

SPORTS

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Ingram reaching to meet her potential

NU jumper inspired by home town, father

BY JOSH CAMENZIND
Staff writer

For Dalhia Ingram, her career in track and field began with pancakes.

It started in her hometown of Liberal, an isolated town nestled in southwestern Kansas. An annual celebration in Liberal called Pancake Day was the occasion where school was let out and Ingram first learned to love running.

"We used to have this day in my hometown called Pancake Day," Ingram said. "I don't know if you've ever heard of it before, but we used to get out of school for it and all the elementary students would run to see who would race that day."

Ingram and all the other school children would run on that day. It's where she gained her roots as a track and field competitor. And years later, Ingram came to Nebraska looking to get away — but not too far away.

The small town holds important roots for the junior. Ingram established herself in Liberal, owning the second-longest jump in high school history in the triple jump at 42 feet, 11¾ inches.

Liberal contains Ingram's first influential coach, who she had in high school. It contains her inspiration in the father she lost as a young girl.

"My dad died when I was six, and just to know that he would be so proud of me is a great motivation and inspiration," Ingram said.

Ingram uses that inspiration to achieve her



MATT MILLER/DN

NU TRIPLE JUMPER Dalhia Ingram is still looking to break through with a big 44-foot jump in the event. "She's been close a couple of times, but she hasn't quite got there yet," Coach Gary Pepin said.

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Brink lightens up for NU

BY JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

At a silent post-practice meeting, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team members sat on the mat in silence and listened intently to Coach Dan Kendig.

But as usual, one gymnast, who happens to be one of the most dynamic in the NU's history, couldn't stand the silence any longer. She interrupted Kendig, who was going over the team's agenda for their trip to Salt Lake City for the NCAA Championships this weekend.

"In college gymnastics, you feel like a big, old lady."

HEATHER BRINK
NU gymnast

"Oh, yeah, tell all your parents to wear red Thursday, and black and white Friday," she shouted, as dazed looks spread across the other Cornhuskers' faces. The statement had nothing to do with what Kendig was talking about.

The gazes became smiles and laughs. It was just Heather Brink being Heather Brink. The Huskers are used to such quirkiness.

Brink is loud in everything she does, especially on the gym floor, where she has become Nebraska's best-ever all-around gymnast. Even when she's just talking in normal conversation, the whole gymnasium can hear her. All the time.

And according to her teammates and coaches, that's a good thing.

"She just likes to be the center of attention," said fellow junior Laura Ohlendorf, one of Brink's best friends.

"Sometimes, just in the middle of practice, she'll just get in the middle of the gym and start dancing or do something stupid. Whatever she does, you can't help but laugh at her."

But that's exactly why Brink's teammates need her off-the-wall presence.

But things haven't always been that way with Brink and the NU team in practice. She's always been loud, but not necessarily the "good" loud they describe her as today. They've seen the



MATT MILLER/DN

JUNIOR HEATHER BRINK keys the Nebraska women's gymnastic team emotionally and helps the Huskers as they go into the NCAA Championships this weekend.

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Huskers pound Western Illinois with strong hits

■ NU scores early and often in beating the Leathernecks 10-4 and 14-1 in a doubleheader.

BY JAY SAUNDERS
Staff writer

With success scoring runs against Chicago State earlier in the season and a doubleheader sweep against Western Illinois on Wednesday, the Nebraska baseball team might want to think about joining that Mid-Continent Conference.

The Cornhuskers rattled 24 runs off the Leathernecks, who is in first place in the MCC, in two games in front of 695 at Buck Beltzer Stadium. Nebraska won the first game 10-4, then took the night cap 14-1.

"I'd like to join this conference," freshman Adam Stern said. "We could feast off their pitching."

Stern went 2-4 and scored three runs in the second game. Stern wasn't the only player to rip the cover off the ball.

The Huskers (29-11) were able to get hit and run production from all nine batters in the doubleheader.

Nebraska	10	14
Western Illinois	4	1

"We hit the ball up and down the lineup," NU Coach Dave Van Horn said. "We hit the ball hard even when we made outs."

Western Illinois (11-24) wasn't able to get those outs before the Huskers made an assault on the scoreboard.

In game one, Nebraska jumped out early by scoring three runs in each of the first two innings. The second game saw a scoring explosion, but it was a gradual one.

"We scored runs in just about every inning," Van Horn said. "Before we knew it, we had five, six, seven runs."

Even though the offense has been consistent throughout the season, the pitching staff gave up only five runs in two games.

Junior Scott Fries pitched six innings in game one. Fries got the win, giving up three runs and four hits. Three pitchers, including sophomore Brandon Penas, who got the win in his first start of the season, had a no-hitter for 3 1/3 innings.

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