

Former Husker guard up for Golden State spot

By Kevin Schnepf

Ricky Marsh has taken a giant step upward in basketball after leaving the Huskers' squad in 1974. Marsh, a highly recruited guard from New York City, is vying for a starting role at guard for the Golden State Warriors and apparently has turned a few heads. He is the only Husker now playing in the NBA.

Marsh played beside former UNL guard Jerry Fort from 1972 to 1974. While Fort was averaging 18 points a game his sophomore year, Marsh, also a sophomore, averaged about nine points. Marsh left prior to his junior year at UNL for "personal reasons."

He wound up playing at Manhattan College in New York City where he averaged 20 points a game. Marsh's departure disappointed some Big Red fans who thought Fort and Marsh were the future's best one-two punch at guard in the Big 8.

Marsh, drafted in the eighth round by Golden State, currently is competing for a guard spot with All-American rookie guards Ricky Green of Michigan and Wes Cox of Louisville. All three guards are playing behind veteran guards Phil Smith, Charles Dudley, and Charles Johnson.

But it was Marsh who has impressed the Golden State veterans the most, according to the Oct. 31 issue of Sports Illustrated. All-Pro forward Rick Barry said, "Marsh is a real player. He could be the stabilizer we need."

Golden State will try to regain the NBA title they won three years ago, but Marsh is worried about remaining a Warrior.

"I'm satisfied with making the team," Marsh said during a telephone interview last week. "It's pretty tough competition and I'm just going to have to work that much harder. I'm impressed with everybody in the league, all the players and the teams are good."

The Warriors, who owned a 7-7 record as of Tuesday in the NBA's Western Division, have played Marsh only seldom, but Marsh said he will not give up.

"It (NBA) is a lot more competitive with all the great players they have," Marsh said. "I'm adjusting to pro life pretty well. I'm gaining a lot of experience with the help of Coach (Al) Attles and all the players. I've improved in all areas of the game since I left Nebraska."

Marsh, who told his coach at Manhattan College that he left UNL to return to his family, said he doubts that he would have been drafted by a pro team if he stayed at UNL.

"I just didn't have a good relationship with the whole

environment at Nebraska," Marsh said. "The people there treated me nice but that's all behind me now."

UNL head coach Joe Cipriano, who recruited Marsh from Jamaica High School in New York City, said he thought Marsh had the talent to play professional basketball. Cipriano also cited Jerry Fort, Stuart Lantz and Chuck Jura as having the capability to play professional basketball.

Cipriano said Marsh left UNL because of personal problems at home.

"I thought he was very talented," Cipriano said. "But I didn't think he was an extremely hard worker. I think playing in the shadow of Jerry Fort had something to do with it, but I don't know for sure." Cipriano said he takes half the credit for Marsh making it as a professional ball player.

Marsh' second college coach, Jack Powers of Manhattan College, said that Marsh told him that he liked it at Nebraska but he wanted to be close to his family in New York City.

"He had good things to say about the school (UNL) and the people," Powers said. "It was just one of those things where he was away from home and decided to leave. He told me that he wanted to be close to his family and his mother."

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Intramural finals

Flag Football Division Finals

Results Tuesday

Fraternity B—Sigma Phi Epsilon over Sigma Chi, 36-13
Independent B—Big Knox Knockers over Delta Sigma Phi, 33-13

Fraternity C—Sigma Alpha Epsilon over Sigma Nu, 27-8.
Independent A—Thunderchickens over Aeros, 19-18
Fraternity A—Phi Delta Theta over Sigma Chi, 30-12.

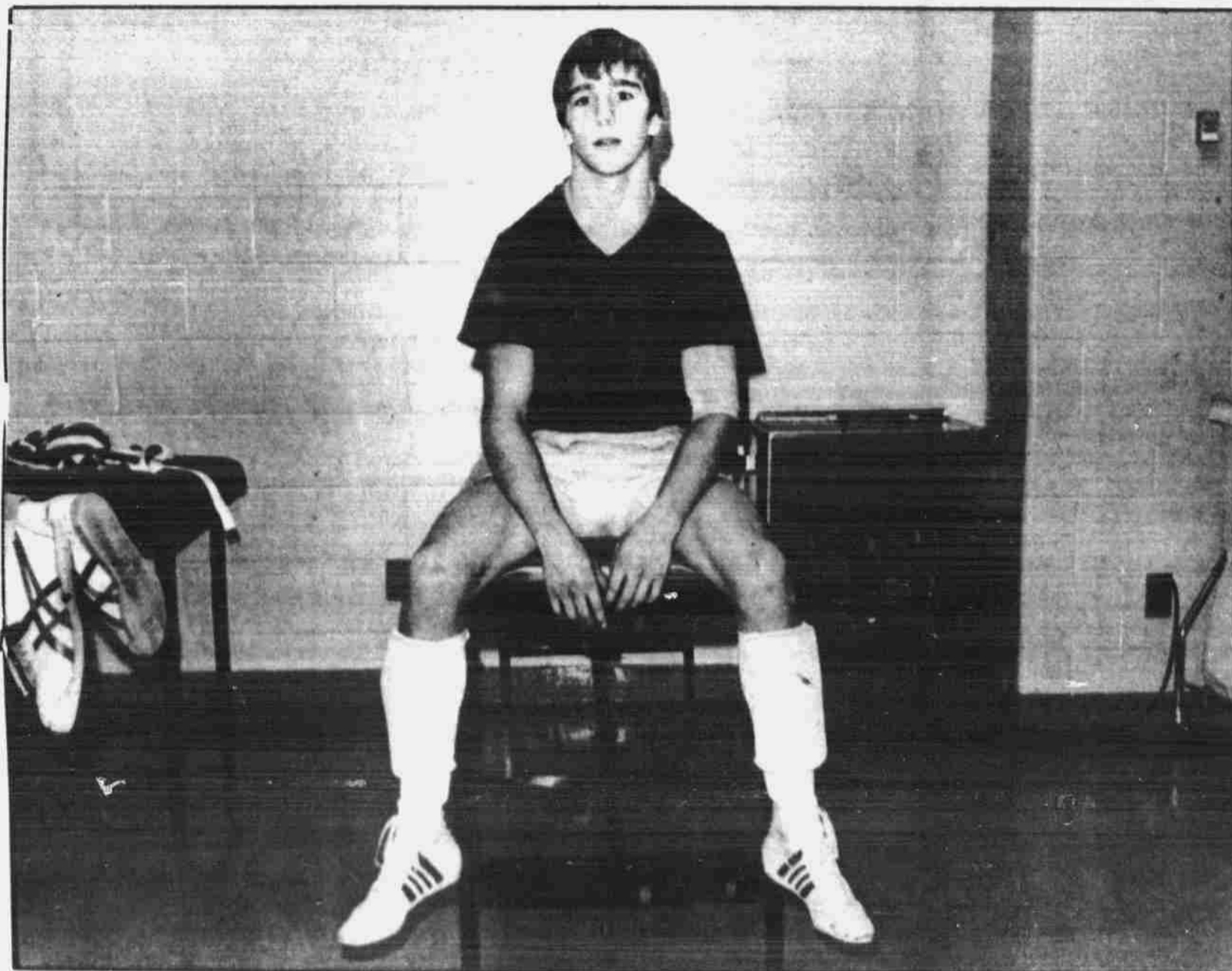


Photo by Bob Pearson

"A coach's dream" for wrestling coach Orval Borgialli is freshman Rudy Glur

Frosh wrestler loses first match

By Jim Hunt

UNL freshman wrestler Rudy Glur started his college career the hard way in the Great Plains Freestyle Wrestling Championships last weekend.

Glur, a three-time class A state wrestling champion at Columbus High School, tied his high school loss record in his first day of competition. He lost his first two matches. Glur lost only two matches in high school, both to Rick Hotz of Grand Island High School who is also a UNL wrestler.

"Rudy got beat by inexperience last week," Husker Coach Orval Borgialli said. His first match was against the NCAA's fifth place finisher, (Charles) Davis of Colorado." Davis was the meet champion in the 118-pound division.

Borgialli said the Great Plains meet gave Glur something to gauge himself by.

"Rudy is a real dedicated, hard-working individual," Borgialli said. "He's a coach's dream. I hope I can say that about him four years from now."

Glur said there was a big difference for a freshman right out of high school and wrestling in college.

"The guys in college are a lot stronger than the guys in high school," Glur said. "The guys in college also are a lot tougher, so I'll have to improve a lot this year to be able to compete with them."

Glur said although he dropped both matches Friday, he learned a lot from the losses.

Borgialli said Huskers George Rambour, Christopher Volle, and Court Vining performed well for UNL in the Great Plains meet.

Friday and Saturday the Huskers travel to Fargo, N.D., for the Bison Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

NCAA-imposed scholarship limits narrow the gap

When the limit on football scholarships was reduced to 95 by the NCAA a few years ago, there was a lot of grumbling from the big-name football powers who thought it sounded the death knell for their elitism.

They were right to a certain extent. Although this year Nebraska and Oklahoma are battling for the Big 8 crown, last year there was an unprecedented three-way tie for the title. Included were one school that had never won the championship (Oklahoma State) and one that had not won it since 1961 (Colorado).



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While most fans are aware of the football limits, few know that lower limits were imposed on the other sports at the same time. And unlike football, those limits can do nothing but help the Cornhuskers.

Since 1950, the only Husker conference titles have come in track, football and gymnastics. In that span, there have been no winners in baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis or wrestling. There are several reasons for this.

One is the weather—participants in sports such as baseball, golf and tennis are more willing to go to the southern Big 8 schools where the playing season is longer. For

example, Oklahoma State has won the golf championship 19 out of its 20 years in the league, and Oklahoma has finished first in the tennis race 11 out of the last 12 years.

Recruiting problem

A lack of modern facilities also was a recruiting problem for some UNL sports until last year's move into the Sports Complex. Now, tennis coach James Porter tells his recruits they have a place to practice in the winter.

Swimming coach John Reta says the new swimming and diving pools should impress high school swimmers who attend such meets as the Great Plains AAU meet this fall.

Husker coaches agree that once a sport dynasty is built, it is virtually impossible to break into, and it seems like the Big 8 has such dynasties in almost every sport.

In addition to those already mentioned, other outstanding teams are Kansas in track, Kansas and Kansas State in basketball and Iowa State, Kansas and Oklahoma in swimming. Iowa State won the gymnastics title seven straight years before Nebraska broke the string two years ago.

But probably the most marked example is that of wrestling—the triumvirate of Iowa State, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State has won every conference title since 1949, and they have finished in the top three spots since 1964. Oklahoma State alone has produced 94 NCAA champions compared to just one for Nebraska (Mike Nissen in 1963).

Scholarship limits

Breaking into such strongholds is where the new

scholarship limits should help. For example, Husker wrestling coach Orval Borgialli said Iowa State used to give out as many as 40 scholarships, but the Cyclones now are limited to 11.

This year Borgialli said he gave out five full and nine partial scholarships, the most in his 14 years as Husker coach. The gap is narrowing, but the results may not show up for a few years.

"It'll take a while," Borgialli said. "You've still got to beat tradition."

He pointed out that some athletes will go to traditional schools anyway, paying their way with low-income grants or hoping to earn a scholarship later.

While other schools are being forced to pare their scholarships in some sports, Nebraska has been gradually increasing its number. It appears that only golf, swimming, tennis and wrestling give out fewer scholarships than the NCAA limits, and the golf and wrestling coaches say they could go to the limit if they found enough quality athletes.

"It's senseless to kick out the money if you don't get the kids you want," Borgialli said.

Except for football and basketball, athletic director Bob Devaney said Husker coaches are given a lump sum of money to work with, which they can divide as they wish among scholarships, travel expenses, salaries, etc.

Golf coach Larry Romjue said he is giving out seven or eight scholarships this year ("I've got a good team") while in other years he may only give out three.

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