

Gymnasts win five straight

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team won its fifth straight team title this season when it won a quadrangular at Kentucky.

The seventh-ranked Huskers disposed of Kentucky, Illinois and James Madison with a score of 195.15. Kentucky placed second (194.50), and Illinois followed with a 194.00.

The Cornhuskers were led once again by senior All-American Heather Brink, who turned in a season-high score of 39.425 in the all-around, giving the senior her second all-around title of the season.

Brink won her fifth title on the vault with an impressive score of 9.90. She is currently ranked No. 1 on the

vaults nationally.

The vault proved to be the key factor for Nebraska's team title. As a team, the Huskers scored a 49.10 on the vault. Junior Amy Ringo and sophomore Laura Goss set career highs with a 9.825. Freshman Jen French also tied her career best with a 9.80.

On the bars, the Huskers had another individual champion when freshman Julie Houk tied a career high with a 9.90 score.

Sophomore Bree Dority will red-shirt the remainder of the season. Dority, who was injured before the season, will undergo knee surgery.

Nebraska will next be in action when it hosts Big 12 foe Iowa State in a dual on Tuesday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m.

Allaire leads rifle team to season high

From Staff Reports

Following its best score of the season, the Nebraska women's rifle team is hoping for an invitation to the NCAA meet in March.

The Cornhuskers shot a score of 6,123 this weekend at a sectional match in Cincinnati by Xavier University. Freshman Nicole Allaire once again led NU, scoring 1,170 points out of a possible 1,200 in the smallbore competition. She scored a 389 out of 400 in the air rifle compe-

tition.

NU finished second overall behind Xavier, which scored a 6,161 in its meet.

Coach Karen Anthony liked the results.

"I'm very pleased with how the team shot, particularly in the smallbore rifle," she said. "It's extremely difficult to shoot your best scores with the match pressure of knowing this one performance determines the opportunity to compete at the NCAA championships."

NU tennis splits weekend matches

From Staff Reports

The No. 63 Nebraska men's tennis team fell short in its upset bid Friday with a 6-1 loss to Texas A&M at Woods Tennis Center but rebounded on Sunday with a victory over Creighton by the same score.

On Friday, NU got its only victory from Jorge Abos Sanchez, who scored a 7-5, 6-4 win over Cody Hubbell in the No. 3 single slot.

The Huskers had opportunities at the No. 2 and No. 5 slot, but lost three-set matches. No. 1 singles player Lance Mills returned from an injury to play at the No. 4 slot but lost in

straight sets, 7-5, 6-1, to Keith From.

Sunday played out as a different story, as NU cruised over the Bluejays. Sanchez moved to the No. 1 slot and squeaked by Haakon Nygaard 5-7, 7-6, 7-6. Only Adnan Hadzalic lost at the No. 2 position. Nebraska swept the double competition and got victories from Kai Reike, Fungai Tongoona, Andrew Wiese and Ryan Haith.

Nebraska Coach Kerry McDermott said a tougher mentality helped the Huskers vs. CU.

"We were a lot more aggressive today than we were against Texas A&M," McDermott said. "And that worked in our favor."

West victorious in All-star game

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Vince Carter started things off with a dunk worthy of a contest, Tim Duncan and Shaquell O'Neal layeuped like MVPs and Karl Malone got involved as little as possible.

In an All-Star game that was almost a microcosm of the first half of the season, each star had a chance to show his specialty — and most of them did.

Behind 24 points apiece from Duncan and Kevin Garnett, 22 from O'Neal and 14 assists from Jason Kidd, the West defeated the East 137-126 on Sunday in the 49th version of the league's showcase event.

This was the first All-Star game since 1998 because last year's was canceled by the lockout, but the players hadn't forgotten how to play one of these games. Heavy on the fancy stuff and short on fundamentals, the players put on as much of a show as they could — and Carter's portion of it happened right off the bat.

The first basket for the East was an alley-oop dunk by Carter off a pass from Allen Iverson, while the second bucket was a breakaway slam by Carter that closely resembled one of his best from the dunk contest Saturday night.

Carter did a 360-degree spin to his right, rather than doing it the easy way by spinning left, and dunked the ball with two hands.

The East tried to give Carter another spectacular dunk in the first minute, but Grant Hill's alley-oop pass off the backboard was too hard. Later in the quarter when Eddie Jones tried to zip a pass to Carter and Iverson deflected it out of bounds, Jones grimaced at Iverson as if to say "It's him, not you."

Iverson led the East with 26

points and nine assists, while Ray Allen had 14 and Carter 12.

O'Neal and Duncan were named co-MVPs, the first time the award has been shared since 1993.

O'Neal also had nine rebounds and three blocks, while Duncan had 14 rebounds and four assists. Kobe Bryant added 15 for the West, while Michael Finley and Kidd had 11 apiece.

Malone, who wasn't happy that the NBA threatened him with a five-game suspension if he failed to show up, played just three minutes — all in the first half — and missed his only shot.

East leads the series 31-18 but had its three-game winning streak snapped.

After the breakneck start keyed by Carter's dunks, the pace slowed early in the second quarter as the reserves got their minutes. Allen and O'Neal injected some life back into the game — Allen with a Carteresque drive and dunk; O'Neal by dribbling coast to coast for a layup and then following with a fast-break slam and an alley-oop dunk off a pass from Kidd complete with a chin-up on the rim.

Carter, who won the slam-dunk contest with a dominant performance Saturday night, had a pedestrian dunk for the final basket of the first half, cutting the East's deficit to 64-59.

The third quarter was show time again, at least while the starters were in. Kidd threw an alley-oop pass that banked in (he did not call glass), O'Neal did a 360-degree slam of his own, cheating on the first 180 degrees (NBC microphones caught him saying "It wasn't a 360, it was a 257"), and Bryant made a sky hook reminiscent of something out of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's repertoire.

Heavy on the fancy stuff and short on fundamentals, the players put on as much of a show as they could.

The West started the fourth quarter with a 10-2 run, led by five points from Finley, to go ahead 109-99, and the East never made a run the rest of the way.

Kidd came up with the final highlight play of the night with 2:48 left, tossing an underhanded pass 18 feet up in the air that Bryant converted into an alley-oop dunk.

Carter had a chance to close the game with a flourish, but a full-court pass to him was thrown too far, and he ended up trying to shoot the ball from behind the backboard.

Notes: Among the court-side spectators were Magic Johnson, Evander Holyfield and Bill Russell. Michael Jordan sat eight rows up from the floor — three rows in front of commissioner David Stern ... Jerry Stackhouse was the last player to check in after sitting out the first 15:57. ... Hill sat out the second half after losing a contact lens. He did not bring a replacement. ... The players wore their own teams' uniforms rather than East and West uniforms as they did before 1997. The East wore white because the West includes the Los Angeles Lakers, who wear gold home uniforms.

Landry remembered as innovator

He won for a good chunk of his career and invented goal orientation

DALLAS (AP) — When Tom Landry was fired as coach of the Dallas Cowboys, many people said there would never be anyone like him again. Eleven years later, that seems truer than ever.

Landry's death Saturday night brought new reflection on his legacy. After dusting off the old stories and statistics, his accomplishments are even more impressive today.

It's difficult to imagine one person doing so much, so well, for so long.

Landry was a winner. His 270 victories are third most in NFL history. His teams reached five Super Bowls, winning two. They had a winning record for 20-straight seasons.

It's also worth noting that two of his Super Bowl losses were to the Pittsburgh Steelers during their Iron Curtain dynasty. The other was on a field goal in the final seconds.

Landry was an innovator. He revolutionized defenses by creating the 4-3 formation in 1956, then in 1961 came up with the multiple offense to counter it. Both remain standards in all levels of football.

He continued tinkering with ideas and formations. He came up with things like the "Flex" defense and the chorus-line routine that had the offensive line set, stand and reset.

He also borrowed from the business world. He took such notions as quality control and definition of goals and adapted them to football. Those, too, remain staples from high school through the NFL.

Landry knew how to persevere. He lasted 29 seasons in the same job, an achievement in any field. In the NFL, it's astounding.

His first team went 0-11-1, the NFL's worst record in 18 years. He didn't have a winning record until the seventh year. Then critics said he couldn't win the big one. The Cowboys became Super Bowl champions in their sixth playoff season — and again in their 11th.

To put his tenure in perspective, consider that the dean of current NFL coaches is Pittsburgh's Bill Cowher, who is going into his ninth season. Another good measuring stick is Tom Coughlin, the first and so far only coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars, who would have to remain in place through 2023 to match Landry.

Landry was a born leader. He spent two years as a bomber pilot in World War II flying combat missions in a B-17, the same type of plane his older brother died in.

While still a player with the New York Giants, Landry added the duties of defensive assistant, a job that translates to defensive coordinator today.

It's difficult to imagine one person doing so much, so well, for so long.

Landry was a winner.

His stoic sideline demeanor was a facade. Landry was an intense competitor, but he taught himself to control his emotions, because he knew he needed a clear head to make snap decisions. He also was a deeply caring person who forced himself not to get close to his players for fear it would interfere with personnel decisions.

Even the fedora — as symbolic of him as the blue star is of the Cowboys — was calculated. It started as a way to stay warm. Then it stayed because it looked good and fit Landry's plan to project a businesslike attitude.

Although conservative in manner, Landry managed to handle his

share of wayward players — including hard-drinking free spirit Don Meredith, troubled Duane Thomas and cocaine-abuser Thomas "Hollywood" Henderson. That's worth remembering when wondering whether Landry could coach today.

Landry was a superb judge of talent.

He's joined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame by five of the players he drafted, from 1961 pick Bob Lilly to 1977 pick Tony Dorsett. The 1975 Cowboys, the first wild-card team to reach the Super Bowl, included 12 rookies.

He also had a knack for surrounding himself with talented assistant coaches. Dozens of aides went on to coach elsewhere in the NFL, including Dan Reeves and Mike Ditka, both of whom played for Landry and eventually coached teams into Super Bowls.

Landry was a model citizen. He didn't smoke or drink or curse. He became a born-again Christian in 1959 and spent the next 40 years working with religious organizations, including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Billy Graham's crusades.

Times have changed so much that it's probably not possible for football to have another figure like Landry.

Ever since Dick Vermeil made burnout a football term in 1982, there seems to be another victim of that professional hazard every year. And with coaches getting seven-figure contracts, there's not much need to stick around as long.

Landry also was blessed to come along when pro football was still a game more than a business.

Imagine an owner today giving a coach a 10-year extension instead of a pink slip after going 13-38-3 four years into a five-year deal. That's what Clint Murchison did for Landry.

He knew what Tom Landry meant, not only to the Cowboys but all of football.


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