

Photo by Bob Pearson  
Husker walk-on recruit Greg Gideon is vying for one of the 12 spots on the Husker basketball squad.

## Cager walk-on vies for varsity spot but finds squad's competition difficult

By Kevin Schnepf

Greg Gideon, unlike his biblical namesake, uses a basketball instead of a trumpet to gain attention.

In addition the walk-on has used his basketball talents to become a contender for a spot on the Huskers' 12-man varsity basketball squad.

Gideon said claiming a varsity spot is difficult.

"College practices are at least ten times tougher than high school," Gideon said. Gideon, a 6-foot-5, 180-pound forward, played high school basketball at Shawnee Heights in Topeka, Ks. where he was an All-City selection and a second team All-State member. He averaged 17 points his junior year and 14.4 points his senior year to help his team to a 13-8 record.

"There's a lot to learn as a freshman in getting their style of play down," he said. "Coach (Moe) Iba (UNL assistant) is tough on defense so I have to get that learned and also the offense."

Gideon said friends of his father who live in Lincoln encouraged him to play basketball at UNL. UNL sent Gideon recruiting material and asked him to try out as a walk-on and he did.

Head coach Joe Cipriano said Gideon has a good attitude and wants to learn. But, Cipriano said, freshmen have trouble adjusting to university competition.

"If we had a freshman program, Greg would be in an

excellent position," Cipriano said. "But right now, he's behind the older players."

Cipriano said a freshman program would help incoming freshman and transfers learn the system better and would allow them to get in some playing time. Because of recruiting limitations, however, UNL has no freshman program.

Gideon said he considered going to a small Kansas college but wanted to play for a "big school."

"I got some recruiting offers from some junior colleges and four-year colleges in Kansas," Gideon said. "But no NCAA schools recruited me. I'm going to try my hardest to make the team and if I don't, I guess I know I at least gave it a shot."

"The players have been real nice and the older guys have been helpful on what to do," he said. "I'll ask them questions and they stick up for you because they know how rough it can be."

Returning forwards Terry Novak and Mark McVicker and recruits Andre Smith and Pat Hodges make competition tough, Gideon said.

"I talked with Coach Cipriano two or three weeks ago," Gideon said. "He told me he wanted me to stay out and keep working on the team. If that's any indication of making the team, I don't know, but I'm working very hard."

## Osborne praises Huskers' defense, says fresh faces contributing factor

By Jim Kay

The Huskers' defense may be the key to unlock the door to the Big 8 Championship, Husker football Coach Tom Osborne said Monday at the weekly Extra Point Club luncheon.

"In order to win championships you've got to have a defense," he said. "It's a tough situation when you know you need 35 points every week to win."

Osborne said UNL's 31-14 victory over Oklahoma State University (OSU) Saturday was his team's best overall game this season.

"OSU had been averaging about 400 yards a game in total offense," Osborne said. "They have one of the finest backs in the country in Terry Miller. But I think we held them to only 250 yards or so. We also had some crucial plays on third and fourth down situations."

Feared long runs

Osborne said he was concerned throughout the game about Miller breaking loose on long runs. Miller's longest run of the game came on the next to last play of the game when he carried for 18 yards.

Defensive line coach Charlie McBride told the booster club the defense has improved each week.

"They're a young group," McBride said. "In the last couple of games they've started to come on. We're more of an attacking defense now. I also have platooned

the linemen the last two weeks every two series of downs. Keeping fresh people in there seems to help."

McBride cited junior Randy Poeschl for his mobility and agility and called him the Huskers' best pass rusher.

Praised performances

McBride also praised the performances of junior Barney Cotton and sophomores Bill Barnett, Rod Horn and Dan Pensick.

Horn missed the OSU game with a sprained knee and his appearance is doubtful for this week's game with the University of Missouri.

McBride said Barnett, who broke a bone in his leg earlier in the season, will be at full speed for the first time since his injury.

UNL will be without middle guard Jeff Pullen who hyperextended his ankle against OSU.

McBride said one of his toughest decisions as line coach is choosing who will play middle guard.

"It's tough for me to say one is better than the other," he said. "It's confusing who is best. Oudious Lee is certainly one of our best pass rushers. He had some real big plays against OSU. And if anyone did have a good effort in the loss to Iowa State University it was Kerry Weinmaster. There's not one who's a weak player."

Lee and Weinmaster, both sophomores, will make the trip to Missouri this weekend as middle guards.

## Ticket sales good

Ticket sales for the Creighton University (CU)-Husker basketball game, five weeks away, have been good, according to Jean Walcott at the UNL ticket office.

The ticket office has received requests for 4,072 tickets for the Dec. 9 game, Walcott said.

It will be the first meeting between the two schools since the 1931-32 season. The Bluejays lead the series 4-3 and have won the last two games, 47-18 in Omaha and 28-26 in Lincoln.

"We expect the game to sell out," Walcott said. "We have not totaled the season ticket requests so we don't know exactly how many tickets will be available."

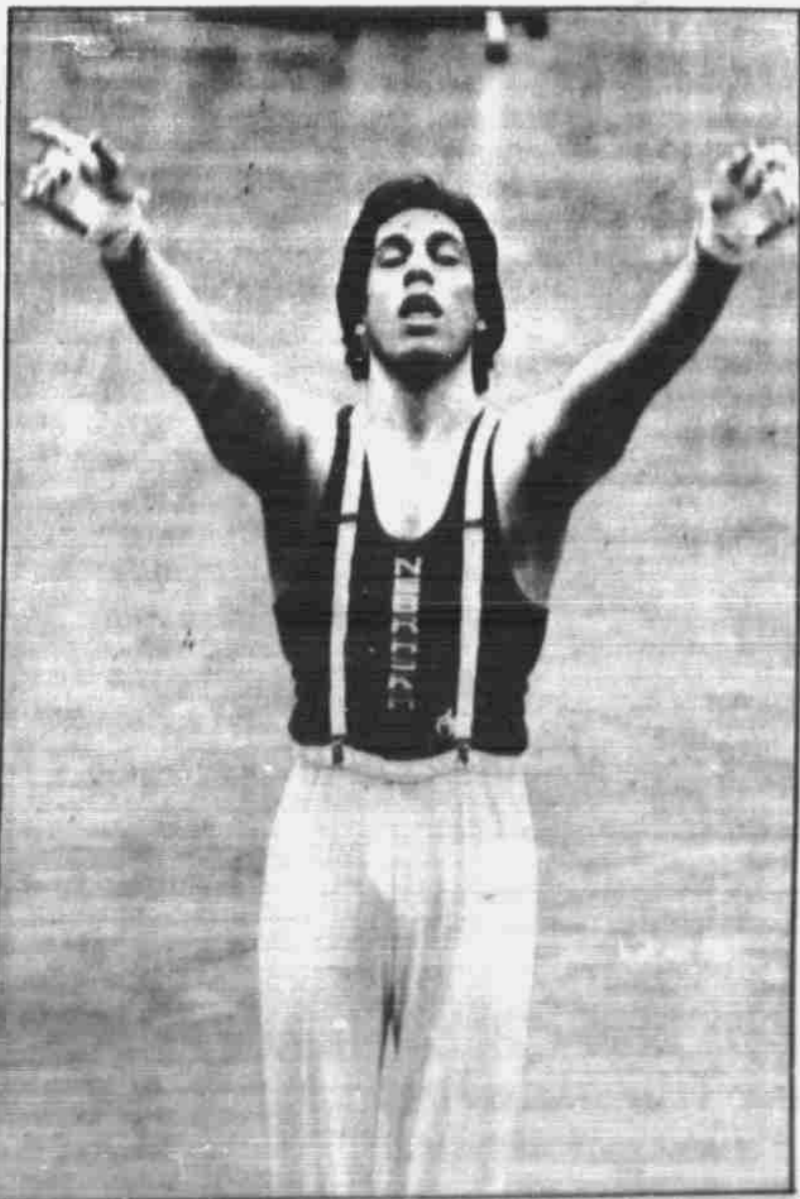
About 350 student tickets have been sold so far, Walcott said.

CU received 2,000 tickets-1,000 general admission and 1,000 reserved seats for the game in the Sports Complex, said Helen Ruth Wagner, UNL ticket manager.

Of the 2,000 tickets Creighton received, 800 will be reserved for students, according to Tom Apke, CU head basketball coach and athletic director.

Apke said UNL will receive 2,000 tickets for the CU-UNL game in Omaha next year.

## Gerard red-shirted to prepare for World Games



Daily Nebraskan Photo  
Husker red-shirted gymnast Larry Gerard.

By Mary Ryan

If everything goes according to plan, the UNL men's gymnastic team will win the national championship next year, according to coach Francis Allen.

To "put some miles" on the younger members of the team and to give star performer Larry Gerard a chance to practice for the World Games next summer, Allen has red-shirted Gerard this season.

Allen said this will give Gerard, who is one of the top eight gymnasts in the country and a member of the U.S.A. travelling team, an extra year under Allen's direction. "The idea was to benefit Larry, his gymnastics and the school," Allen said.

"We have four of the best all-arounders we have ever had in (Chuck) Chmelka, (Mark) Williams, (Barry) Cook, and (Richard) Brindisi.

"We figure to put a lot of miles on them this year," Allen added. "We would use them anyway. We are trying to build a national championship team and those four, plus Gerard guarantees it."

Allen said UNL could excel this year, barring injuries. But that is what happened in UNL's opening meet loss Oct. 22 at Ames, Iowa against Iowa State University.

"If Williams had not been injured (ankle), we could have stayed right with them," Allen said.

Allen has red-shirted only one other gymnast, two years ago when Gene Mackie broke his leg. The following year Mackie was an All-American, Allen said.

Allen said "I have never had anyone as talented as Larry before, I'll use it (red-shirting) again whether it works out this time or not."

One motive behind red-shirting Gerard was to give him a chance to concentrate more on school, but gymnastics still take up much of his time.

"It's rough, because I am working as hard as ever for three meets," he said. "There is two months of hard

training and I don't even go to nationals. It is like a never-ending practice."

One of the three meets Gerard will compete in is in two weeks. The U.S. traveling team meets Czechoslovakia at the University of New Mexico.

"I have always done things just to get by," he said. "Now I am working them to the maximum."

## sports shorts

The Sports Center tennis courts will open 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday. Students and faculty members can sign up for court reservations 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday at the Sports Center, room 125. Court costs are \$2 an hour for students and \$4 an hour for faculty. For more information, contact Ray Huppert at 472-1147.

Intramural flag football playoffs begin today. All teams that finished the season at .500 or above qualify for the playoffs. Team captains of qualifying teams should contact the Recreation Department, 1740 Vine St. to find out when their team plays.

Two independent flag football teams will battle for the co-recreational championship at 5 p.m., Cather-Pound field.

The MF's advanced to the finals with a 28-0 win over the previously undefeated Alpha Phi and Haskers. The MF's, 8-0, will face the MGB's, 9-0. The MGB's advanced to the finals by downing The Pits, 14-9.