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Huskers get 2nd at meet

Pine and Bergman score big wins at Big 12s

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

The No. 14 Nebraska men's swimming and diving teams were able to hold off No. 12 Texas A&M for second place at the Big 12 Championships in Austin, Texas.

NU was the bridesmaid for the third year in a row as the second-ranked Longhorns ran away with the meet for the third consecutive season as well. UT scored 613.50 point compared to NU's 457 in the three-day competition.

Coach Cal Bentz was pleased though with NU's ability to hold off higher ranked A&M.

"We closed the door on them (A&M) yesterday (Friday night), but after the morning preliminaries they opened it back up," Bentz said. "Our team rallied (Saturday), and we managed to hold off an extremely talented team."

A trio of record-breaking athletes led the Huskers at the championships. Adam Pine, a junior from Australia, established a new meet record in the

100-yard butterfly with a time of 46.71 seconds.

Freshman Anthony Rogis set a new NU mark in the preliminaries of the 200-yard freestyle before breaking the conference mark in the finals, finishing with 1:34.97 mark, the fastest in the nation this year.

Not to be outdone, senior diver Danny Bergman also established a new Big 12 meet record in the three-meter springboard competition of 600.90 in the 11-dive competition.

Bentz said his team got some great performances at the meet, noting the achievements of Pine, Rogis and Bergman.

"We really had some stellar performances," Bentz said. "Adam (Pine) and Anthony's (Rogis) times speak for themselves, and for Danny (Bergman) to win the event on the final dive, shows you his mettle."

Other Husker accomplishments of note include a second and third place finish in the 1-meter by Bergman and Eric Cook, respectively. A school record and NCAA provisional qualifying time was made by the 400-yard

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This was a great meet for us and we had some great times. The Big 12 conference has gotten stronger every year.

CAL BENTZ
NU swimming coach

medley relay team of David Foster, Valery Kalmikovs, Pine and Rogis.

All in all, the meet was good for the Huskers and showed why the Big 12 is one of the top swimming conferences in the country.

"This was a great meet for us and we had some great times," Bentz said. "The Big 12 conference has gotten stronger every year. This is a great conference, the competition is great and the coaches do an excellent job."

Wrestlers get a tough finish at Big 12s, look to NCAAs

SNYDER from page 12

However, Snyder said he would give his medal back "in a minute" if his team could have done better.

The fourth-ranked Cornhuskers entered the tournament hoping to finish behind OSU after defeating ISU, OU and MU during the regular season. Neumann also expected at least eight of the 10 NU wrestlers to qualify for the national tournament.

Instead, Neumann will take seven grapplers to the NCAAs. Six Huskers — Paul Gomez, 125; Jose DeAnda, 141; Snyder, 157; Brad Vering, 184; Scott Munson, 197 and J.R. Plienis, heavyweight — secured automatic NCAA spots with top-three finishes in their respective weight classes. NU freshman Joe Henson earned one of the five wildcard berths into the championships after finishing fourth at 149.

To the surprise of Neumann, Nebraska's 133-pounder, Todd Beckerman, did not receive a wildcard.

"Some of the guys wrestled great," Neumann said. "They looked like they had improved from the last time they wrestled."

"But not everybody did. We've got some stuff to work on, but I think we'll do better at nationals."

The tournament opened with a pigtail round in which Beckerman,

"
Joe Henson had five seconds left, and he would have been in the finals. He dominated that match."

TIM NEUMANN
NU wrestling coach

Zac Dominguez (165) and Charles McTorry (174) earned victories for NU and advanced them into the first round.

The semifinal round of competition was highlighted by a win at 184 when Vering, a Big 12 Champion last year, scored a 5-4 decision over OSU's Mark Munoz, who had beaten Vering twice earlier this season.

In the same round, Munson was upset by OU's Waymon May 2-1, and Henson lost a 7-5 heartbreaker at the buzzer to OU's Jared Frayer at 149.

"Joe Henson had five seconds left, and he would have been in the finals," Neumann said. "He dominated that match. It was a freshman mistake that he will never ever make again."

NU advanced four wrestlers — DeAnda, Snyder, Vering and Plienis — to the championship finals, where Snyder found himself in almost the exact situation he did on Jan. 31 in a home dual with ISU's Maldonado.

On Saturday, Snyder again faced Maldonado, who sought revenge after Snyder earned a 3-2 decision in the January dual to give the Huskers a one-point, come-from-behind victory over the Cyclones.

With injured ribs, Snyder admitted being somewhat hesitant in his shots against Maldonado in the Big 12 finals. After no scoring in the first period, Maldonado earned an escape in the second. Snyder responded with an escape in the third, tying the score at one and sending the match into overtime.

With 28 seconds remaining in the overtime period, Snyder scored the first takedown and won the match 3-1. Snyder joined just a handful of Huskers in NU's history by becoming a conference champion as a freshman.

"There's nothing better than wrestling a senior in front of his home crowd in the finals," Snyder said. "It's exciting, and that's how I like it."

Women gymnasts win at BYU

BYU from page 14

heating up, as Brown recorded her second consecutive vault title with a career-high-tying 9.90. Oxford, who finished third behind Brown on the vault (9.80), tied for the floor exercise title with BYU's Natalie Broekman (9.90), who also won the individual all-around title at 39.175.

Junior Nicole Wilkinson, NU's only all-around competitor, finished second with a score of 39.05. It was the third time in four meets she scored a 39 or better in the all-around.

"We thought the scoring was a little bit tight tonight, but I'm still really pleased with the way we did," NU Women's Coach Dan Kendig said.

The Husker men were not quite so fortunate. No. 8 BYU (11-2) was too tough at home, as they nipped Nebraska 226.00-225.95, handing No. 9 NU (8-2) its second straight

defeat. The Huskers were able to defeat No. 7 Michigan State (4-9), which scored a 225.675 to round out the triangular.

Unlike the Husker women, who were able to tie or win every individual event title, only one Husker men's gymnast won an event, sophomore Jason Hardabura. Hardabura continued his sensational season on the horizontal bar, scoring a 9.675 to edge teammate Derek Leiter (9.65) in the Huskers' strongest event.

But Leiter did get the better of his teammate in the all-around, scoring a 56.65 to finish second behind BYU's Guard Young (57.20). Hardabura came in third with a 56.40.

Some other Husker starters, namely senior Jim Koziol and freshman Dusty Jakub, were still hurting from injuries they suffered in last week's loss at Oklahoma. Koziol did compete, while Jakub remained side-

lined. Although it was not scoring at its best and was not at full strength heading into the season's final stretch, which starts with a dual against No. 1 Penn State in Lincoln next week, Head Coach Francis Allen said he still believed his team was in good shape.

"We hit 78 percent of our routines, and that's not great, but it's a good score for us on the road," Allen said. "We hung in there pretty well."

Nebraska looked invincible two weeks ago in victories over Minnesota and then-No. 4 Iowa at the Devaney Center, but have stumbled the last two weeks at Oklahoma and BYU. But Allen said a huge home meet with the Nittany Lions would be just what the team needed, and they'd be ready.

"We just need to clean up our act a little, and we'll be fine," Allen said.