

Olympics hurt Nebraska

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pened to."

It could have been worse. Perennial national championship contender Adam Pine is competing in his senior season this year, instead of taking a year off to train for the butterfly event in his homeland, Australia.

Pine says that another year of collegiate swimming should help prepare him for Olympic trials, which follow

soon after the NCAAs.

Pine understands why Alshammar and Johnson took the year off, though.

"I think girls need to do different training than the guys sometimes, and Emma needed the long-distance training, which she cannot get very well in college," Pine said.

Bentz says each person has to do what works best for them.

"It's a personal decision. It's up to each athlete to decide."

Huskers fall further in BCS

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with it. If we finish it out, you can probably make a case for either team."

On the ESPN's College GameDay television program Saturday morning, both Coach Frank Solich and Tech Coach Frank Beamer lobbied for their respective teams to make the national championship game. Beamer, not surprisingly, was more adamant than Solich, saying he

would be "devastated" if Virginia Tech did not make the Sugar Bowl.

The Huskers would be left to compete for a Fiesta Bowl spot that goes to the Big 12 Conference Champion.

If UT wins, the Huskers would either be in line for the Cotton Bowl, which would put them against an SEC team, or a return trip to the Holiday Bowl, which has already been penciled in by Washington as its Pac 10 Conference recipient.

Should Nebraska beat the Horns, it can expect to join the Southeastern Conference Championship winner (Florida or Alabama) in the pool of at-large BCS teams. Tennessee, No. 5 in the BCS poll, No. 9 Michigan and No. 6 Kansas State are considered strong candidates for the other two at-large bids. The SEC champion goes to the Orange Bowl.

Already, Wisconsin and Stanford have clinched berths in the Rose Bowl.

UT's Brown impressed by Crouch

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you in so many ways."

"Eric Crouch is one of the best option quarterbacks that I have ever seen," Brown said. "In addition, Dan Alexander is running over everybody; I think he had over 150 yards against Colorado in the first half on Friday."

"Tracey Wistrom, their tight end, caught a lot of balls against us the last time, and Matt Davison is a great receiver. We can't look at trying to

defend them right now because it would probably scare us to death. Instead, we have to look at what we have to get fixed."

One thing Texas doesn't need to fix is its defensive line, Solich said.

"They not only played strong against us, but they really have played strong against everybody they've played," Solich said. "Their two interior guys are great football players. But the rush ends are excellent, too. All of them have size, speed and strength."

"With the kind of strength they have up front, that is why teams have had trouble doing things consistently against them. You try to run the ball on first down, and you get 1 or 2 yards."

The key for Solich will be to find a balanced offensive attack to keep those four linemen out of the backfield.

If Solich can call the perfect game Saturday, then his Big 12 painting just might be remembered by Nebraska fans as a masterpiece.

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