Staff Reporter

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — The meet that was supposed to be a horse race between Iowa and Oklahoma State barely got out of the gates Thursday.



Thompson

Much of the 1997 NCAA Wrestling Championships under the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls was billed as a dogfight between the defending champion Hawkeyes and the top-ranked Cowboys.

After wrestling began Thursday the race didn't look close as Iowa jumped out to the team lead and OSU was in fourth. During the second round however, OSU moved into second place.

After the first round Nebraska was in 10th, as coach Tim Neumann expected. By the end of the second round NU was in 12th place.

"Other than (Brad) Canoyer, we're doing fine," Neumann said. "With a win by Canoyer we're doing as good as we could hope for."

The biggest surprise for NU in the first round was a loss by the 134-pound Canoyer. Seeded seventh, Canoyer was upset 6-4 by North Carolina's Jason LaMotta. Canoyer battled back in the second round beating Illinois' Tony Siebert 10-3.

Most of NU's success came from heavyweight Tolly Thompson. Thompson advanced to the quarterfinals with pins in his first two matches. He pinned Oregon State's Matt Orndorff in 2:41 in round one and Vince Pellis of West Virginia in 2:32 in round two.

Thompson, who is from just up the road in Janesville — five miles from the UNI-Dome — however he said he couldn't hear his supporters.

That was nearly impossible as attendance for the first-round set a new record with 14,520 fans.

All six NU wrestlers are still alive entering today's third round. Jason Kraft (158 pounds) will try to lead the Huskers through the wrestle-backs. He won a first round match 13-5 over Cal State-Fullerton's Steve Duran before losing to Big 12 Conference rival Hardell Moore 7-3.

Freshmen Todd Beckerman (118) and Charles McTorry (177) both dropped decision in their first NCAA meet, but are still alive after winning second-round matches.

The only other Huskers to earn a first-round win was 126-pounder Jeramie Welder. Welder pinned Northwestern's Micah Hey in 1:21. He lost in the second round to Dane Valdez of Oklahoma 4-3.

As his five teammates try to stay alive, Thompson competes this morning in the quarterfinals against sixth-seed Airon Richardson of Michigan.

"It will be interesting," Thompson said. "That is what the national tournament is all about separating the men from the boys."

### Huskers roll into Big 12s

BY GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

Following its most successful regular season in school history, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team is poised to enter the championship portion of 1997.

The Cornhuskers travel to Norman, Okla., for Saturday's inaugural Big 12 women's gymnastics championship. The meet, set for a 7 p.m. start, will feature the eighth-ranked Huskers, No. 13 Iowa State, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Even though no new teams were added when the Big 12 was formed, NU Coach Dan Kendig said the meet is still very important to the team.

"I feel like that's how people measure you," Kendig said. "You win the Big 12s, that's big news. And I honestly feel like we're not ready to end our streak yet."

The Huskers have won the last three conference titles and 12 overall since 1976.

Last season, Nebraska narrowly escaped Ames with the crown after a 195.05-194.15 victory over Iowa

Please see **WOMEN** on 8

### Husky coach sees NIT as springboard

BY MITCH SHERMAN  
Senior Reporter

Connecticut hit the wall hard last month when it lost five straight basketball games and the chance to play in the NCAA Tournament for the seventh time in eight years.

Now after a pair of National Invitation Tournament wins, Coach Jim Calhoun said he hopes his Huskies have scaled that wall and hit the ground running, with an eye on Madison Square Garden and the NIT semifinals.

Because at 6:30 tonight at Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Conn., Calhoun said, the Huskies need every bit of firepower in their young arsenal to derail a dangerous Nebraska team.

"We understand that we are going to be physically overmatched and overwhelmed," Calhoun said. "But we won't be overwhelmed mentally."

UConn, which compiled an 89-13 record from 1993 through 1996 before losing all five starters this season, enters tonight's quarterfinal matchup expecting a near-sellout crowd of 9,700 following postseason victories over Iona and Bradley.

The Huskies (16-14) finished the Big East Conference with a 7-11 mark and a bruised ego. After winning 52

Calhoun

Please see **UCONN** on 8