

# Francis ALLEN #3

By JOHN GASKINS  
Staff writer

A couple years after Francis Allen took over a lackluster Nebraska gymnastics program in 1969, he went to Athletic Director Bob Devaney and cut his boss a deal.

"I told him, 'Give me the maximum number of scholarships you can give me,'" Allen said, "and if we're not one of the top three teams in the nation in five years, get rid of me."

Thirty years, eight national team championships, 39 individual national championships, 11 Olympians and 160 All-Americans later, Allen, the No. 3 coach on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list, still runs the program he built into a dynasty.

Allen still operates out of a tiny, old ramshackle office in the corner of the program's Devaney Center facility.

Most of all, Allen still loves to be out there on the mats, fixing routines and turning boys into men. And he still has the human touch that inspires the people around him.

"He not only created a team here, he created a family," said junior NU gymnast and 1999 NCAA All-Around Champion Jason Hardabura. "He teaches us a lot about gymnastics and a lot about life. He teaches us to respect everyone we meet and everyone who walks in the gym. He likes to joke around and not take life too seriously. He lives his life - doesn't let his life live him."

Jim Howard has spent many years in the gym with Allen. They competed for the Huskers together and became head coaches at different programs not too long after. Howard came over from Wisconsin-La Crosse to become Allen's right-hand assistant in 1976.

Allen and Howard recruited future Olympians Jim Hartung and Phil Cahoy, who led Nebraska to four of its five consecutive national titles from 1979-83. Three more titles followed in '88, '90 and '94.

"The thing coaches here love about our jobs is developing a product," Howard said. "When you see that product perform well, it's a reflection of the work you've done and the athlete has done. That's very rewarding."

Allen is not only an icon in Nebraska but all over the gymnastics world. He has coached two U.S. Olympic teams, won three National Coach of the Year awards, was the first American to set foot at the Chinese gymnastics headquarters.

But he always ends up back in that tiny office and gym, fixing routines and joking around. And he doesn't plan on doing anything else anytime soon.

"I've never looked back on anything I've done and said to myself, 'Oh, God, I wish I didn't do that,'" Allen said. "I can't imagine doing anything else. I enjoy the gym too much."

# #4 Terry PETTIT

By BRANDON SCHULTE  
Staff writer

In his 23 years as head coach of the Nebraska volleyball team, Terry Pettit has done a great deal - and most of it has involved winning. The sheer numbers are staggering - 726 career victories, a winning percentage of .820 and 18 All-Americans coached.

That adds up to 20 conference championships, 17 straight NCAA tournament appearances, six final four trips and a national title (1995).

These accomplishments in and of themselves make Pettit an easy selection to the No. 4 spot on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list. But more important than all of the victories are two questions. Why does he continue to coach after achieving nearly everything a coach can, and what about him led to this amazing success?

Pettit may have been to the final four six times in the last 13 years, but there are players on the current team who haven't been there. Therefore, Pettit said his experiences don't make any difference.

"The (important thing) is the experience that the student athlete on the team gets. I try to recreate or provide the opportunity for them to experience as much as they possibly can. I don't have any less desire for the team to excel just because we have in the past."

The drive usually begins at the start of June and continues to the middle of December. For those six months, Pettit's life revolves around the next opponent. Through it all, each season has been different as the sport has evolved during his career.

Where the Big Eight conference once consisted of Nebraska and the "little sisters of the poor" as the Cornhuskers racked up 16 straight conference titles from '77 to '92, the Big 12 conference features tough opponents every match. The interesting matches coupled with the physics of inertia make it difficult for him to leave the sport.

"It would take a lot of energy to stop (coaching) and a lot of energy to try and find something else to do," Pettit said. "The program has grown. Maybe if the program had been where it's at now for 23 years, 10 years might have cured me of it. But the sport has grown dramatically so that it's different than it was 15 years ago. The change has piqued my interests. The program has gotten better and has been competing at higher and higher levels."

Pettit's drive to succeed transfers to his players. Nebraska has been in the national volleyball rankings every week for the last 17 years. He constantly pushes his players to go places they've never been before.

The apex came at the 1995 final four in Massachusetts when Nebraska knocked off Texas in the final to claim its first national title.

Penn State Coach Russ Rose has coached both with and against Pettit. He said that if any person merits awards for coaching, it's Pettit.

"I've admired his work from afar," Rose said. "He's done a great job for volleyball in the state of Nebraska and is an ambassador of college volleyball. He deserves whatever honors that have been bestowed upon him."

# #5 Dana X. BIBLE

By BRANDON SCHULTE  
Staff writer

Without a head football coach going into the 1929 season, Nebraska recruited Hall-of-Fame coach, Dana X. Bible, from Texas A&M.

Bible brought a tradition of winning and a fiery spirit to every program he coached. In his 33 seasons as a head football coach at three schools (Texas A&M, Nebraska and Texas), Bible racked up 182 wins against 71 losses and 23 ties. He was the Nebraska football coach from 1929-1936 while also serving stints as men's golf coach and athletic director. These feats combined to rate him as the No. 5 coach on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list.

As one of two living members from Bible's teams at Nebraska, Paul Amen (1935-37), recalled one particularly moving halftime speech.

"One game we were down 7-0 at halftime and hadn't been playing well," Amen

said. "When we were supposed to go out for the second half, he stood in front of the door to the field and wouldn't let us go out until we were ready to play. He was a little man, and all of the players were bigger than him, but he kept us from going out the door. That stirred the players up, and we went out and won the game."

Bible may be best known for starting the 12th man tradition at A&M. Aggie basketball player E. King Gill was in the stands of the Dixie Classic, the precursor to the Cotton Bowl.

After several players went down with injuries in the first half, Bible sent the call for Gill to suit up at halftime in case any more players were injured. Gill stood on the sideline the rest of the game but wasn't needed. To this date, Aggie students stand all game in case the team needs them.

In his eight-year career at Nebraska, Bible compiled a 50-15-7 record that included six Big Six titles. His 1936 team yielded zero touchdowns to conference opponents on its way to the Big Six title. The entire starting lineup was on the all-conference team that year.

# #6 Gary PEPIN

By JOSHUA CAMENZIND  
Staff writer

Track and Field Coach Gary Pepin cannot name his favorite team or his favorite athlete. That may be because for the last 16 years he has produced so many.

Pepin, who arrived at NU in 1980, was looking to better a solid team. The Cornhuskers did not have to wait long for changes to take place.

The NU women have won 17 straight indoor conference meets and have taken 15 straight outdoor meets. The men have taken eight indoor and five outdoor titles in his tenure. In the early 1980s, Pepin, ranked No. 6 on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list, won three national women's championships.

Pepin is proud of his team's consistency throughout his career.

"The thing I am most proud about my career is the number of consistent years with good teams," Pepin said. "We have not had very many poor teams."

Lately, Pepin has admitted that his job has been getting tougher.

"There is a lot more paperwork involved, and the new conference is much tougher than the Big Eight," Pepin said.

The harder conference has made Pepin's assistants that much more valuable to him. The program has four coaches with more than 13 years of experience, who help ease some of Pepin's workload.

# #7 Ewald O. STEIHM

By DARREN IVY  
Senior staff writer

A man often forgotten amid the great coaches in Nebraska history was Ewald "Jumbo" Stiehm.

Fifty years before either Bob Devaney or Tom Osborne started pacing the sidelines of Memorial Stadium, Stiehm put up numbers that were even more impressive than the two modern-day legends, and he did it in two sports.

In five years at Nebraska, Stiehm's football teams went 35-2-3 for a .913 winning percentage, bettering Devaney's .829 and Osborne's .836. As a basketball coach for four years, Stiehm compiled a 56-14 record or .800 winning percentage, which ranks him fourth among Cornhusker basketball coaches.

To this day, Stiehm, who ranks No. 7 on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list, continues to be the only coach in Missouri Valley, Big Eight or Big 12 Conference history to win conference titles for basketball and football in the same academic year.

The "Stiehm Rollers," as his football teams were called, won five Missouri Valley Conference titles, had a school-record 34-game unbeaten string and laid claim to mythical national championships in 1914 and 1915.

"Stiehm's teams weren't very big, but the players had a reputation for being tough and playing nearly the entire game," said NU football historian Mike Babcock. "Stiehm was a stern disciplinarian and rarely substituted even if players had minor injuries."

A standout basketball and football player at Wisconsin, the 6-foot-4 Stiehm came to Nebraska in 1911 to coach football. It is not known how old he was when he started, but he was just three years removed from college.

The next year, he took over for O.F. Field as the first full-time basketball coach

at Nebraska. Nebraska shared the Missouri Valley Conference championship

with Kansas in 1912 and 1914 and won the title outright in 1913 under Stiehm's leadership. The 1913-14 team was "so fast, it took a movie camera to catch 'em," according to the Cornhusker student yearbook.

Stiehm's teams won three conference

titles and would have won a fourth in 1916, but he was forced out after coaching the first game. Sam Waugh, who replaced Stiehm, compiled a 13-1 record with Stiehm's players.

Stiehm had planned to remain at Nebraska through the basketball season before leaving to become coach and athletic director at the University of Indiana. But the Nebraska Athletic Board decided to replace him, and he left on bad terms with the school.

Peshtigo, Wis. His favorite team growing up was the Wisconsin Badger football team. It was during a 1974 Badgers game that Neumann made the trans-

formation into a Nebraskan.

"I watched Wisconsin beat Nebraska that day," Neumann said. "And I watched the interview with Coach (Bob) Devaney (who was athletic director by this time) after the game. I heard Devaney talk about the tradition at Nebraska and how a loss like that was not accepted. I grew very interested in that tradition."

After wrestling for three years at Northern Michigan, Neumann transferred to NU in 1978. In 1983, he came to NU as an assistant coach. He took over as interim head coach at the end of the 1984 season.

Coach Devaney told Neumann he needed to win twice as many matches as the previous season's 8-14 record, he said.

He responded by leading the Huskers to a 12th-place finish at the NCAA meet and a 16-5 dual record.

After 14 seasons, Neumann has achieved almost all of his goals. His wrestlers have won three individual titles, 36 All-America awards, 20 conference titles and his teams have finished in the top 10 four times.

But one goal remains.

"Just like I've heard Coach (Tom) Osborne say, I'm really enjoying the journey to the championship," Neumann said. "I think the attitude is right in this program, and eventually a championship will probably be won."

# #8 Tim NEUMANN

By BROCK WENDLANDT  
Staff writer

Tim Neumann takes a lot of pride in being a Nebraskan.

Neumann, head coach of the Nebraska wrestling team for the past 14 years, is the winningest coach in school history, with 189 wins. He has led the Nebraska program to two conference championships and helped it be recognized as a prominent program.

But the road hasn't been easy. The Big 12 and the former Big Eight are home to three of the "Big Four" schools in collegiate wrestling: Iowa, Iowa State, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

"There's not too many situations (in other conferences) where you can be ranked sixth in the nation and still be fourth in your conference," Neumann said.

Be that as it may, the Big 12's elite nature has complimented the competitive drive of Neumann, deemed No. 8 on the Daily Nebraskan Sports Century list. His program is developing into one that takes high school wrestlers and turns them into World and Olympic team members.

With the success Neumann has had at NU, it becomes obvious why he would boast of being from the Cornhusker state.

But Neumann is in fact a native of