

Hard work reaps rewards for NU

YEAR from page 10

ment game, and the Huskers then downed Duke to improve to 23-0 and earn the right to play national powerhouse Portland in the quarterfinals of the tournament. The Pilots won 1-0, but the experience gained by Nebraska will certainly prove beneficial in the future.

In the least-heralded sport of the autumn, runners Jonah Kiptarus and Cleophas Boor, both of whom journeyed to Lincoln from Kenya, provided a one-two punch like NU has never seen on its cross country team.

Both athletes shattered nearly every mark in the Nebraska record books, and Kiptarus placed second at the NCAA Championships, one spot ahead of Boor. The Nebraska men finished seventh, their highest spot ever, and the Husker women placed 20th.

A new year didn't bring a change in success for Nebraska athletes and teams. In the four full months since Jan. 1, five Husker team's have won conference titles and two athletes — Thompson and Nelson — wrapped up individual national titles with stellar performances.

What started out as a promising season for the Nebraska women's basketball team ended in huge disappointment. After a school-best start of 16-1, the Huskers faded fast, losing eight of their final 11 games and finishing 19-9.

Then the Huskers had to face the agony of watching the NCAA Tournament selection show in March only to find that out of the six Big 12 teams selected, they were not one of the chosen.

While the women were in a fight for the NCAA Tournament, the men's basketball team ended up in a familiar place — the National Invitation Tournament.

The Huskers did put hopes of their first Big Dance berth in four years into the hearts of fans. NU pulled off its most meaningful victory in three seasons by winning a 74-69 overtime thriller at No. 7 Iowa State. Tyrone Lue poured in 30 points in playing 44 minutes as the Huskers won on the floor of a top-10 foe for the first time since Feb. 6, 1982.

Four days later, NU returned home to beat Oklahoma State. That set up a game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center with No. 1 Kansas. Had the Huskers won, they would have had a shot at the field of 64.

But they disappointed again, losing to the top-ranked Jayhawks 85-65 and then falling in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament to Missouri.

The Huskers went to the NIT for the third straight year and looked like they would defend their title after beating Washington and Nevada handily in the first two rounds. In round three, NU ran out of gas at Connecticut — just one game shy of returning to Madison Square Garden.

A month after both teams' seasons ended, both men's coach Danny Nee and women's coach Angela Beck interviewed for jobs outside UNL.

Nee interviewed for the job at Rutgers saying, "If they met all that I wanted contractually, I would be very serious about it. The opportunity to go home would be attractive."

The Scarlet Knights opted against Nee, choosing Rider Coach Kevin Bannon to fill the spot.

But Beck made a better impression. On Sunday, April 20, she held a tear-filled team meeting to say she was taking the job with the American Basketball League's San Jose Lasers. The news became official two days later.

"I know I'm leaving a great situation," Beck said. "One that was built with a lot of time, pride, love and personal investment, not only from myself but my entire staff."

While the hard court was filled with off-the-court action, many other Husker teams were full of surprises in their sports arenas.

The NU women's swimming team upset Texas to earn the first-ever Big 12 title and later in March finished a school-best eighth at the NCAAs, bet-

Sports in Review



Here is a list how all the Cornhusker athletic teams fared this year:

Football

The Huskers finished the year 11-2 losing to Arizona State and Texas, but beat Virginia Tech 31-21 in the Orange Bowl.

Volleyball

NU made its second straight trip to the Final Four and finished the year 30-4.

Soccer

In its third year, NU completed the regular season as the only undefeated Division I team at 21-0. The Huskers beat Minnesota and Duke in the NCAA Tournament before losing to Portland.

Cross Country

Jonah Kiptarus was second and Cleophas Boor finished third at the NCAA meet.

Wrestling

The NU wrestlers were 12th at the NCAAs as Heavyweight Tolly Thompson finished third.

Men's Swimming

A runner-up finish in the Big 12 was followed with a 12th-place finish at the NCAAs.

Women's Swimming

They won the Big 12 title and finished a school-best eighth at the NCAAs.

Men's Gymnastics

Won the MPSF title, but failed to make nationals. Marshall Nelson won individual titles in the parallel bars and high bar at the NCAAs.

Women's Gymnastics

Set a school-record team score of 196.625 during the year and won the Big 12 title. Also made the Super Six for the first time.

Men's Basketball

Finished the year 18-15 after winning two games in the NIT.

Women's Basketball

Were 19-9 but fell just shy of an NCAA Tournament bid. Lost Coach Angela Beck to the ABL's San Jose Lasers.

Men's Golf

Were sixth at the Big 12 meet and should make regionals.

Women's Golf

Compete in regionals this weekend in an effort to make first-ever NCAA Finals. Finished third at Big 12s.

Baseball

Are currently 26-33 with three games remaining at Iowa State.

Softball

Finished the year at 27-22 and are waiting to see if they make regionals.

Men's Tennis

Finished the year with a loss in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament.

Women's Tennis

Lost to conference runner-up Texas A&M in quarterfinals of Big 12 Tournament. Had one of their most successful seasons ever.

ting two ninth-place finishes in 1985 and 1995. The NU men finished second at the Big 12 meet and had their best finish at the NCAA meet since 1990, finishing 12th.

Both the women's and men's track teams wrapped up the first-ever indoor Big 12 titles. The women earned their 18th straight indoor title by beating eventual national third-place finisher Texas and the men rocked Iowa State for theirs.

One of the finest NU individual performances of the year was turned in by shot putter Tressa Thompson. Thompson, who set an NCAA indoor record with a toss of 60-feet 7 3/4-inches and won the Big 12 indoor title, won the biggest title of them all at the NCAA meet in Indianapolis.

Thompson's throw of 59 feet outdistanced a 57 1/2-foot toss by Southern Methodist's Marike Tuliene.

But Thompson wasn't the only Husker to have individual success this spring.

Marshall Nelson won two individual titles at the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Championships in Iowa City. Nelson won the national championship on the high bar (9.7875) and the parallel bars (9.95) and finished fifth in the vault and 10th on the pommel horse.

"It's nice to know that all the work over the years has paid off like this," Nelson said. "They don't realize how much effort goes into this kind of competition."

As a team, NU failed to qualify for the NCAAs for the second consecutive season. A week after winning the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation crown, the Huskers finished fifth at the NCAA West Regional and were out of luck to compete as a team in Iowa City.

But perhaps the most impressive team of the spring was the NU

women's gymnastics team.

This year, the Huskers won the Big 12 title, set a school record with a score of 196.625 and made the Super Six finals for the first time.

At the NCAA Championships in Gainesville, Fla., NU and nine-time champion Utah tied at 196.025 on the first day of competition. But the Huskers won the tie-breaker when the total of its sixth gymnast eclipsed that of the Utes.

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

The other cool things from that meet were the ninth-place finish in the all-around by Shelly Bartlett and the All-American finishes by Bartlett, Misty Oxford and freshman Heather Brink.

Other sports this spring had stars of their own.

The women's golf team saw the emergence of freshmen Hanne Nyquist and Elizabeth Bahensky. NU finished third at the Big 12 meet and will vie for its first-ever NCAA Championship appearance this weekend at the NCAA West Regional in Tucson, Ariz. The men's team finished sixth at the Big 12 meet.

The Husker baseball and softball teams struggled this season but players like Jennifer Lizama, Jenny Voss, Todd Sears and Francis Collins — who set NU's hits-in-a-season record on Sunday — all had outstanding performances.

Although the Huskers couldn't conjure up a repeat performance of last season's national titles or the nationwide attention, the athletic programs at NU had many outstanding individual performances and achievements this sports year that will be remembered forever.

\$1.00 off at Door
\$1.00 off at Door
\$1.00 off at Door

DecaDance

Lincoln's own
dj
2NOA
spinning

Techno Rave House

Starting Wednesday April 30th!
Every Wed. 9-1 a.m.
Doors open at 8:00

Drink Specials
Lower Level Gold's Galleria (1033 'O' St.)
\$1.00 Longnecks \$1.00 Longnecks \$1.00 Longnecks

GRADUATES...

Drive a New '97 Toyota!

NO Money Down!

NO Security Deposit!

Take note!!!

Launch your career with a brand new TOYOTA!

Now's the smart time to get in a new Toyota! Why? Because eligible graduates can buy any new Toyota with **NO MONEY DOWN**, or lease with **NO SECURITY DEPOSIT!**

Stop in at Mid City Toyota and drive away in a brand new Toyota today!

*Subject to qualifications. See dealer for complete details.

MID CITY TOYOTA

Built Right. Priced Right.

1145 N. 48th St. MON-THUR: 8-8 FRI: 8-6 SAT: 8-5 Call: 464-0241

50¢

LEG DAY

At

Buffalo Wild Wings and Weck
bw-3
The Real Wing

The way wings were meant to be!

EVERY WEDNESDAY

MINIMUM OF 2 LEGS.

1328 P Street 475-bwww(2999)