

**Weekend Wrap-Up**

**Baseball team falls short**

Sandwiched between rainouts, the Nebraska baseball team lost its conference opener 9-3 to Baylor Saturday night in Waco, Texas.

Nebraska lefty starter Kenny Duebelbeis was touched for seven runs on nine hits through six innings. Right-hander Timothy DeHart followed Duebelbeis and allowed two runs on two hits while tossing two-thirds of an inning.

Trailing 5-0 in the top of the sixth inning, Husker designated hitter Ken Harvey blasted his fifth homer of the season—a solo shot to right.

Baylor added two in the bottom of the sixth but the Huskers closed the gap to 7-3 with two runs in the top of the seventh. The Bears added two runs in the bottom half of the inning for the final margin.

The Huskers are scheduled to face Northern Iowa Tuesday at Buck Beltzer Field before hosting Kansas this weekend.

**Huskies win fifth straight**

Rain forced a quick end to the Nebraska softball team's weekend, but not before the 15th-ranked Cornhuskers beat Southwest Missouri State 4-3 Saturday at the Arkansas Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark.

NU broke open a 1-1 tie in the fifth inning when designated hitter Christie McCoy singled in a runner to make it 2-1.

Freshman Jaime Fuente extended that lead to 4-1 in the top of the sixth, and sophomore pitcher Jenny Voss held off the Lady Bears to pick up her seventh victory of the season. The Huskers moved to 10-4 this season and won their fifth consecutive game.

NU was supposed to face Arkansas and No. 24 DePaul Sunday and finish a rain-delayed contest with Northern Illinois.

**Jayhawks downs NU**

No. 24 Kansas proved to be too much for the Nebraska men's tennis team as the Cornhuskers fell to the Jayhawks 5-2 Friday at the Woods Tennis Center.

NU won the doubles point, and Junior Dinko Verzi defeated KU's Xavier Avila in the No. 1 singles to take a 2-0 lead. Kansas won the last five points to hand NU its third loss of the season, and its first in six matches.

NU fell to 8-3 and 1-2 in the Big 12 Conference; the Jayhawks improved to 4-6 and 1-1.

Verzi moved to 10-1 this season in the No. 1 singles slot.

**Women upset Texas A&M**

The No. 67 Nebraska women's tennis team defeated No. 33 Texas A&M Sunday at Woods Tennis Center.

Nebraska improved to 6-3 overall and 1-2 in the Big 12 Conference.

"It's a great win for us," NU Coach Scott Jacobson said. "The kids just played their hearts out. Hopefully this will give us a leg up with respect to our confidence level."

The Huskers were led in singles action by Sandra Noetzel, who posted a win at No. 1 singles and Jennifer Hart, who won at No. 2 singles.

**Bowlers finish fourth**

Led by all-tournament selection Stacy Rogers, the Nebraska women's bowling team finished fourth at the Buckeye Collegiate Bowling Tournament in Columbus, Ohio.

**Gym meet snowed out**

The Nebraska women's gymnastics meet against BYU scheduled for today was canceled.

The meet was rescheduled for Wednesday.

# Hot start propels men's gymnasts

BY DARREN IVY  
Assignment Reporter

Not even a Nebraska blizzard could deny Bill Mulholland from competing in his last home meet as a Cornhusker.

With two shovels and a lot of patience, Mulholland left his south Lincoln home for the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Along the way he battled negative wind chills, blowing snow and unplowed streets, but he eventually made it safely.

"I got stuck a couple times," Mulholland said. "I shoveled by way. It took me one hour and it normally takes 20 minutes."

While it was cold outside, a hot start and a school-record floor-exercise score inside enabled the No. 1 NU men's gymnastics team to hold on for a 230.675 to 230.175 victory over No. 4 Ohio State before 268 die-hard fans Sunday night.

NU gymnasts wasted little time setting the tone for the meet.

On the first event, the floor exercise, the Huskers posted four career-best marks en route to scoring a school-record 38.975, surpassing the old mark of 38.85 set last year.

Mulholland and junior Marshall Nelson tied for first with 9.775 scores.

"We started out really good," said Coach Francis Allen. "We put them in a hole they couldn't dig out of."

While the weather had no ill effects on NU, OSU Coach Miles Avery thought it contributed to his team's slow start.

"It's hard sitting in a hotel for two days and not even being able to go out," Avery said.

The Buckeyes trailed by 1.525 points after the floor exercise and pommel horse, but they battled back the rest of the meet to challenge NU.

"I was proud they at least dug

“*We started out really good. We put them in a hole they couldn't dig out of.*”

FRANCIS ALLEN  
NU coach

out and gave themselves a chance to win," Avery said.

OSU cut the lead to 0.350 going into the final event and came within one Husker fall of upsetting Nebraska.

On the high bar, NU had only five competitors and Derek Leiter fell. That meant Nelson, last year's national champion on the event, needed to hit his routine.

"(Falling) is not an option," Nelson said. "I was just thinking about sticking by dismount."

And stick it he did. He scored a 9.80 to finish in fourth place.

Although NU jumped out to the early lead, Nelson said he expected a battle.

"We knew they weren't going to give it to us," Nelson said. They fought and fought the whole meet."

Avery said the competitive meet will help both teams down the line.

"Nebraska looks great," Avery said. "We hope to see them and California-Berkeley in the (NCAA) team finals."

## Nationals in future for seven

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over Munoz.

Tobin, who claimed the top spot at 190 pounds, battled the No. 3 seed Pat Poplizio of Oklahoma State for the title. At 2:20 in the first period, Tobin scored his first of four take-downs in the match that led to a 12-3 major decision.

"I just came out and wanted to wrestle hard the whole match," Tobin said. "I just try to relax as much as I can, and if I'm relaxed, I'm going to beat my opponent."

Three other Huskers — Brad Canoyer, Temoer Terry and J.R. Plienis — fell just short of a conference title.

Top-seeded Canoyer (18-7) was upset 10-3 by freshman Michael Lightner of Oklahoma in the 134-pound weight class.

At 158 pounds No. 1 Terry fell to No. 2 Hardell Moore of Oklahoma State. Moore won with a 6-2 decision, marking his first career win over the Husker. Terry now leads the series 4-1.

"I feel disappointed in Temoer Terry and Brad Canoyer's performance," Neumann said, "but I think this is the first time all year that I have been. I'd rather have it happen here than at the National Championships."

Fourth-seeded heavyweight Plienis (30-10) got off to a strong start in the opening round, posting the lone NU fall of the tournament in 1:08 over No. 5 seed Thomas Patterson of Missouri.

In the semifinal round, Plienis upset top-seeded John Henry Ward of Oklahoma with a 9-2 decision. With the two victories, Plienis joined Vering and three others as the only Husker freshmen to record 30 or more wins.

Plienis just missed his first conference title, falling 3-2 to Ben Lee of Oklahoma State in the final bout. Plienis' second-place finish was enough to qualify him for the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskers will send seven wrestlers to the national tournament. Five — Vering, Tobin, Canoyer, Terry and Plienis — qualified by finishing in the top three in their respective weight classes at the Big 12 meet. Paul Gomez (118) and Jeramie Welder (126) earned wild-card berths.

"I just wanted to go out and qualify for nationals," Plienis said. "I just want to go out and be nothing less than All-American."

## KU leaves NU flattened



MATT MILLER/DN

NEBRASKA GUARD TYRONN LUE attempts a reverse layup against Big 12 first-team forward Paul Pierce in Saturday's loss to Kansas. He missed.

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the game with 17 points, but made only 7 of 19 shots from the field — including 3 of 10 from behind the 3-point line.

Lue said that KU's tough man-to-man defense gave him problems.

"They did a good job covering me," Lue said. "I may have forced some shots, but that's the way it goes."

Besides LaFrentz, forwards Paul Pierce and Lester Earl and guard Kenny Gregory all scored in double figures with 17, 16 and 11 points respectively. Belcher had 12 points for the Huskers.

The loss on Saturday followed a 65-46 victory over Baylor in the first round Friday afternoon. In that game Nebraska held Baylor to 26.9 percent shooting for the game and 14 percent from the 3-point line.

Lue led all scorers with 22 points while Belcher and freshman forward Chad Johnson added 11 for the Huskers. It was the first-ever win for NU in the Big 12 Tournament.

**Note:**

Approximately 200 tickets for the Huskers' NCAA Tournament game will go on sale this morning at the Nebraska Athletic Ticket Office. Tickets will be available for \$27 and will be good for NU's first-round and second-round games.

## Don't miss the party of the year!



1997 National Championship Celebration  
Friday, April 24 at 7 pm

1998 Spring Game  
Saturday, April 25 at 12:30 pm

Purchase your tickets for this extravaganza in advance from 8 am - 5 pm Monday, March 16 through Friday, March 20 at the Ticket Office\*. Tickets are \$6 (includes the celebration and the spring game).

\*Athletic Ticket Office • 625 Stadium Drive, Ste. E