

Youth Sets Stage for Nebraska's National Success

The 2004-05 Nebraska rifle season was one of the most successful in the program's short seven-year history. In addition to matching its best-ever finish at the NCAA Championships by placing third, the young Huskers also finished as conference champions in their first year competing as a member of the Great America Rifle Conference.

In addition to enjoying multiple achievements as a team, many shooters on the squad earned high accolades for their individual performances both on the range and in the classroom.

Sophomore Kristina Fehlings was named GARC Shooter of the Year and earned first-team NRA All-America honors in air rifle and second-team honors in smallbore following the NCAA Championships. Fehlings, who led the team in smallbore average and finished second in air rifle average, also earned first-team CRCA All-Collegiate team honors in smallbore following her third-place finish as an individual at nationals. Additionally, Fehlings added second-team honors in air rifle to cap an outstanding sophomore season.

Junior Misty Chanek finished second on the team in smallbore average and third in air rifle while earning second-team NRA All-America honors in both disciplines. Chanek, who finished third as an individual in smallbore at the GARC Championships, also earned honorable-mention CRCA All-Collegiate team honors.

Freshman standout Andrea Franzén, who joined the team at semester along with fellow freshman Eva Richert, led the team in air rifle average and earned first-team CRCA All-Collegiate honors in air rifle by finishing second as an individual at the NCAA Championships. Franzén did not shoot enough matches to qualify for the NRA All-America team.

The team also placed seven student-athletes on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll in the spring semester, as freshmen Kim Chrostowski, Katie Harrington and Kirsten Weiss joined Chanek, Fehlings, Franzén and Richert. Five members of the squad were honored in the fall semester, as sophomore captain Stacy Underwood joined Chanek, Chrostowski, Harrington and Weiss.

Entering the season with an unusually young roster that included just one upperclassman, third-year coach Launi Meili looked to build experience for her freshman early.

With the first three matches of the season at home, Meili loaded her team with newcomers and reaped the benefits of strong performances from her freshmen as the Huskers opened the season 3-0 with two victories over Air Force and one over TCU.

The Huskers then put their undefeated record on the line in Cincinnati, Ohio at the Walsh Invitational. After defeating Memphis, 4,637-4,572, the Huskers fell to eventual national champion Army, 4,682-4,611. Chanek and Fehlings led the way for the Huskers in both matches, with Chanek recording a career-best 591 in smallbore against Memphis.

Following a conference win over Ole Miss, the Huskers defeated non-conference foe UMKC to close out the fall season with a 6-1 record.



Kristina Fehlings earned multiple postseason honors in 2004-05, including GARC Shooter-of-the-Year.

When the Huskers returned after a month long layoff for winter break, the roster had grown to eight with the addition of Franzén from Sweden and Richert from Germany. Both shooters brought a great deal of international shooting experience to the Husker squad and gave it the boost it needed to compete for a national title.

The first two matches of the spring semester represented a stiff challenge for the young team, as the Huskers headed to Palmyra, Pa. to face conference foes West Virginia and Kentucky. With All-American Misty Chanek sidelined after having her wisdom teeth removed, Meili turned to her underclassmen to carry the load. Fehlings and the young Huskers responded, taking both matches in solid fashion. While Fehlings led the Huskers in both disciplines, Harrington posted



Misty Chanek earned second-team NRA All-America honors in both smallbore and air rifle in 2005.

her best performance of the season, turning in a career-best 580 in smallbore to help the Huskers improve to 8-1 on the season and 4-1 in the conference.

The Huskers took the range with a full squad for the first time in 2004-05 in their final conference match against Xavier, as Chanek returned to the team and Franzén prepared to appear in her first NCAA match.

The impact of the pair was felt immediately, as Chanek paced the Husker

smallbore effort with a 585 and Franzen turned in the top air rifle effort, shooting a 592 in regulation and a 100 in the finals to lead the Huskers to a 4,668-4,619 win over the Musketeers.

With the regular season coming to a close, the Huskers headed to Fairbanks, Alaska, to shoot their Collegiate Sectional and NCAA qualifier matches against six-time defending national champion Alaska-Fairbanks. After shooting a 4,660 in the first match of the weekend, the Huskers turned in a season-best 4,693 in the NCAA qualifier on a strong team effort. Fehlings set the pace for the Huskers in smallbore, shooting a 591, and shared top honors in air rifle with Franzen, as both fired a 592. Richert turned in a career-best 588 in air rifle to help the Huskers to a strong finish in the discipline.

The solid performance at NCAA qualifiers was enough to earn the team its second consecutive NCAA appearance. The Huskers were one of six teams to qualify in both disciplines, making the team eligible to win the national championship. Chanek, Fehlings and Franzen also qualified to shoot for the individual championships, as Fehlings qualified in both categories while Chanek and Franzen qualified in air rifle.

With a month-long gap between qualifiers and NCAA Championships, the Huskers were able to set their sights on their first conference crown. On the first day of competition in Oxford, Miss., Nebraska took the conference title in air rifle, edging second-place Memphis 2,349-2,333 on strong performances by Fehlings and Franzén, who each shot 591. Despite a disappointing four-point loss to Army in smallbore, the Huskers held on to win the conference championship in their first year of conference competition.

The Huskers opened the NCAA Championships with a 2,319 in smallbore, a solid effort that left the team in fourth place but well within range of the title. Despite tying Jacksonville State for the best performance in air rifle by shooting a 2,338, the Huskers could not catch GARC foe Army, falling two points short or the Black Knights. The Huskers finished in third place, one point behind Jacksonville State and one point ahead of six-time defending champion Alaska-Fairbanks.

2004-05 Schedule and Final Results

Date	Opponent/Tournament	Result
Oct. 22	vs. U.S. Air Force Academy	W (4,614-4,559)
Oct. 23	vs. U.S. Air Force Academy	W (4,605-4,565)
Nov. 6	vs. TCU (Air Rifle only)	W (2,310-2,199)
Nov. 13	at Walsh Invitational	4th/14 (4,637)
Nov. 13	vs. Memphis (at Cincinnati, Ohio)	W (4,637-4,572)
Nov. 14	vs. Army (at Cincinnati, Ohio)	W (4,682-4,611)
Nov. 20	vs. Mississippi	W (4,661-4,579)
Dec. 4	vs. UMKC	W (4,658-4,529)
Jan. 14	vs. West Virginia (at Palmyra, Pa.)	W (6,149-6,012)
Jan. 15	vs. Kentucky (at Palmyra, Pa.)	W (4,635-4,605)
Jan. 29	vs. Xavier	W (4,668-4,619)
Feb. 12	at Collegiate Sectional	4,660
Feb. 13	at Alaska-Fairbanks (NCAA Qualifier)	4,693
Feb. 26-27	at GARC Championships (Oxford, Miss.)	1st (4,663)
March 11-12	at NCAA Championships (Colorado Springs, Colo.)	3rd (4,657)

Final 2004-05 Individual Statistics

Misty Chanek

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Air Force	577	90	586	99
Air Force	580	95	577	99
Memphis	591	---	578	---
Army	583	---	566	---
Mississippi	586	---	596	99
UMKC	588	93	585	---
West Virginia	---	---	---	---
Kentucky	---	---	---	---
Xavier	585	---	579	95
Collegiate Sectional	585	---	589	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	584	---	591	---
GARC	584	---	587	---
NCAA	585	---	579	---

Kim Chrostowski

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Air Force	578	95	583	94
Air Force	580	92	584	96
Memphis	570	---	579	---
Army	575	---	580	---
Mississippi	574	---	583	96
UMKC	576	92	580	---
West Virginia	576	---	575	---
Kentucky	574	---	578	---
Xavier	580	---	586	98
Collegiate Sectional	579	---	583	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	580	---	582	---
GARC	577	---	580	---
NCAA	573	---	---	---

Kristina Fehlings

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Air Force	577	94	589	97
Air Force	588	98	592	95
Memphis	585	---	589	---
Army	584	---	587	---
Mississippi	591	---	587	95
UMKC	593	98	589	---
West Virginia	589	---	584	---
Kentucky	581	---	590	---
Xavier	584	---	592	99
Collegiate Sectional	576	---	592	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	591	---	593	---
GARC	575	---	591	---
NCAA	585	---	585	---

Andrea Franzén

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Xavier	574	---	592	100
Collegiate Sectional	572	---	590	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	561	---	593	---
GARC	578	---	591	---
NCAA	---	---	588	---

Katie Harrington

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Air Force	563	91	574	96
Air Force	574	94	563	---
Memphis	562	---	571	---
Army	573	---	562	---
Mississippi	574	---	572	---
UMKC	567	92	560	---
West Virginia	565	---	573	---
Kentucky	580	---	572	---
Xavier	565	---	565	---
Collegiate Sectional	566	---	564	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	568	---	566	---
GARC	573	---	573	---

Eva Richert

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
West Virginia	---	---	586	---
Kentucky	---	---	575	---
Xavier	---	---	581	95
Collegiate Sectional	561	---	584	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	579	---	588	---
GARC	---	---	580	---
NCAA	---	---	586	---

Stacy Underwood

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Air Force	558	97	574	95
Air Force	570	90	582	91
Memphis	574	---	561	---
Army	574	---	561	---
Mississippi	575	---	575	93
UMKC	572	91	569	---
West Virginia	572	---	564	---
Kentucky	579	---	563	---
Xavier	574	---	571	---
Collegiate Sectional	565	---	570	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	566	---	572	---
GARC	571	---	578	---

Kirsten Weiss

Match	Smallbore	Finals	Air Rifle	Finals
Air Force	577	89	581	96
Air Force	582	86	583	92
Memphis	567	---	577	---
Army	574	---	580	---
Mississippi	572	---	575	97
UMKC	584	92	574	---
West Virginia	579	---	573	---
Kentucky	578	---	579	---
Xavier	581	---	578	96
Collegiate Sectional	571	---	581	---
Alaska-Fairbanks	582	---	573	---
GARC	578	---	582	---
NCAA	576	---	---	---



The 2004-05 Nebraska rifle team.

