

Hardabura keys NU win in men's gym

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yet, NU senior co-captain Jim Koziol, who was hampered by an elbow injury coming into the dual, suffered leg cramps on the rings.

That's when an unlikely hero saved the day. With NU staring defeat in the face, freshman Grant Clinton volunteered to takeover for Koziol in the vault and then started the team off on the h-bar, their final event.

Although his scores by no means lifted the team, Allen said his courage was the deciding factor in the win.

"Jim was hurt and Grant came to me, said, 'What the hell, I'll do the vault,'" Allen said.

"And after he hit his bar routine, we knew we were going to cruise home. That really made a difference."

Hardabura did too. His final horizontal bar routine electrified the crowd of 1,352 and powered the Huskers home.

He edged out his teammate, junior Derek Leiter, by just .05 points for the all-around. Leiter won the vault with a season-high 9.8 and finished second in three other events.

Meanwhile, NU junior Heather Brink finished runner-up in the women's all-around to Oklahoma's Amber McCracken. Brink was originally declared the winner at 38.925, edging McCracken out by .025 points.

But the judges realized shortly after that, in the midst of a nearly flawless floor exercise routine, that Brink had stepped out of bounds, a .10 reduction, and awarded the title to McCracken.

The Huskers scored season highs as a team in the first two events, the vault and uneven bars. Four of the six NU vaulters scored their own season highs, including Misty Oxford, who won the event.

"Overall, I'm pleased with where we're going and the team we have," Women's Coach Dan Kendig said.

"We just need to make sure we all stay on the same page. Bottom line - we're hitting our routines."

Huskers rally to beat Aggies, lose two others

BY ADAM KLINKER
Senior staff writer

Maybe it was the rain. Maybe it was the rain and the Arizona sun. Maybe it was the rain and the Arizona sun and Scott Fries and a few Cornhusker rallies.

Whatever the reasons, the Nebraska baseball team got off to a winning start in its season opener with a 9-6 come-from-behind, rain-delayed victory over New Mexico State on Friday.

But Friday's efforts were short-lived, following consecutive, one-run losses on Saturday and Sunday.

Yet Friday, behind Fries' 5 1/3-inning relief effort, in which he allowed just one run, five hits and a walk, the Huskers overcame an early 5-1 Aggie onslaught. Fries also struck out five to pick up the win in relief of starting pitcher Shane Komine.

In the bottom of the fourth and still trailing 5-1, third baseman Danny Kimura led off with a single. His stay at first base was short, however, as a Jeff Hedman triple sent him all the way around in for the first run of the rally.

First baseman Ken Harvey scored Hedman with a single and a subsequent Erik Mumm double scored Harvey from first to pull NU within one run.

The Aggies got one back in the top of the seventh, but another Husker rally

in the bottom half of the seventh frame would prove to put the game beyond reach for NMSU.

With all the help he needed on the offensive end, Fries proceeded to retire the Aggies with little trouble in the late innings.

"It was pretty big for us to come back," NU Coach Dave Van Horn said. "Usually it takes you a month to win a game like that, but this will give our team a lot of confidence. The bottom line is, tonight we got the nervousness out and got some great experience."

But Saturday's game would prove to be a little too much for the Huskers as they were held at bay, but could not capitalize late in a 4-3 loss to Oregon State.


Leading 3-1 going into the bottom of the eighth and buffered by the combined efforts of Jay Sirianni and Jarod Bearinger on the mound, NU saw its lead thin into the vapid Arizona sky and then dissipate as OSU pieced together a home run, a double and a single to tie the game 3-3 and drive Bearinger from the hill. The Beavers won it in the ninth.

On Sunday, the Husker misfortune continued as NU lost another one-run game in the ninth to San Diego State.

Behind 11-9 going into the final frame, the Huskers scored two runs to tie the game before being retired. In the bottom half, Steve Hale, after 3 1/3 innings on the hill, gave up the deciding run and took the loss for NU.

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