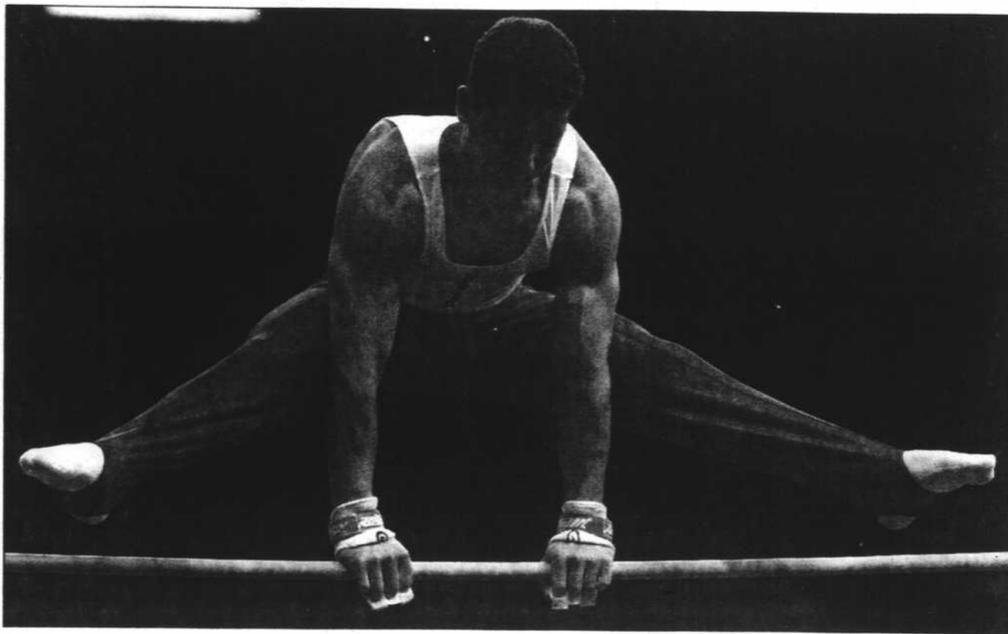


Nebraska freshman Steven Friedman competes in the high bar portion of the Huskers' dual win over Air Force. NU improved their record to 4-3 with the win.



Scott McClurg/DN

Men's gym back on track with win

■ NU's Fournier captures the all-around title as the Huskers easily dispatch of Air Force.

BY KRISTEN WATERS

This was more like it. After struggling last weekend against No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 7 Iowa, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team had no trouble against 17th-ranked Air Force Academy on Sunday.

The Huskers posted a score of 206.1 to easily best the Falcons, who managed a 196.65.

"We are really pleased scoring a 206," Coach Francis Allen said. "We got the support out of the guys, which is something we missed at OU."

Nebraska swept the top three places on the vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar. Huskers also won the floor, pommel horse and rings titles.

NU recorded a team-season high on floor with a score of 34.850.

Senior Grant Clinton led the Husker domination by winning the floor and rings, tying for first with teammate Martin Fournier on the vault and placing third on high bar.

Clinton scored a 9.0 on vault, which was his first attempt at vault this season after having surgery on his knee earlier in January.

"It was a good vault - I

think," Clinton said. "I kicked out a little early. Maybe I was a little anxious."

Junior Martin Fournier captured the all-around title with a score of 51.250. Fournier finished first on pommel horse with a score of 8.3, horizontal bar with an 8.7 and tied on vault with a season-high score of 9.0. Fournier also finished second on parallel bars with a score of 8.550.

Freshmen Steven Friedman finished second in the all-around with a score of 50.850 after scoring a career-high 9.050 on rings for a second-place finish. Friedman also placed fourth on the floor, parallel bars and horizontal bar.

Despite Nebraska's impressive showing against Air Force, Allen is still looking for improvement.

"We missed a little today," Allen said. "We hit about 73 percent of our routines, and right now we should be hitting about 85 percent."

Senior Jason Hardabura finished third in the all-around with a score of 50.650, which is a low tally for the 1999 NCAA All-Around Champion.

Said Allen: "We didn't really get a productive day out of Jason. I think if he would have been on today, maybe we would have scored around a 210."

"We should expect to see more out of Jason next weekend against Minnesota."

Ijomah powers tennis to Big 12 win

BY VINCE KUPPIG

Slow start, strong finish. That was the story for Ndali Ijomah Sunday as the 59th-ranked Nebraska women's tennis team took on Southwest Missouri State at Woods Tennis Center.

Trailing 5-1 in the first set of the No. 3 singles match, Ijomah picked up nine consecutive games en route to a 7-5, 6-3 win over SMS's Oyuki Cruz.

"I just wasn't playing good," Ijomah said of the start. "I felt a little out of it, and nothing was working."

Said Coach Scott Jacobson of NU's lone senior: "She always plays with a lot of heart. That's what you expect out of your seniors, that kind of leadership, and someone that's never going to quit."

Ijomah's win, NU's fourth,

clinched a Cornhusker victory over the Bears, who won the last two matches to make the final 4-3.

The slow start, strong finish story was not much different for Ijomah's doubles match. Teamed up with Amy Frisch, the NU No. 3 doubles team trailed 4-0 before going on a roll to defeat Cruz and Ala Alvarez, 8-6.

"It's like I've been down all day," Ijomah said. "We found a way to win. Doubles helped give us energy to pull out wins in singles."

Ijomah's doubles win helped give the Huskers the doubles point as NU picked up two of the three doubles matches.

The 4-3 decision was NU's closest of its 10 wins this season. "Southwest Missouri State played well, and we were fortunate to get the victory," Jacobson said.

On Saturday, NU picked up its first conference win with a dominating 7-0 victory against Missouri.

The Huskers picked up all six singles and two of three doubles matches to improve their record to 1-2 in the Big 12 Conference.

NU returns to action next week with three matches in California, starting with a match against 71st-ranked Penn State on March 11.

In men's tennis action, NU (5-5, 0-2) fell to 56th-ranked Boise State on Sunday in a 5-1 loss after nearly upsetting 17th-ranked Oklahoma State (5-2) on Saturday on the road.

Dropping all three doubles matches, NU won three of six singles matches in a 4-3 team loss to OSU.

At No. 1 singles, Lance Mills came up short against OSU's

"It's like I've been down all day. We found a way to win. Doubles helped give us energy to pull out wins in singles."

Ndali Ijomah
NU tennis player

53rd-ranked Matt Prentice, 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.

"It was close to being an upset, but we just didn't finish it off," Coach Kerry McDermott said of the OSU match. "This team is on the verge of winning some big matches."

The Huskers return to action next week with four matches in Hawaii during UNL's spring break.

Snyder wins Big 12 title

CHAMPS from page 12

didn't get to wrestle to earn his first NCAA bid, but was thrilled to receive one.

"It means a lot to me," he said. "I'm really happy. I'll take what I can get even though it's not the way I wanted. I got a whole new chance to get what I want. It's a whole new day."

Another Husker making his first appearance at NCAA's will be Conner, a senior.

Conner, ranked 12th at 174-pounds, showed signs of brilliant wrestling after he lost his opening match to Missouri's No. 10 John Kopniski. Conner

fought back through the consolation bracket to the third-place match where he nearly pinned Kopniski before triumphing 9-4.

Conner, who Manning said could earn All-America honors at the NCAAs with the wrestling he showed, said the biggest factor in his run to the NCAAs was his health.

The senior said he was finally feeling healthy after being plagued by a knee injury last season.

"Knowing it was my last year, I wanted to give it all I had and put all the things that were bothering me behind me in the past," Conner said.

If you are attending classes during the Spring 2001 semester at UNL you are eligible to use UNO Campus Recreation Facilities for a min charge of only \$15.00 for the week of March 12-16 (Spring Break). Stop by the Health, Physical, Education and Recreation Building, Room 100 and show us your current student I.D. to purchase a pass to exercise, play sports or swim.

For More Information Call 554-2539



The Lincoln League of the National Adult Baseball Association
announces sign up meeting dates for playing or managing in Lincoln's premier adult baseball league for ages 18 and up.

Tuesday, March 6th, 7:00 PM
Thursday, March 15th, 7:00 PM

Meetings will be held at the National Guard Armory (1776 North 10th Street) in Lincoln. Please enter building from the east side. For additional information:

email: nabalincoln@hotmail.com
website: www.eteamz.com/nabalincoln
phone: 466-6301, 467-3202, or 423-5191



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