



## Big 12 Notebook

The Big 12 Conference had 33 players taken in this weekend's National Football League draft. Texas cornerback Bryant Westbrook was the highest Big 12 selection as the fifth pick overall by the Detroit Lions. The last Big 12 player was also a Longhorn. Texas tight end Pat Fitzgerald was picked in the seventh round as the 226th pick by Buffalo.

Nebraska had the most players chosen with eight. UT and Colorado followed with six, Texas A&M with four, Kansas had three, Iowa State, Oklahoma and Kansas State each had two and Baylor and Texas Tech with one player taken apiece.

Oklahoma catcher Javier Flores and Texas right-hander Rad Weaver have been chosen as the Big 12 baseball pitcher and player of the week.

Flores, a senior from Broken Bow, Okla., sparked at the plate last week going 11 for 17 (.647) as OU went 4-0 against Arizona State and Nebraska. He had one home run, three doubles, six runs scored and five RBI.

Weaver (4-4) pitched the first complete game of his career in shutting down Texas A&M 6-2 over the weekend. He had a career-best nine strikeouts, two walks and did not surrender an earned run.

Nebraska football players Brian Schuster, Jeff Ogard and Damon Benning all signed free agent contracts with the Carolina Panthers on Monday. Nebraska has a major connection to the Panther organization through former NU linebacker coach Kevin Steele who is now the linebackers coach for Carolina.

Kansas State has found a replacement for the vacancy left by Volleyball Coach Jim Moore. Jim McLaughlin, a former Notre Dame assistant and coach of the Southern Cal men's team has been named the Wildcats' new coach. McLaughlin, who won a national title in 1990 with the Trojans, replaces Moore, who filled the job at Texas when Mick Haley took over as the U.S. National Team's coach.

Oklahoma will play at Northwestern in the Pigskin Classic. The game will take place at Soldier Field in Chicago. The Sooners finished the 1996 season with a 3-8 record, while the Wildcats were 8-4. Nebraska had agreed to play host to the game but could not find a suitable opponent.

Former Cornhusker Basketball star Eric Piatkowski and his Los Angeles Clipper teammates face Utah in first round of the NBA playoffs Thursday night. It will be the first playoff appearance for Piatkowski since he was drafted in 1994. This season, Piatkowski is averaging 11.5 minutes, 6.0 points and 1.6 rebounds per game.

Big 12 notebook compiled by staff reporter Peter Marhoefer.

# Beck fills San Jose post

## Husker women's basketball coach will join ABL team.

By MIKE KLUCK  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Women's Basketball Coach Angela Beck will accept the head coaching and assistant general manager position of the American Basketball League San Jose Lasers on Thursday.

The 11-year Cornhusker coach said accepting the job with a professional women's team was the most difficult decision she has ever made.

"I've always felt those difficult decisions in the long run will turn out to

be the most challenging and rewarding ones you can make," Beck said. "Those decisions will test your will and challenge you to be the best that you can be."

Beck, who has directed the Huskers to three NCAA appearances and more than 17 wins a season in her Nebraska career, will be leaving one of her most talented teams behind.

With five freshmen on its roster, NU finished the season 19-9 and will have all Big 12 and All-America honorable mention player Anna DeForge returning for her senior season.



Beck

"I know I'm leaving a great situation, one that was built with a lot of time, pride, love and personal investment not only from myself but from my entire staff," Beck said. "I feel I'm able to leave with my head high and that the program is sitting in a good situation. By no means do I think my leaving means the demise of women's basketball at Nebraska."

Beck said the opportunities presented with coaching the Lasers, who finished last season 18-22 with a second-place finish in the Western Division behind Portland, outweighed the negatives of leaving behind an established program.

"I now have the opportunity to coach some of the greatest players in the game," Beck said. "At this time the league is so much in its infancy

that it's clean. There is a lot of innocence to it. At this stage it's pretty healthy and people want it to happen.

"I have the opportunity to build and be a part of history. I'm somebody who can be a founding person in the game and help the players who have given up so much for the game. You have to risk some comfortability to become a leader."

Gary Cavalli, the ABL's vice president for communications and marketing, said he learned about Beck a year ago from Columbus Quest Head Coach Brian Agler.

Agler, the former Kansas State coach who helped lead the Quest to the first-ever ABL title this year, highly recommended Beck, Cavalli

Please see BECK on 11

## Huskers start run at UNI

By MIKE KLUCK  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska turns its marathon softball season into a sprint today when the Cornhuskers step out of the Big 12 Conference to face Northern Iowa. NU (20-18 overall and 6-4 in the Big 12) will play 10 games in the next seven days as it prepares for the Big 12 Tournament May 2-4 at Oklahoma City.

After today's doubleheader, which starts at 2 p.m. at the UNI-Dome in Cedar Falls, Iowa, NU travels to Iowa State to finish a doubleheader with the Cyclones on Thursday in Ames — a makeup of NU's April 5 rain out. The doubleheader against ISU will start with NU ahead 8-0 in the bottom of the second inning.

"The next two weeks is our season, literally," NU Coach Rhonda Revelle said. "Every game within the next two weeks is like a championship game in my mind. The season is a marathon and now we are sprinting the 10K and you can't really ease your pace."

The Huskers did a good job preparing for the next two weeks last weekend, splitting a doubleheader with conference leader No. 9 Missouri and sweeping No. 24 Kansas, which is third in the league.

After losing the first game 2-0 to Missouri, which Revelle said NU had a chance of winning in the later innings, the Huskers then outscored their opponents 16-3 in the next three games.

NU pitcher Jenny Voss pitched all four complete games over the weekend and finished with an earned-run average of 1.30. She struck out 17 batters in her 27 innings of work.

The freshman from Ankeny, Iowa has pitched 26 complete games this season, which ties her for second on NU's all-time chart.

"She's going to a different place mentally," Revelle said. "She's finding out what the difference is from a mental standpoint to pitch Division I softball from high school. I told her I wanted her fresh the first of May and I think she is."

Revelle said she didn't want to make any projections about what NU needs to do to ensure a return trip to the NCAA Regional Tournament.



MATT MILLER/DN

BOTH THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAMS had successful seasons but for different reasons.

## Seasons satisfy coaches

### NU's Allen sees bright future

By GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

It was hard for NU Men's Gymnastics Coach Francis Allen to miss the team portion of the NCAA Championship meet for the second year in a row.

It was even more difficult for him to watch as three teams the Cornhuskers defeated during the regular season advanced to the team finals at Iowa City, Iowa, Friday night and battled for the National Championship.

But missing the team championship wasn't enough to ruin the Huskers' 1997 season or dampen Allen's hopes for the future of NU gymnastics.

Allen said Nebraska's strong showing at Saturday night's individual event finals helped take away the heartbreak of not competing for his ninth national championship.

"That means that we had some success actually," Allen said. "I mean, look at our season. We won

Please see MEN on 11

### Kendig hopes team improves

By GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

All great things must end, even the Nebraska women's gymnastics team's 1997 season.

The most successful year in school history is over, and so are the careers of Kim DeHaan and Shelly Bartlett.

NU Coach Dan Kendig said the thrill of making the Super Six team finals this season hasn't worn off. And despite losing DeHaan and Bartlett to graduation, Kendig said the future is bright for Cornhusker gymnastics.

"You've always got to be looking ahead," Kendig said. "But it hasn't really hit me yet that we won't have Shelly and Kim next year."

Kendig said replacing Bartlett in the all-around and DeHaan on the floor exercise and uneven bars will be a difficult, but not impossible task.

"We lost six big-time routines in losing Kim and

Please see WOMEN on 11