

## Huskers make Super Six, history

**Tiebreaker lifts NU past Utah and into final round of six at NAAs.**

By GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

For suspense, a gymnastics arena can always beat a Stephen King novel — especially if an entire season comes down to one routine.

Entering the final rotation of Thursday's NCAA women's gymnastics team preliminary competition, Nebraska was in third place ahead of powerhouse and nine-time national champion Utah.

Then the tension began.

The Utes, ranked No. 2 for most of 1997,

needed a 49.25 team score on the balance beam to tie the Cornhuskers, who had already finished the meet and had a bye in the final rotation.

The afternoon session's final qualifying spot in tonight's team finals and the entire season was on the line when Utah's final competitor, Summer Reid, stepped onto the balance beam. The sophomore scored exactly what she needed — a 9.925 — to pull the Utes even with the Huskers.

The team scores, based on the marks of each team's top five gymnasts, showed the Huskers and Utes tied at 196.025. For the first time in champion-



Oxford

ship history, judges went to a tiebreaker, which added the score of each team's sixth gymnast.

The final result read Nebraska 234.725, Utah 234.350 and sent NU to the Super Six team finals for the first time in school history.

"We still didn't really believe it," NU Coach Dan Kendig said from Gainesville, Fla. "The judges were adding those scores up 10 about times and we ended up ahead of them. It was just cool."

Second-seed Georgia won the afternoon session at 197.07 and UCLA was second. The top three teams advanced to compete in the Super Six tonight at 7 at the O'Connell Center. Arizona State, Florida and Michigan qualified from the night session.

Sophomore Misty Oxford finished in the top six on each of her three events. Oxford was sixth on the balance beam (9.825), fourth on the floor

exercise (9.85) and in a nine-way tie for first on the vault (9.9).

Freshman Heather Brink also tied for first on the vault. Brink was 12th on the uneven bars and finished sixth in the all-around at 39.225.

Bartlett finished ninth in the all-around at 39.3. The senior was third on the uneven bars at 9.9 and tenth on the vault with a 9.875.

"She actually had a great day," Kendig said of Bartlett. "It was pretty darn special."

The third-place finish marks the first time the Huskers have advanced to the Super Six. Utah had made the team finals for the past 19 years and finished in the Top Five every year since 1979.

"Maybe it hasn't sunk in yet," Kendig said. "We've been on both sides and it's time for us to enjoy a little bit of the good side."

## NU has six in NCAA event finals

By GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

The cloud hanging over the Nebraska men's gymnastics team has a silver lining.



Harris

For just the second time in 19 years, NU will not be competing as a team at the NCAA men's gymnastics championships.

But the sting of missing the team competition should be eased Saturday

night at 7 when six Cornhuskers battle for a shred of redemption at the NCAA Individual Event Finals.

The Cornhuskers missed qualifying for the team championships by finishing fifth behind California, Oklahoma and Stanford at the NCAA West Regional in Albuquerque, N.M.

Nebraska was affected by the loss of J.D. Reive, who injured his neck in warm-ups before regionals. Reive had spinal surgery and it is uncertain whether he will return to gymnastics.

NU Coach Francis Allen said the Huskers — who were ranked third heading into regionals — had been destined to win the school's 10th national title.

"The worst part for me is that I think the whole country expects us to be there," Allen said. "They've just grown accustomed to seeing Nebraska in the national championship."

The opposition won't see NU on the team award stand, but it may see several Huskers finish high in the individual events.

Allen said senior Ted Harris and sophomore Marshall Nelson have excellent chances of winning their events. Harris will be competing on his specialty, the still rings.

He said the finals will have a different feel since the Huskers won't be competing as a team.

"It totally changes the complexion of the meet," Harris said. "I mean, we've all been preparing to be in this as a team. We're still going to try just as hard, but the meet will be totally different."

A Kearney native, Harris holds the school record on the rings and is ranked

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DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

**TODD NICHOLL returns a shot in last weekend's match against Texas Tech. Nicholl will play No. 5 singles for NU against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State this weekend.**

## Big weekend faces Huskers

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska Men's Tennis Coach Kerry McDermott showed his team a tape of a match that was one of the finer moments in Cornhusker history on Thursday night.

McDermott brought out the tape of NU's historic 1989 upset of Texas and showed it at the team's meeting.

The reason that video is so important is because the Huskers beat the odds that day, knocking off the eighth-ranked Longhorns to finish the regular season on a high note.

NU must beat similar odds again this weekend in order to achieve its goal of the season — a berth in the regional tournament.

"It is a goal we have talked about since day one," McDermott said. "We have to win one of the two matches to play in the regional tournament."

The Huskers (9-12 overall and 1-6 in the Big 12 Conference) play host to Oklahoma on Friday and Oklahoma State on Sunday, with a berth in the regional tournament at stake. Both matches are scheduled to be played at the Cather-Pound tennis courts.

Both the Sooners (15-5 and 3-3) and the Cowboys are ranked higher than NU, adding importance to the weekend. McDermott said his team is throwing all records and rankings out the window.

NU will instead be looking for revenge against OU, a team that beat the Huskers 4-3 at last year's Big Eight Tournament.

"We are going to go out and show we are better than 9-12," McDermott said. "We have to be ready in the sense that we really want to win more than they do."

In order to do that, McDermott said NU is going have to put together one of its toughest performances of the season, and he won't be happy un-

less he sees 100 percent from his players.

"There can't be any excuses from anyone," McDermott said. "Our motto this week is no one leaves the court without a scratch. I want to see blood and guts on the court."

A big contributor to the Huskers' success could be the return of Andrew Wiese. Wiese, who has played No. 5 singles and No. 3 doubles all season, injured his ankle two weeks ago and his return this weekend will be a match-time decision.

The Huskers also will pull a late-season lineup switch this weekend. Henrik Andersson is taking the place of Frederik Riesbeck at the No. 2 doubles spot, to team with Magnus Grahn.

"I wouldn't be worried if we had been winning the doubles point all year, but we haven't," McDermott said. "Frederik has been having some trouble with his serve and Henrik has been playing good doubles in practice."

## NFL next step for Huskers

By MIKE KLUCK  
Senior Reporter

The weekend 12 Nebraska football seniors have waited a lifetime for has arrived, but figuring out what to do while the NFL Draft takes place is the problem for many of them.

Former Cornhusker rush end Jared Tomich, who will be spending the weekend in his hometown of St. John's, Ind., with his family, said he probably won't do the household chores his mom has given him until Saturday.

While former Husker running back Damon Benning, who will spend the weekend in Omaha with his family, said he is hoping for good weather so he can get in a few rounds of golf.

Tomich and Benning said they both will pay attention to the the NFL Draft — which starts at noon Saturday with the first four rounds and continues on Sunday with the conclusion of the draft, — on their televisions at home but probably will not sit and watch the draft throughout the day.

Please see **DRAFT** on 8

### NFL Hopefuls

Twelve former Nebraska football players may get their names called in this weekend's annual NFL Draft.

Name	Position
Michael Booker	CB
Jared Tomich	DE
Damon Benning	RB
Adam Treu	OL
Terrell Farley	LB/DB
Chris Dishman	OL
Jon Hesse	LB
Mike Minter	LB
Eric Stokes	CB
Jamel Williams	LB
Jeff Ogard	DT
Brian Schuster	FB