

NU wins, places at indoor

INDOOR from page 8

Sophomore Dave Riggert finished sixth in the event.

Senior Benji Prebyl helped the Huskers ice the victory as his leap of 51-1 in the triple jump, gave him the conference title.

"We came in here expecting to win, and I'm glad I was able to add to the team effort, because that's what this meet is all about in the first place," Prebyl said.

Defending champions Byron Topps and Shane Lavy were both disappointed with their efforts, but were able to help NU in the overall standings.

Lavy, a junior, finished fourth in the high jump; and Topps, a senior and two-time defending champion in the 55-meter dash, finished second.

"I'm very disappointed," Lavy said. "But, the main focus is the team, and it's about contribution to the team."

The Huskers also scored points in several distance areas and in the pole vault, where NU vaulters finished fourth and sixth.

Nebraska scored 106.5 points, just ahead of Texas A&M with 99 points and Texas with 93 points.

"A heck of a team victory," Pepin said. "They had to get it done in a lot of areas to win the meet."

The Cornhusker women weren't so fortunate as they were unable to match the sprinting corps of Texas.

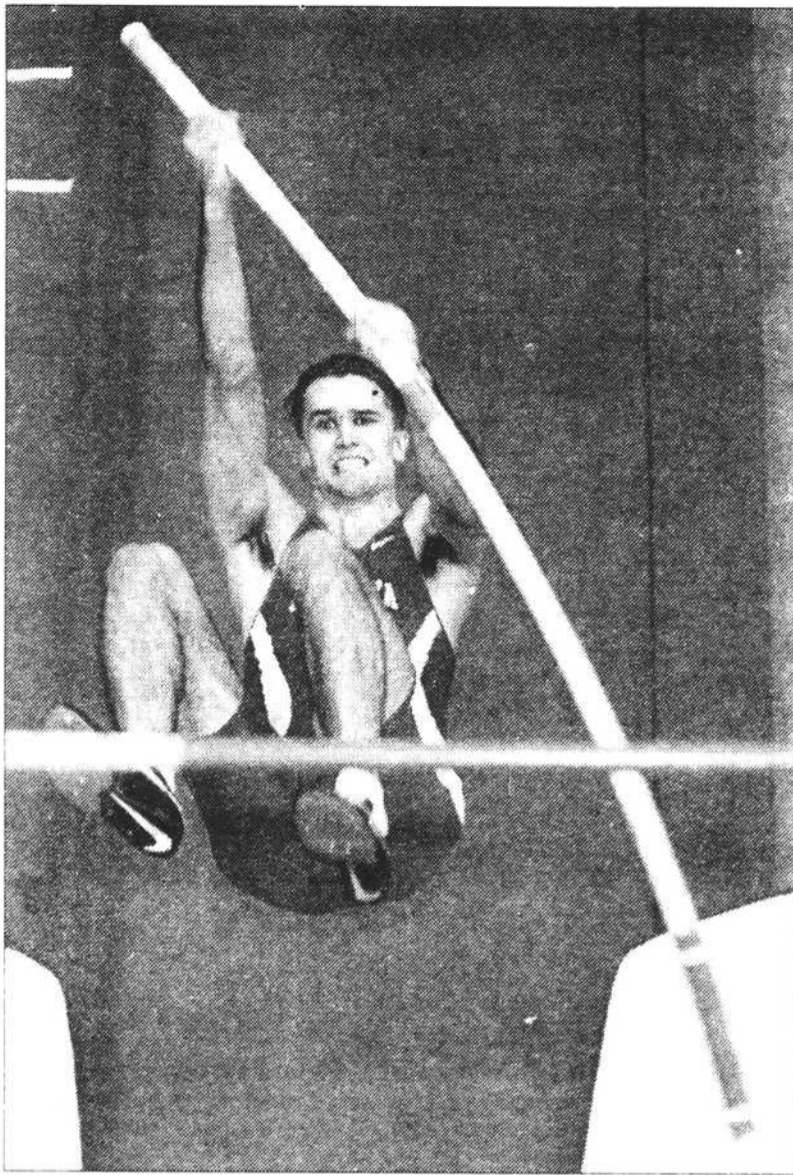
The Longhorns were favored going into the meet and scored enough points in just five events to outscore NU for the women's crown, denying Nebraska its 19th consecutive indoor track title.

Texas' 156 points surpassed runner-up Nebraska (101) and third-place Kansas State (70).

"That was a really good meet for us," NU Head Coach Gary Pepin said of the women's performance. "The score really shows how good Texas really is."

NU managed to place second despite lacking an individual champion for the first time since 1979.

The Huskers were propelled by



MATT MILLER/DN

NEBRASKA POLE VAULTER Scott Nachtigal vaulted to a personal-best 17 feet, ¾ inch for a fourth-place finish at the Big 12 Indoor Track Championships in Ames, Iowa. The NU men's team won its fifth consecutive conference title.

a group of distance runners, including senior Christina Blackmer, who finished second in the 3,000-meter run and third in the 5,000 meters.

"Everyone's putting their best efforts out there, and that's all we can ask for," Blackmer said. "It's sad that we're not going to win the meet, but we've certainly done our

best and left everything out on the track."

Freshmen Amy Wiseman and Kate Centerwall finished fourth and sixth, respectively, behind Blackmer in the 3,000 meters. Wiseman also finished sixth in the 5,000 meters.

Huskers eke out Classic title

Coach maintains home streak despite 'bad day'

BY DARREN IVY
Assignment Reporter

The streak is over. Coach Dan Kendig is no longer undefeated at home.

That is what the No. 19 Nebraska women's gymnastics team thought after it finished the final routine — the floor exercise — at the Masters Classic Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



Wilkinson

But the Cornhuskers were in for a surprise when the final scores were announced, indicating NU had eked out a 193.35 to 193.30 win over No. 17 Michigan State. No. 8 Kentucky finished third with a score of 192.35, and Rhode Island was fourth with 190.075.

"I was just as shocked as anyone else when they announced us as champions," Kendig said.

Career-best scores by Nicole Wilkinson and a season-high floor exercise score helped the Cornhuskers (9-4) offset four falls on the uneven bars en route to claiming their fourth straight Masters Classic title.

By winning the title, NU extended its home winning streak

"I was just as shocked as anyone else when they announced us as champions."

DAN KENDIG
NU coach

to 21 matches. It also kept Kendig undefeated at home as a Nebraska coach.

The streak seemed all but over after NU gymnasts missed four bar routines and scored a 47.70. The only two gymnasts who didn't fall off were Nicole Wilkinson and Laurie McLaughlin.

"It was a freak thing," said Wilkinson, who tied McLaughlin for first place on the bars with scores of 9.90.

But NU recovered with solid beam routines — led by freshman Amy Ringo's career-best 9.85. A beam score of 48.375 brought the Huskers within 0.40 points of first-place Michigan State.

That's when things got wild. For the final rotation, MSU, 18-3, competed on the balance beam and NU was on the floor.

Jess Swift got NU off to a good start on the floor with a 9.65. Swift and her teammates scored a season-high 49.00 while claiming the top three spots. Misty Oxford was first with a

9.90, Courtney Brown was second with a career-best 9.85 and Wilkinson was third with a 9.80.

Although the Huskers scored well, they were afraid the Spartans had held on for the victory.

MSU's final four gymnasts had perfect routines, but they couldn't score well enough to make up for falls by their first two gymnasts. The result was a score of 48.55, which put them 0.05 points behind NU.

"I was so proud of how the team fought back," Kendig said. "I told them they still had a chance to win heading into the floor exercise, and our five gymnasts came through for us."

Wilkinson won her first all-around with a 39.175. Brink finished second with a 38.875.

Wilkinson said that although NU struggled, the meet would help down the line.

"It gave us confidence that we can beat good teams even if we have a bad day."

New pitch, new motion help Olson save career

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — If time took the hop off Gregg Olson's fastball, it left his curve alone and gave him a keen sense of how to keep his career alive.

While changing his pitching motion last year to reduce the strain on a perpetually sore elbow, the Omaha Northwest graduate also picked up a changeup that increases his chances of making the Arizona Diamondbacks as a setup man.

"He doesn't have some of the great stuff that he used to have," Pitching Coach Mark Connor said. "But his fastball is still 90 mph; and better, his curveball is still an out pitch, and the changeup has really helped him out. I think it's going to prolong his career."

Olson was a bullpen star for the Baltimore Orioles, who chose him No. 4 overall in the 1988 amateur draft. The next season, he was the AL rookie of the year after setting the league record for saves by a rookie (27). He had at least 20 saves in each of his next four seasons, the first major leaguer to do so, and became the Orioles' all-time save leader

(160) in 1993.

But then came elbow trouble. The Orioles told him to have reconstructive surgery, but Olson opted for rehabilitation. By the end of the season, Olson was nearly back to form, but his years of playing for Baltimore were over.

"I think I hurt my elbow through overuse," Olson said. "I was worn out."

From 1994-97, he played for five different teams. He was with the Royals for the second time last year when coaches noticed a forward lean that was affecting his motion. After correcting his mechanics in June, Olson went 4-3 with a 3.02 earned-run average.

Now he has a new lease on his career. In his first appearance with the Diamondbacks Saturday, he pitched a perfect inning against the Chicago White Sox.

"A lot of people think this guy is 40 years old," Manager Buck Showalter said. "He's only 31, and if his arm comes back like it did last year, we'll have a very usable piece."

Read and earn credit at your pace this summer

Add hours to your schedule while you:

- Take course work with you to summer destinations.
- Study at home at your own pace.

Check it out March 11:

■ Meet instructors 5-6:30 p.m. March 11 at the Summer Reading Courses all-program meeting. Location: Clifford Hardin Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets.

■ Choose from 32 undergraduate courses in 13 departments. Read the Wednesday, March 4, Daily Nebraskan for a full listing of courses, instructors and alternate meeting times.

Call for your Reading Course catalog:

472-1392



University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Division of Continuing Studies
Department of Part-Time Student Services and Degree Options
UNL is a nondiscriminatory institution.



HALF-PRICE STUDENT TICKETS!

Sérgio & Odair
Assad
Guitar Duo

Tuesday, March 3
8pm
Kimball
Recital Hall



Generous support provided by Dietze Music House Inc. and Metromail Corp.

LIED CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Tickets: 402-472-4747 or 800-432-3231.
Box Office Hours: M-F 11am-5:30pm.

Lied Center programming is supported by the Friends of Lied and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Mid-America Arts Alliance and the Nebraska Arts Council.