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Husker women get 6th

BY JOHN GASKINS
Staff writer

It was drilled into his gymnasts' heads all season like a broken record.

It was probably the most repeated quote in the sports section of Omaha and Lincoln newspapers this spring.

But Friday night's Nebraska women's gymnastics team's performance was a perfect example of why Head Coach Dan Kendig uttered the phrase "we must hit our routines" so many times.

The Huskers followed up a successful Thursday night performance that qualified them for Friday night's NCAA Super Six Finals in Salt Lake City with a disappointing 194.800 score in which they had to count three falls.

The performance, NU's worst since a Feb. 22 loss to Washington and Arizona, netted them sixth place.

"We dug a hole on every event," Kendig said. "It's really hard to compete when you fall on every event."

The heavily favored Georgia Gym Dogs won their second consecutive national title, their fifth in school history, ousting Michigan 196.850-196.550. Alabama finished third at 195.950.

The Huskers got the fall bug in their first event, the uneven bars. Surprisingly, two of their best gymnasts, junior Nicole Wilkinson and junior All-American Heather Brink, fell during their routines.

Lavy, Ingram put on strong showing

BY JOSH CAMENZIND
Staff writer

Nebraska had a strong showing in the jumping events at the Penn Relays this past weekend.

Dahlia Ingram came away with a third-place finish in the long jump on Thursday with a mark of 20-6 inches. She recorded the NCAA provisional qualifying mark on her first jump and led through five rounds before being overtaken by Pittsburgh's Treacia Smith on her final jump (20-8).

Ingram also finished with a fourth-place finish Friday. Ingram jumped 42-2, also an NCAA provisional mark.

High jumper Shane Lavy continued NU's success with a third-place finish and provisional mark of 7-3. He finished behind Mark Boswell of Texas, who cleared 7-4½.

Sheldon Hutchinson rounded out the Husker competition on Saturday with a fifth-place finish in the triple jump. Hutchinson leaped 50-10¼ to assure that all three Huskers finished in the top five of every competition.

While most of the team was in BYU for the Clarence Robinson Invitational, the rest competed in Kansas City, Mo., at the UMKC Invite.

The 1,500-meter run proved to be very successful for the women as they posted three of the top five times in the event. Jeannette Zimmer won the run with a time of 4:36.87. Amy Wiseman finished third and clocked in at 4:40.78.

A time of 10:21.46 gained a fourth-place finish for Melinda Mohr in the 3,000-meter run. Deb Osteen ran a 10:27.16 to gain eighth place in the same event.

Rachel Jones finished second and third in the triple and long jumps, respectively. Jones jumped 35-9½ in the triple jump and 18-1 in the long jump for her marks. Karissa Hagedorn finished 10th in the javelin with a heave of 101-8.

The men came away with first and third place in the pole vault. Tom Richmond won the event with a vault of 16-6¾ and Sean Chuma cleared 14-11½ for third.

Results from BYU were not available.

It was the second straight time Brink, who shares the school record in the event, fell, repeating her Regional Championship slip from two weeks ago. The team scored a sub-par 48.350 to start the competition, not exactly the way Kendig envisioned starting the run for Nebraska's first national championship.

"We started with a mistake on bars and that put a lot more pressure on the beam team," Kendig said.

The Huskers moved to beam, their top-scoring event throughout the regular season, and again took a fall. It once again came from Wilkinson, one of their best beam performers over the last two seasons.

"It's the most mentally painful event because it's so easy to think about not falling instead of your routine," Assistant Coach Rhonda Faehn-Tetreault said earlier this season.

"And it really gets tough when the person in front of you falls. It gets to be a real snowball effect."

Nebraska took a well-needed bye in the third rotation before moving to floor exercise, where five solid routines gave them a 48.975 score.

It finished up on the vault, where Brink recovered with her own school-record tying 9.95, tying her for the event's title with Georgia's Karin Lichey. The team finished off a night where they improved after each event, with a 49.0.

Despite the shaky performance,

Kendig said his team had nothing to hang their heads about in qualifying for their second Super Six in three seasons.

"I'm really proud of this team and they had an incredible year," Kendig said. "I hated to see the seniors end their collegiate careers this way."

But two of NU's five departing seniors, Courtney Brown and Misty Oxford, earned All-American honors. Oxford was named to first team on the floor exercise and second team in the all-around, while Brown earned second team honors on the vault, floor and beam.

Meanwhile, Brink became the first NU women's gymnast to earn All-America honors in three consecutive years with first team honors on the vault, floor and all-around.

Brink and Oxford qualified for Saturday's individual event finals. Brink captured fourth on the floor exercise with a 9.85 score and 11th on the vault, while Oxford took 11th on the floor.

But Kendig took the team's top honor of the weekend, accepting the national coach of the year award at the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Awards banquet Saturday. It was the first time he had won the award.

Kendig, who has never lost a regular-season home meet at the Devaney Center (25-0) or a Big 8/Big 12 Championship (six for six), has compiled a 98-21 record in six seasons at NU and won his 200th career victory in 16 years of coaching earlier this season.

ISU pounds Voss as Huskers falter

BY BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

Husker pitcher Jenny Voss returned to her home state of Iowa on Sunday, but she didn't receive a warm welcome.

After racking up 121 victories, 71 shutouts, 16 no-hitters, five perfect games and 1,152 strikeouts in her high school career, it appeared that she owned the state.

But Sunday, the Iowa State softball team gave a resounding "no" to that line of thinking, as it banged out 10 hits and six runs in its 6-3 victory over Nebraska.

The loss dropped NU to 25-15 on the year and 8-5 in the Big 12 Conference as ISU improved to 19-26 overall and 3-8 in conference play.

The Cyclones got out of the gate

quickly with three straight hits and an error to open a 3-0 at the end of the first inning.

NU got on the board in the third when Jenifer Williams took ISU pitcher Mandy Loushin deep for a solo shot.

In the fourth, Williams came to the plate again and wasted no time in delivering a double to left to score Jessica Draemal.

The score held at 3-2 until the fifth, when ISU binged for three more runs. NU attempted a late rally but could only muster one more run.

Three Cyclones had two hits and two RBI to move Loushin to 10-12 on the season. Voss picked up the loss, falling to 16-6.

Nebraska will next be in action on Wednesday, when they travel to Omaha to face Creighton for the fifth time this season.

Texas takes regular-season tennis championship

From staff reports

Although it ended with a loss, the regular season was a good one for the Nebraska men's tennis team.

NU fell to No. 7 Texas 6-1 Saturday, leaving the Huskers with a 4-4 conference mark and 9-11 overall.

The only bright spot for NU came from No. 5 singles Kai Rieke. Rieke beat the Longhorns' Nick Crowell 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 for NU's only win of the match.

No. 1 singles Dinko Verzi, No. 2 Lance Mills, No. 4 Juan Hamdan and No. 6 Andrew Wiese all lost in straight

sets. No. 3 Jorge Abos-Sanchez lost in the third set, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Texas' No. 1, 2 and 3 singles are ranked in the top 100 nationally.

With the win, Texas claimed its third Big 12 regular-season championship in a row.

NU went into Saturday's match on a four-game winning streak. The Huskers will have to get over the loss to Texas quickly: The Big 12 conference tournament starts Wednesday.

Seeded No. 4, the Huskers will face Texas Tech in the first round of the tournament. NU beat the Red Raiders in Lincoln earlier in the season 4-3.

NU takes bowling championship

From staff reports

The Nebraska women's bowling team won the 1999 National Intercollegiate Bowling Championship by defeating Fresno State 2-1 this week in Wichita, Kan.

NU used four consecutive strikes to earn a come-from-behind victory in game one 194-190. The Huskers trailed by 20 entering the eighth frame, but

Kim Claus and Jennifer Daughtery secured the win.

Daughtery threw a solid first shot in the 10th, which was followed by a cross over in the 11th to set up the final shot. With the team leading by a pin, she threw a strike to cinch the victory.

FSU roared back in game two to win 222-199, but in the end it was NU's tournament for the taking as it took an early lead in the deciding game that it would never relinquish.