

NEBRASKA

2006 Women's Gymnastics

L-R: STEPHANIE CARTER
MICHELE ZABAWA
DANIELLE MILLIS



THE HUSKERS!!!



Stephanie Carter

Junior | All-Around | 5-2 | Bryn Athyn, Pa. (Academy of the New Church/Ricochets)

Honors

- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll (2003, 2004)
- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Honor Roll (2004, 2005)
- ▶ Academic All-Big 12 (2005)
- ▶ NACGC Scholastic All-American (2004, 2005)

Outlook for 2006

One of the Huskers' most experienced leaders, junior Stephanie Carter returns to NU's vault, beam and floor lineups with the possibility of competing in the all-around. Already considered one of Nebraska's most powerful tumblers, Carter will take her skills up another notch in 2006 by adding a back-in full-out in addition to a double-tucked final pass on floor. Although she has never competed on bars in her Husker career, Carter may earn time in her junior season, as her routine includes a reverse hecht, giant-half overshoot hand and a full-twisting double dismount.

"Stephanie is so powerful and dynamic on every event," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She looks much more comfortable on bars and could be an all-around competitor this year. Stephanie is one of our leaders, and is more aggressive and focused on all four events right now than ever before."

2005 - Sophomore Season

Carter was a major contributor to Nebraska's success in 2005, competing on vault, balance beam and floor exercise in nearly every meet. The Bryn Athyn, Pa., native, who competed some of the Huskers' strongest tumbling, tied her season best on floor exercise (9.85) six times over the course of the year, including postseason competition at the NCAA South Central Regional and preliminaries at the NCAA Championships at Auburn. Carter finished ninth on floor in the first round of the collegiate championships, narrowly missing All-America honors with her score of 9.85.

In addition, Carter was among NU's most consistent vaulters, as she posted a 9.75 or better on the event in 14 meets. Carter enjoyed one of her finest showings at Iowa State on Feb. 11, posting a career-high 9.95 on vault to tie for second-place honors with freshman Emily Parsons. She also tied for third on beam at ISU with a 9.825, a season-high score that she earned three times last year. Additionally, Carter tied two season-best scores in NU's final home meet against the Cyclones on March 13, earning a 9.825 on beam to place third, while also finishing sixth on floor (9.85) and placing fourth on vault (9.85).

2004 - Freshman Season

Carter came to the Huskers from Georgia Tech, where she previously studied engineering. A former international elite gymnast, Carter did not compete at Georgia Tech, but was involved with gymnastics for 12 years before coming to Nebraska. While working out at her old gym in Pennsylvania in the summer of 2003, she met Nebraska coach Dan Kendig. With a strong desire to return to gymnastics, Carter was recruited by Kendig to compete for the Huskers. She accepted the offer and decided to walk on to the team.

During her freshman campaign, Carter proved valuable to the Huskers' vault, balance beam and floor exercise lineups. She established herself as a force throughout the year on vault, most notably in the meet against Iowa State when she scored a 9.925, her career best, which led her to a fourth-place finish. Carter also placed fifth on beam at the Masters Classic, scoring a career-high 9.875. In addition, Carter competed well on beam at the Big 12 Championships, where she tied Libby Landgraf with a 9.875 to lead NU in the event.



Before Nebraska

An elite-level gymnast, Carter competed for the Ricochets under Coach Troy Miller. Carter was a member of the senior U.S. National team from 1999 to 2000 and was a member of the Junior National team from 1997 to 1999. As an elite competitor, she finished 11th in the all-around and third on bars at the 1998 U.S. Classic, as well as 13th in the all-around and ninth on bars at the U.S. National Championships that same year. Carter placed 10th in the all-around at the 1999 John Hancock U.S. Gymnastics Championships and later became the first American woman to complete a double-twisting double-back in competition at the 1999 World Team Trials in Kansas City.

Personal

The daughter of Christopher and Jane Carter, Stephanie was born on Oct. 17, 1983. She previously attended the Academy of the New Church in Bryn Athyn, Pa., and is now studying business administration at Nebraska. One of five children, Stephanie has two sisters, Sonya and Jerre, and two brothers, Brett and Daniel.

Carter's Career/Season Highs at Nebraska

▶ Career Highs

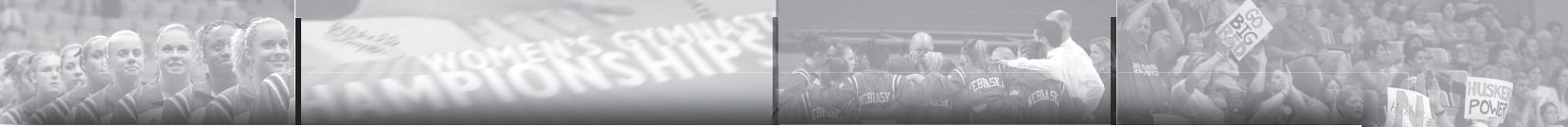
- Vault: 9.95 (at Iowa State, 2/11/05)
- Beam: 9.875 (Masters Classic, 2/29/04)
- Floor: 9.875 (at Big 12 Championships, 3/20/04)

▶ 2005 Season Highs

- Vault: 9.95 (at Iowa State, 2/11/05)
- Beam: 9.825 (vs. Iowa State, 3/13/05)
- Floor: 9.85 (at NCAA Preliminaries, 4/21/05)

▶ 2004 Season Highs

- Vault: 9.925 (vs. Iowa State, 3/14/05)
- Beam: 9.875 (Masters Classic, 2/29/04)
- Floor: 9.875 (at Big 12 Championships, 3/20/04)



Dani Millis

Junior | All-Around | 5-6 | Frisco, Texas (Texas Tech Univ. HS/Kurt Thomas Gymnastics)

Honors

- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll (2003, 2004)
- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Honor Roll (2004, 2005)

Outlook for 2006

Junior Dani Millis will be called upon to compete in a key reserve role for the Huskers in 2006, as she has previous experience performing on vault and floor exercise in her collegiate career. In addition, Millis has been training bars in her time at NU and has the ability to perform a Jaeger release move and a strong overshoot on the event. Despite coming off a summer ankle surgery, Millis could challenge for time on floor with a new routine that features her dance skills, while also contributing on balance beam.

"Dani will provide tremendous depth for us on vault with her Yurchenko layout full," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She also moves very well on floor with her dancing and did a great job filling in for us last season at Iowa State. The last thing we want to do is put Dani in a situation where she isn't fully recovered, but we definitely need her to be ready to compete this year. Dani could really be a great contributor on vault, beam and floor in 2006."



2005 - Sophomore Season

Millis struggled with injuries early in the 2005 season, limiting her to being a key reserve competitor in the Huskers' success. The Frisco, Texas, native competed on floor exercise for the first time in her career as a Husker at Iowa State on Feb. 11, scoring a 9.30. One of seven Huskers to perform a Yurchenko layout full on vault, she was a valuable reserve for Nebraska's lineup on the event.

Millis found continued success in the classroom, as she earned a spot on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive semester at Nebraska.

2004 - Freshman Season

Millis played a valuable reserve role for the Huskers in 2004, competing in the team's meet at Utah on Jan. 16. She made her mark by scoring a solid 9.65 on vault.

Before Nebraska

A Level 10 gymnast, Millis competed for former U.S. Olympian Kurt Thomas at the Kurt Thomas Gymnastics Center in Frisco, Texas. Millis was the 2002 Texas state vault champion, and was a part of three Level 10 state championship squads from 2000 to 2002. In 2000, she placed fourth on vault, fourth on beam, second on floor and fifth in the all-around at the Region III Championships. The performance qualified her for the 2000 Level 10 Junior Olympic National Championships, where she finished 13th on vault and 12th on floor.

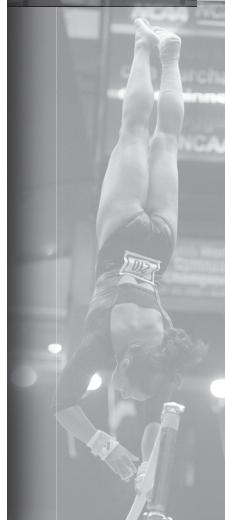
At the 2001 regional competition, Millis added a fourth-place finish on vault, as well as fifth on beam and eighth in the all-around. Following an injury-plagued year in 2002, Millis came back to claim the all-around title at the 2003 Kurt Thomas/ASI Classic while also finishing fifth on floor and eighth in the all-around at the regional championships. Millis chose Nebraska over Ohio State.

Personal

The daughter of Scott and Linda Millis, Dani was born on Sept. 17, 1985. A 2003 graduate of Texas Tech University High School, Dani was a solid achiever in the classroom and was a member of the honor roll for four years with a 3.9 GPA in her core classes. She was also named a member of Who's Who Among American High School Students. A marketing major, Dani has one sister, Brooke.

Millis' Career/Season Highs at Nebraska

- ▶ **Career Highs**
 - Vault: 9.65 (at Utah, 1/16/04)
 - Floor: 9.30 (at Iowa State, 2/11/05)
- ▶ **2005 Season Highs**
 - Floor: 9.30 (at Iowa State, 2/11/05)
- ▶ **2004 Season Highs**
 - Vault: 9.65 (at Utah, 1/16/04)





Michele Zabawa

Junior | All-Around | 5-1 | Omaha, Neb. (Skutt Catholic/Nebraska Gold)

Honors

- ▶ Second-Team All-American (2004: Vault; 2005: Bars)
- ▶ Big 12 Uneven Bars Champion (2005)
- ▶ All-Big 12 (2004 and 2005: Bars)
- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll (2003)
- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Spring Honor Roll (2004, 2005)

Outlook for 2006

Junior Michele Zabawa (pronounced zuh-BOW-wa) is one of three All-Americans returning to the 2006 NU lineup, having earned second-team honors on vault and the uneven bars in her first two years. The Omaha, Neb., native will perform a Yurchenko layout full on vault and is likely to add new front twisting and a double-back to her floor routine.

"Michele is very clean on bars," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She has a big hecht and a straddle back handstand, as well as a great new giant full to a double layout dismount."

"On beam, she was much improved last year," Assistant Coach Danna Durante said. "She looks so much more confident up there and was a great starter on beam for us in the last half of the year. She performs very well on floor and has good presentation, and we see her with the potential to do all-around for our team in 2006."

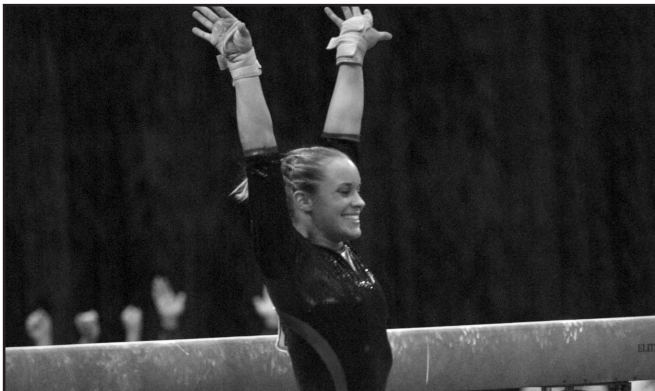
2005 - Sophomore Season

Zabawa battled preseason injuries early in the year, but came back strong as one of Nebraska's most consistent competitors on vault, uneven bars and balance beam. She won four bars titles, including the conference crown at the Big 12 Championships, where she scored a 9.90 and earned All-Big 12 honors. She went on to capture second-team All-America honors on bars, while helping lead Nebraska to the NCAA Super Six Finals.

Zabawa had one of her best showings of the regular season against Iowa State on March 13. In addition to capturing the bars crown (9.90), she tied for fifth on vault with a solid 9.825 and beam (9.80). Zabawa put forth a notable effort at the NCAA South Central Regional Championships, tying for fourth on vault and seventh on bars with a score of 9.85 on each event.

In the Huskers' run to the NCAA Super Six Finals, Zabawa put up solid scores in the preliminary session with a 9.85 on bars, a 9.70 on beam and a 9.675 on vault. Her mark on bars tied her with teammate Desiré Sniatynski, and the pair earned second-team All-America honors on the event. At the Super Six Finals the following night, Zabawa added another 9.85 on bars, a 9.775 on vault and scored a 9.65 on beam.

Zabawa earned academic accolades in addition to her success on the competition floor, as she was named to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll in the Spring of 2005.



2004 - Freshman Season

Zabawa established herself as an All-American on the vault in 2004, earning second-team honors after placing 17th at the NCAA Championships at UCLA with a 9.875. She also led Nebraska's vault lineup for much of the season, scoring a 9.80 or better in 10 out of 13 competitions.

Zabawa competed in the all-around three times in her freshman campaign, including two appearances in postseason meets. At NCAA Regionals, she scored a 39.10, highlighted by a career-high 9.80 on floor. Two weeks later, Zabawa bettered her all-around mark, setting a new career best with a 39.20 in the preliminary round of the NCAA Championships.

In a Feb. 15 meet against Ohio State, she tied former Husker Tami Harris for first place on the uneven bars after scoring a career-high 9.925. Zabawa also set her career record on vault at Minnesota with a 9.90, tying Kristi Esposito for third place on the event, and garnered All-Big 12 accolades on bars after placing fourth with a 9.875 at the conference championships.

Before Nebraska

A Level 10 gymnast, Zabawa competed for Don Houlton at Nebraska Gold Gymnastics in Omaha. Zabawa was a three-time Region IV all-around champion and five-time national qualifier. In 2001, she placed 19th at Junior Olympic Nationals and finished ninth on the bars. Bettering her finish from the previous year, she placed second on bars with a score of 9.425 at the 2002 Junior Olympic National Championships. Zabawa chose Nebraska over Iowa State, West Virginia and Illinois State.

Personal

The daughter of Mike and Carlene Zabawa, Michele was born on April 15, 1985, in Omaha, Neb. A 2003 graduate of VJ and Angela Skutt Catholic High School, she was a four-year member of the Gold Honor Roll and is now an elementary education major at Nebraska. Michele has two brothers, Matt and Michael, and one sister, Moe.

Zabawa's Career/Season Highs at Nebraska

▶ Career Highs

Vault: 9.90 (at Minnesota, 3/6/04)
 Bars: 9.925 (vs. Ohio State, 2/15/04)
 Beam: 9.925 (vs. Iowa State, 3/14/04)
 Floor: 9.80 (at NCAA Regional, 4/3/04)
 All-Around: 39.20 (at NCAA Preliminaries, 4/15/04)

▶ 2005 Season Highs

Vault: 9.85 (NCAA Regional, 4/9/05)
 Bars: 9.90 (at Big 12 Championships, 3/26/05)
 Beam: 9.80 (vs. Iowa State, 3/13/05)

▶ 2004 Season Highs

Vault: 9.90 (at Minnesota, 3/6/04)
 Bars: 9.925 (vs. Ohio State, 2/15/04)
 Beam: 9.925 (vs. Iowa State, 3/14/04)
 Floor: 9.80 (at NCAA Regional, 4/3/04)
 All-Around: 39.20 (at NCAA Preliminaries, 4/15/04)



Kylee Johnson

Sophomore | All-Around | 5-4 | Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast/Nebraska School of Gymnastics)

Honors

► 2002 Junior Olympic Region IV Uneven Bars Champion

Outlook for 2006

Sophomore Kylee Johnson will sit out the 2006 season due to an Achilles injury suffered while training in the off-season. The Lincoln Northeast product was considered a potential contributor on vault, uneven bars and floor exercise, as she competed on floor early last season and on bars at the NCAA Championships.

"Not having Kylee in our lineup this year is a major loss to our team," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She has great skills in her bar routine but will now focus her energies on academics and supporting her teammates for her second season as a Husker. We are looking forward to a successful rehabilitation for Kylee and are eager for her to join our lineup again."

2005 - Freshman Season

Johnson joined the Huskers after the Fall 2004 semester, having graduated from Lincoln Northeast High School in December of 2004. One of just two Nebraska natives on NU's roster, Johnson made her collegiate gymnastics debut on the uneven bars (9.625) and floor exercise in the Huskers' first meet of the season at Michigan on Jan. 7. Hindered by injuries suffered in Ann Arbor, she later contributed on floor against Oklahoma on Feb. 5, scoring a 9.70, and versus Minnesota/Air Force on March 6, when she posted a season-high 9.725 on the event.

Johnson performed numerous times in exhibition on vault, bars and floor, but stepped up when the team needed it most at the NCAA Championships in Auburn, Ala., to complete NU's uneven bars lineup. She earned a career-high 9.75 on the event, helping the Huskers qualify for their sixth appearance at the Super Six Finals in seven seasons.

Before Nebraska

Johnson competed at the Nebraska School of Gymnastics under Coach Adrian Burde. Her club team won Level 10 Nebraska state team championships in 1998, 2000 and 2002, while Johnson was a member of the national team in 2000, 2001 and 2002. She earned first-place honors on the uneven bars in regional competition in 2002. Johnson chose Nebraska over Oklahoma and Iowa State.

Personal

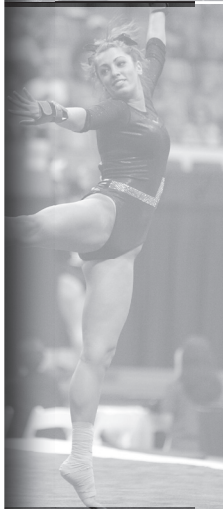
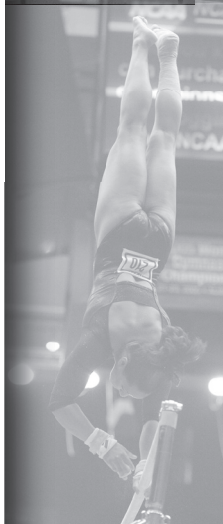
The daughter of Gary and Lesa Johnson, Kylee was born on Dec. 17, 1986. She graduated in December of 2004 from Lincoln Northeast High School, where she was a member of the honor roll, and while at Northeast she participated on the dance team. Johnson is majoring in psychology at Nebraska. She has one brother, Ryan, and her cousin, Drew Schwab, is a pitcher on the Nebraska baseball team.

Johnson's Career Highs at Nebraska

► Career Highs

Bars: 9.75 (at NCAA Preliminaries, 4/21/05)

Floor: 9.725 (vs. Minnesota/Air Force, 3/6/05)





Emily Parsons

Sophomore | All-Around | 5-2 | St. Charles, Mo. (Academy Northwest/GymQuarters)

Honors

- ▶ First-Team All-American (2005: Floor)
- ▶ Second-Team All-American (2005: All-Around, Vault, Beam)
- ▶ NCAA South Central Regional All-Around Champion (2005)
- ▶ NCAA South Central Regional Vault Champion (2005)
- ▶ NCAA South Central Regional Floor Champion (2005)
- ▶ 2005 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year
- ▶ Two-time Big 12 Gymnast of the Week
- ▶ All-Big 12 (2005: Vault, Beam)

Outlook for 2006

Sophomore Emily Parsons returns as Nebraska's top all-around competitor after earning four All-America awards in 2005. Parsons, who finished third on floor exercise at the NCAA Championships, will perform many skills from her banner freshman year, although she is likely to upgrade her tumbling on floor for the new season after recovering from shoulder surgery in the summer. In addition to keeping a strong double layout on floor, Parsons is likely to add a front layout pass on the event and a double layout dismount on bars.

"Emily brings the total package. She is powerful, explosive and everything you look for on floor and vault," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She was a consistent leadoff on bars for us in 2005 and could easily play that role again this year. With her three-flight series on beam, we also consider her routine one of the top performances in the lineup. Emily really has the ability to do it all."

2005 - Freshman Season

Parsons put together a spectacular freshman campaign to begin her collegiate career for the Huskers, proving herself a dynamic force in the all-around lineup. Along with capturing four All-America honors while leading Nebraska to the NCAA Super Six Finals, the St. Charles, Mo., native was named the 2005 Big 12 Newcomer of the Year, an honor determined by votes from conference coaching staffs. She also claimed the NCAA South Central Region all-around title on her way to becoming Nebraska's seventh freshman All-American.

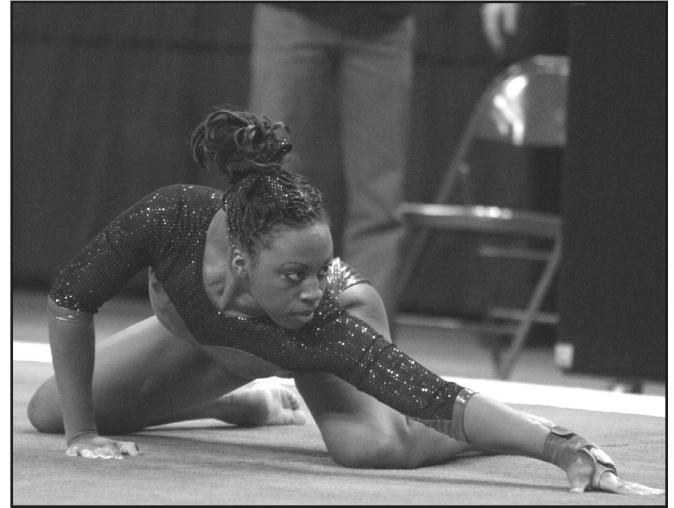
Over the course of the season, Parsons won seven titles on floor, six on vault and two on balance beam. One of Nebraska's most consistent competitors on vault, Parsons earned her first of two Big 12 Gymnast-of-the-Week accolades after her performance in Nebraska's first home meet versus Oklahoma, as she placed second in the all-around with a score of 39.40 and claimed the vault (9.95) and floor exercise (9.925) titles.

Parsons tied former NCAA All-Around Champion Richelle Simpson for the conference title on beam (9.85) at the 2005 Big 12 Championships. The first-place finish earned her all-conference honors on beam, as well as on vault, where she tied for second with Simpson.

At the NCAA South Central Regional Championships, Parsons earned a 39.525 for the all-around title ahead of former Olympian Elise Ray of Michigan. Parsons also won the vault (9.925) and floor exercise (9.95) titles, pacing NU to a second-place regional finish. Her stellar performance gave the Huskers their seventh consecutive berth to the NCAA Championships.

Parsons again showed off her tumbling at the NCAA Championships in Auburn, Ala., as it was her incredible 9.925 floor routine that sparked the Huskers to narrowly edge LSU for a place in the Super Six Finals. Parsons' scores in the preliminary session earned her first-team All-America honors on floor and second-team accolades in the all-around (39.425), vault (9.875) and beam (9.825). At the Super Six Finals the following evening, she put up a career-high all-around score (39.55) with a 9.90 on vault, 9.80 on bars, 9.90 on beam and a career-best 9.95 on floor.

As a first-team All-American, Parsons qualified for the NCAA individual event finals in the final night of competition with a field that included two-time NCAA champions Courtney Bumpers of North Carolina and Alabama's Ashley Miles. Parsons held her own on the floor exercise, giving an outstanding final performance worth a 9.925 to tie with Tabitha Yim of Stanford for third, the



highest Husker finish on the event since Simpson's 9.963 to win the NCAA title in 2003.

Before Nebraska

Parsons competed for coaches Scott and Debbie Cusimano and Greg Stephen at GymQuarter Gymnastics, the No. 1 team in Missouri for four consecutive years. Parsons is a five-time Junior Olympic National Championships competitor and a former two-year junior international elite gymnast. Parsons was the 2000 J.O. National floor exercise champion and earned second-place honors in the all-around, third on vault and fourth on beam. At the 2003 J.O. Nationals, the St. Charles, Mo., native captured the all-around and repeated her floor exercise title while also taking second on vault, third on beam and ninth on the uneven bars.

In addition, Parsons swept the 2003 Missouri State Championships by taking first place in every event, including the all-around competition. She was the 2004 state champion on beam as well, and her GymQuarter team continued their streak of four consecutive state team championships.

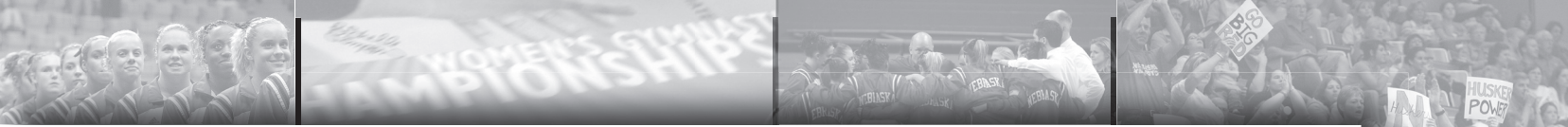
Personal

The daughter of James and Julie Parsons, Emily was born Jan. 13, 1986, in Fort Wayne, Ind. She was a 2004 graduate of Academy Northwest and is now a broadcast journalism major at Nebraska. Parsons has two brothers, Josh and Matt, and one sister, Betsie.

Parsons' Career Highs at Nebraska

▶ Career Highs

- Vault: 9.95 (at Iowa State, 2/11/05)
- Bars: 9.80 (at NCAA Super Six Finals, 4/22/05)
- Beam: 9.90 (at NCAA Super Six Finals, 4/22/05)
- Floor: 9.95 (at NCAA Super Six Finals, 4/22/05)
- All-Around: 39.55 (at NCAA Super Six Finals, 4/22/05)



Desiré Sniatynski

Sophomore | All-Around | 5-5 | Kenosha, Wis. (Bradford/Scamps Gymnastics)

Honors

► Second-Team All-American (2005: Uneven Bars)

Outlook for 2006

Sophomore Desiré Sniatynski (pronounced dez-ur-RAY SNY-tin-ski) enters the 2006 season as the anchor in the Huskers' uneven bars lineup, having earned second-team All-America honors as a freshman. A top candidate to compete in the all-around, Sniatynski will unveil a new roundoff double twist dismount on balance beam, as well as a full-twisting double layout on bars. In addition, she may add a double pike on floor, while continuing to perform a Yurchenko layout full on vault.

"Desiré is starting off her sophomore year much stronger and more powerful, and we see her having the potential to do all-around in 2006," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She has a very solid bar routine with big skills and a huge double layout dismount, and on beam, she looks so confident. Desiré is bringing out a brand new floor routine that will showcase her great style and stronger tumbling."

2005 - Freshman Season

Sniatynski competed predominantly on vault and uneven bars for NU's 2005 squad, but also earned a spot in Nebraska's balance beam lineup. In her collegiate gymnastics debut at Michigan on Jan. 7, Sniatynski tied for third on beam with a season-high 9.825 and remained in the lineup for half of the season.

Sniatynski showed her prowess on bars early in the year, as she became one of the Huskers' most consistent performers on the event by a 9.75 or better in every meet. She captured five bars titles during the 2005 season, including two with 9.90 showings at Florida and against Iowa State on March 13. In addition, Sniatynski won the floor exercise title with a 9.875 versus Minnesota and Air Force on March 6 in her first career floor appearance as a Husker.

Well-established as a major contributor by the Big 12 Championships in late March, Sniatynski came on strong in the postseason. After scoring a pair of 9.80s on vault and bars at the conference meet, she added a season-best 9.825 on vault and a 9.85 on bars two weeks later at the NCAA South Central Regional. Sniatynski's best performance came at the NCAA Championships at Auburn, where she competed in the all-around for the first time in her career. After posting a 38.35 in the preliminary session, Sniatynski contributed a career-best 39.125 effort in the Super Six Finals, which included another 9.90 on bars. It was her 9.85 on the event the previous day, that earned Sniatynski second-team All-America honors and established her not only as just the sixth freshman in Nebraska program history to be named an All-American.

Before Nebraska

Sniatynski competed for Coach Randy Anderson at Scamps Gymnastics in Kenosha, Wis. A national TOPS team member in 1997, Sniatynski has qualified for Junior Olympic Nationals six times. She competed in Level 10 gymnastics for nine years. In 2001, Sniatynski took second place on the uneven bars at J.O. Nationals while also placing seventh in the all-around competition. She earned seventh place at J.O. Nationals again in 2002 with a score of 37.35. In addition, Sniatynski won the all-around competition at the 2003 Blizzard Invite hosted by her club team, while also taking first place in vault, the uneven bars and floor exercise, and second on the balance beam.

Personal

The daughter of John and Diane Sniatynski, Desiré was born Dec. 11, 1985, in Kenosha, Wis. She is a 2004 graduate of Bradford High School, where she was a member of the honor roll. Sniatynski, who is a psychology major at Nebraska, has two brothers, Cooper and Mason.

Sniatynski's Career Highs at Nebraska

► Career Highs

Vault: 9.825 (NCAA Regional, 4/9/05)

Bars: 9.90 (at NCAA Super Six Finals, 4/22/05)

Beam: 9.825 (at Missouri, 1/28/05)

Floor: 9.875 (vs. Minnesota/Air Force, 3/6/05)

All-Around: 39.125 (at NCAA Super Six Finals, 4/22/05)





Brittney Williams

Sophomore | All-Around | 5-3 | Hatboro, Pa. (Upper Moreland/Ricochets)

Honors

- ▶ 2001 Junior Olympic National Floor Exercise Champion

Outlook for 2006

Sophomore Brittney Williams returns strong for the 2006 season after recovering from an off-season ankle surgery and is likely to contribute on vault, bars and floor as she did last year. Williams, one of the most consistent athletes on the squad in 2005, is upgrading a front pike half on vault to a Yurchenko layout full to showcase her power. In addition, Williams will keep a full-in and double-back tumbling passes on floor while adding a two-and-a-half punch front for the third pass.

"Brittney is one of the gymnasts most ready to compete on bars right now," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She has shown a lot of improvement since last season. She is very powerful at the beginning, has a good hecht and straddle back into a toe hecht, and her double layout is very strong. Brittney is fit, looks much stronger than she was and is equipped to have a great year."

2005 - Freshman Season

Williams took advantage of the 2005 season to show tremendous consistency on all three events she competed – vault, uneven bars and floor exercise – and scored a 9.70 or better in 42 of 45 performances. A key part of NU's trio of influential freshmen that included All-Americans Emily Parsons and Desiré Sniatynski, Williams helped the Huskers to a Big 12 title and a trip to the NCAA Super Six Finals. Williams made her mark right away with a sixth-place showing by scoring a 9.775 on vault at Florida. The next week at Missouri – the final competition of a challenging four-meet road schedule in January – Williams seized sixth on vault (9.80) and bars (9.75) and tied for third on floor with a career-high score of 9.875.

She added a fourth-place finish on floor (9.85) vs. Oklahoma, and tied for fifth on floor (9.85) at Iowa State over three weeks of conference duals. At NU's annual Masters Classic, Williams tied with Stephanie Carter for fourth on floor by posting a 9.85 and kept the momentum against Minnesota and Air Force a week later, finishing sixth on vault (9.775), third on floor (9.825) and tying for fifth on bars (9.825). She closed out the regular season with fifth-place honors on bars with a career-best 9.85 against Iowa State in Nebraska's final home meet of 2005.

Williams shined in the postseason, beginning with a career-high 9.85 on vault, a tie for sixth place (9.80) on bars with Desiré Sniatynski and a 9.85 mark on floor at the Big 12 Championships. She added a 9.725 on vault at the NCAA South Central Regional Championships in Lincoln, while contributing a 9.825 on bars and a 9.80 performance on floor. In the preliminary session of the NCAA Championships at Auburn, Williams continued to put up high scores, contributing a 9.85 on floor, 9.80 on bars and a 9.725 on vault, propelling NU to the Super Six Finals the following night. Williams capped a solid freshman year, posting a 9.825 on floor, 9.75 on bars and a 9.75 on vault in the last night of team competition.

Before Nebraska

A former junior international elite gymnast in 1999 and 2000, Williams competed at Ricochets Gymnastics Training Center with fellow Husker Stephanie Carter for coaches Troy Miller and Janet Hamvas. Her Ricochets team captured the 1998 Pennsylvania state championship and took second-place finishes at state in 2001 and 2003.

Williams was the 2001 Junior Olympic National floor exercise champion and also finished third in the all-around competition that same year. At the 2003 J.O. Nationals, Williams earned seventh place in the all-around.

Personal

The daughter of Kenneth and Lydia Williams, Brittney was born Aug. 9, 1986, in Doylestown, Pa. A 2004 graduate of Upper Moreland High School, she earned a spot on her high school honor roll. Williams, who is pursuing a degree in sociology at Nebraska, has one sister, Brandie.

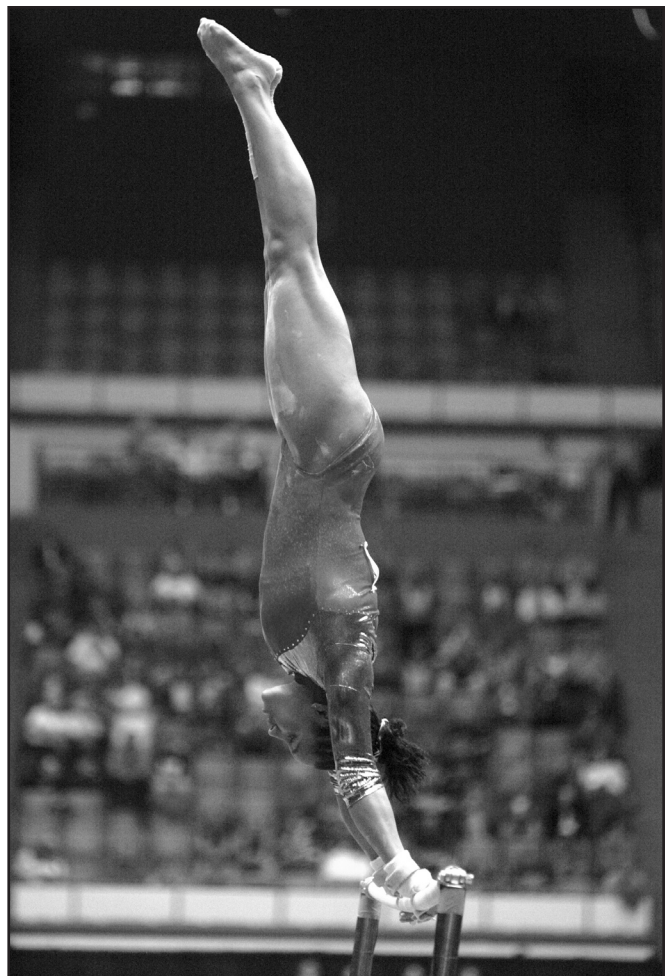
Williams' Career Highs at Nebraska

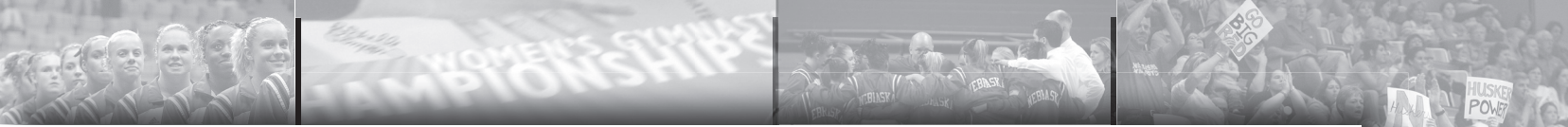
▶ Career Highs

Vault: 9.85 (at Big 12 Championships, 3/26/05)

Beam: 9.85 (vs. Iowa State, 3/13/05)

Floor: 9.875 (at Missouri, 1/28/05)





Vanessa Meloche

R-Freshman | UB/BB | 5-4 | Montreal, Quebec (Northview Heights Secondary/Sport Seneca)

Honors

- ▶ Big 12 Commissioner's Fall Honor Roll (2004)
- ▶ 2002 Canadian National Uneven Bars Champion
- ▶ 2002 Canadian National Vault Runner-Up
- ▶ 2002 Commonwealth Games Uneven Bronze Medalist
- ▶ 2002 Commonwealth Games Vault Bronze Medalist

Outlook for 2006

Redshirt freshman Vanessa Meloche (pronounced Mel-OSH) joined fellow Canadian Richelle Simpson on the Huskers' 2005 squad, although a leg injury prevented Meloche from competing for NU in its run to the NCAA Championships. A native of Montreal, Quebec, Meloche has a wealth of international experience and will compete on the uneven bars and sparingly on balance beam in her first year of competition for the Huskers.

"Vanessa is a world-class performer on bars," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She can swing six different release moves, and she has a beautiful double layout dismount. We're excited to see Vanessa training again because she loves gymnastics, and it's evident by watching her practice. With all the challenges she has faced, to see her in here with such a great attitude every day is really motivating for the entire team."

Before Nebraska

Meloche competed for Coach Carol-Angela Orchard at Sport Seneca in Toronto, Ontario, and was a seven-year member of the Canadian National team program. At the 2002 Canadian National Championships, she took third

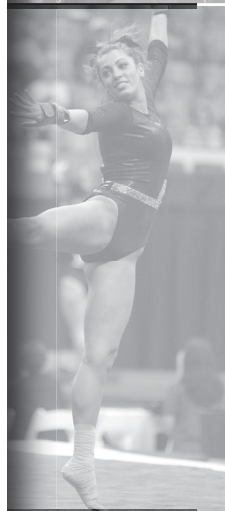
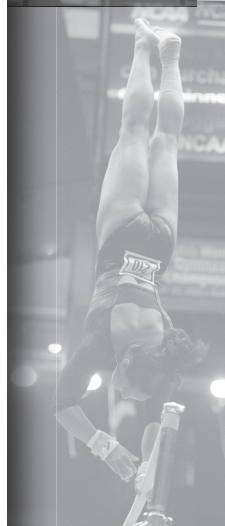
place in the all-around while claiming a gold medal on the uneven bars and silver on vault. In addition, Meloche's team placed third at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, in 2002, where she captured the bronze medal on bars and went on to take another bronze on vault.

Meloche only went on an official visit to Nebraska, but chose the Huskers over scholarship offers from UCLA and California.

"I chose Nebraska because this is where I belong," Meloche said. "I don't know what I would have done without the support of my coaches and teammates through my surgeries last year. Nebraska is my home, and this is the best decision I have ever made."

Personal

The daughter of Pierre and Monique Meloche, Vanessa was born on July 16, 1985, in Longueuil, Quebec, Canada. Meloche was a member of the honor roll at Northview Heights Secondary School in Toronto, Ontario, and is a nutrition, fitness and health promotions major at Nebraska. She has one sister, Melissa.





Alise Cecchini

Freshman | All-Around | 5-2 | Albuquerque, N.M. (LaCueva/Albuquerque Gymnastics)

Honors

- ▶ Finished fifth in the all-around at the New Mexico State Championships

Outlook for 2006

Freshman Alise Cecchini (pronounced UH-lease check-QUI-knee) will be expected to provide much-needed depth in the Huskers' balance beam lineup in 2006. A native of Albuquerque, N.M., Cecchini trained all four events in the offseason and features a front aerial back handspring layout-step-out on beam.

"Alise has really been working hard and improving since arriving in Lincoln," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She loves gymnastics, and we see her developing into a big contributor in future roles."

Before Nebraska

Cecchini competed as a Level 10 gymnast at the Albuquerque Gymnastics School under Coach Joe Comancho. At the 2005 Kurt Thomas Invitational in Dallas, she finished seventh on bars and beam with a 9.20 and a 9.0, respectively. Cecchini also placed 11th in the all-around (32.70) at the 2004

Flips USA competition in Reno, Nev. Finally, she added a sixth-place finish in the all-around (35.60) at the New Mexico State Championships, while also placing fifth on bars (8.95) and sixth on vault (9.05).

Personal

The daughter of Michael Cecchini and Roxanne Dunlap, Alise was born April 14, 1987 in Albuquerque, N.M. Cecchini is a marketing major at Nebraska, and as a 2005 graduate of La Cueva High School, she was involved in DECA and was a member of the honor roll. She has one brother, Christopher.

"I chose Nebraska because I am willing to work hard and earn a spot on the gymnastics team here," Cecchini said. "Nebraska also has a great academic program, and the College of Business is very unique."



Sabrina Long

Freshman | All-Around | 5-2 | Tulsa, Okla. (Amer. Acad. of Homeschooling/Krafft Acad. of Gymnastics)

Honors

- ▶ 2003 Junior Olympic National Vault Champion

Outlook for 2006

Sabrina Long enters the 2006 season with an impressive track record, having been a former junior international elite competitor as well as the 2003 Junior Olympic national champion on vault. Long, a native of Tulsa, Okla., is considered a prospect for Nebraska's all-around lineup and could compete a Yurchenko layout full- or 1 1/2-twist on vault.

"Sabrina is the whole package," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She is aggressive, coachable and a tremendous worker. She tumbles extremely well, and we see her with the ability to contribute on all four events for us this season."

Before Nebraska

Long competed for Coaches Kristi Krafft, Jean-Luc Cairen and Kerry Hayne at Krafft Academy of Gymnastics in Tulsa, Okla., the same club that produced Nebraska assistant coach Danna Durante. With Krafft Academy, Long powered

her way to a 2003 Level 10 Junior Olympic national title on vault with a score of 9.60, while also finishing second on the uneven bars (9.55). In 2004, she earned sixth on vault (9.55) and fifth on beam (9.425). At the 2005 J.O. National Championships, she placed sixth in the all-around (38.00) and fourth on beam (9.50) and added seventh-place honors on floor (9.525), ninth on vault (9.60) and 16th on bars with a 9.375. On the regional level, Long was a three-time Region III all-around champion and captured four Oklahoma state all-around titles. In addition, Long was a two-time U.S. Championships qualifier as a junior international elite competition.

Personal

The daughter of Deanna Nappo and Jesse Long, Sabrina was born Nov. 28, 1986 in Morris, Okla. A 2005 graduate of the American Academy of Homeschooling, she has two brothers, Shane and Damien, and is undecided on a major at Nebraska. Long chose Nebraska over the University of Washington.



Kylie Stone

Freshman | All-Around | 5-3 | Calgary, Alberta (National Sport School/Stampede City)

Honors

- ▶ 2004 Canadian Olympian (Athens Games)
- ▶ 2004 Canadian National All-Around Champion
- ▶ 2004 Canadian National Beam Champion
- ▶ 2004 Canadian National Floor Exercise Champion
- ▶ 2003 World Championships participant
- ▶ 2003 Canadian National Beam Champion
- ▶ 2001 Canadian Junior National All-Around Champion
- ▶ 2001 Canadian Junior National Vault Champion
- ▶ 2001 Canadian Junior National Beam Champion

Outlook for 2006

Kylie Stone is the most decorated recruit in the Huskers' freshman class, as she has tremendous international experience with the Canadian National team. One of Canada's premier gymnasts in recent years, Stone helped her country's team to a 10th-place finish at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece and is expected to emerge as one of Nebraska's top all-arounders in 2006. She competed with current Husker Vanessa Meloche at the 2002 Commonwealth Games and was a teammate of former NU gymnast Richelle Simpson at the 2003 Pan-American Games and 2003 World Championships.

"We are counting on Kylie to help our lineup immediately this year," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "She is amazing on floor and beam, and her international experience will be a great addition to our program."

Before Nebraska

Stone competed for Coaches Dave and Judy Holmes at Stampede City Gymnastics Club in Calgary, Alberta. She placed second in the all-around at the 2005 Canadian National Championships, as well as third on vault, fifth on bars, fifth on beam and second on floor. Widely considered the top gymnast in

Canada, Stone competed at the 2003 World Championships in Anaheim, Calif., helping her country's team qualify for the 2004 Olympic Games and making history as an individual competitor by becoming the highest-ranking Canadian all-around finisher in the history of the World Championships.

In addition to her team accomplishments, Stone has had incredible individual success as an elite gymnast. She was a three-time gold medalist at the 2004 Canadian National Championships, placing first in the all-around, beam and floor while finishing eighth on bars, and was the national beam champion in 2003. Stone took the bronze medal on floor at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, while also finishing fifth on bars and eighth in the all-around.

Personal

The daughter of Jeff Stone and Shelley Birch, Kylie was born on May 16, 1987 in Edmonton, Alberta. She is a 2005 graduate of the National Sport School in Calgary, Alberta, and is a psychology major at Nebraska. Stone has one sister, Maggie, a brother, Tyler, and two step-sisters, Jennifer and Jessica.



Tricia Woo

Freshman | V, BB, FX | 5-0 | Milpitas, Calif. (Milpitas/West Valley Gymnastics)

Honors

- ▶ 2005 Junior Olympic Region I Balance Beam Champion

Outlook for 2006

Freshman Tricia Woo enters the 2006 season poised to contribute on vault, balance beam and floor exercise and is considered a front-runner for the top competitors on each event. Woo, a native of Milpitas, Calif., has shown exceptional prowess on beam, performing a one-armed flip-flop layout stepout to connect a switch leap with a half turn.

"Tricia is very talented and extremely valuable on the three events she trained in the fall," Head Coach Dan Kendig said. "When she arrived, she immediately learned a double layout on floor. Her routines are unique and powerful, and we are excited to see her perform this year."

Before Nebraska

Woo competed for Coaches Diane Amos, Tiina Vilenius and Abra Slater at West Valley Gymnastics School in Campbell, Calif. A four-time Level 10 Junior Olympic National Championships qualifier, she had a solid showing at the 2004 national competition, finishing 12th in the all-around, 10th on vault and 12th

on floor. Woo, who placed fourth on vault at the 2003 national championships, was the California state vault and all-around champion that same year, while also finishing third on bars, fifth on beam and second on floor. She finished sixth on vault at nationals in 2005.

Woo was also an accomplished swimmer and diver at Milpitas High School. She took second-place honors in one-meter diving in the Santa Clara Valley Athletic League and earned a varsity letter in swimming in 2005.

In the classroom, Woo earned gold cord and GSE Golden Seal academic honors, and was involved in Chinese Club and Math Club at Milpitas. Woo chose Nebraska over Florida and UC-Berkeley.

Personal

The daughter of Eric and Audrey Woo, Tricia was born March 11, 1987. Woo was a 2005 graduate of Milpitas High School in Milpitas, Calif., and is a pre-physical therapy major at Nebraska. She has one sister, Erin, and one brother, Fred.



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