

sports

UNL Rifle Club sets sights on NCAA recognition

By Tad Stryker

The UNL Rifle Club's members are hoping for bigger and better things.

For many years, the club had been partly financed by the UNL Athletic Dept. In 1974, however, the funds were eliminated because shooting wasn't recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association as an official sport, according to sophomore Gary Schmidt, member of the Rifle Club.

Recently, the NCAA has allowed a few universities to organize varsity shooting teams.

"It's called a 'pilot program,' and it's just on a temporary basis," Schmidt said, "but we think it's a good sign, and we're hoping that the NCAA decides to approve it for the rest of the colleges."

Saturday, the club will host its 26th annual Big Red Invitational.

"It's the highlight of the year for us," said club President Dave Jennett, a senior from Omaha and a transfer from the U.S. Military Academy.

Highly-touted teams from Eastern Washington and Texas Christian Universities and several Midwestern university clubs will be participating.

Two Lincoln meets

This year the club has shot in two meets in Lincoln and, a meet in Minneapolis, in which the UNL shooters placed fourth out of eight teams. The Lincoln meets, at the rifle range in the basement of the Military and Naval Science Building, were attended mostly by local clubs such as the Lincoln Rifle and Pistol Club. No team scores were kept at these meets.

Individual UNL shooters have been successful this season, according to Jennett.

"We've placed shooters in the top three of nearly every event we've been in," he said.

Some of the consistent high scorers for the men's team have been Jennett, Schmidt, freshman Tim Cummins, and junior Dave Andrews.

The women's team, including senior Phyllis Johnson, juniors Diane Walkowiak and Cori Dillon, and sophomore Diane Suelter, has done extremely well, said Sgt. John Carr, Rifle Club coach.

Carr said Jennett, "has been instrumental

in getting the team and its members organized and keeping it going."

Like Olympic rules

The club shoots under rules sanctioned by the National Rifle Association and the International Shooters Union, which are nearly identical to Olympic rules, Carr said.

Shooters compete from three positions: prone, kneeling, and standing. They shoot at 10 one-inch rings on each

target. One hundred points are possible for each target, and since two targets are used for each of the three shooting positions, a score of 600 would be possible.

Besides the upcoming Big Red Invitational, the club will sponsor a "Little Red" Invitational for high school shooters.

"This is also a tradition for us," Carr said. "It gives us a chance to show off our facilities to young shooters, and to tell them about our program. In this way, we hope to steer a few of the good shooters who have been going to other schools our way."

Irregular practices

Practices are not always regularly held. Usually, on Monday and Wednesday evenings, members try to get together. Often, it's every man for himself, said Walkowiak. "But everybody tries to get in at least two practices a week," she said.

Since the club receives no funds from the Athletic Dept. the club raises funds to cover expenses other than ammunition and some equipment, which is donated by the ROTC. To pay its way to Minnesota, the club sponsored a raffle last fall for a ski trip to Vail, Colo.

The ultimate goal for the club is to be recognized as a varsity team. "We're trying to build up a reputation, so that when we get the chance to meet with the Athletic Dept., we'll have something to show besides a bunch of eager shooters," Carr said.

"One problem is that we're not a big spectator sport," Walkowiak said. "But the NCAA's idea is becoming more popular throughout the country and, sometime in the future, I think we'll be a varsity sport."



Photo by Tom Gessner

Gary Schmidt, member of the UNL Rifle Club.

Bell among unpicked Husker recruiting plums

Wednesday is an important day as far as Nebraska football is concerned.

It is the first day colleges can sign prospective recruits to a national letter of intent, and it appears the Huskers are in pretty good shape.

Nebraska can sign 30 high school seniors, but as in the past, the Huskers will limit that number to 27 or 28 to save some scholarships for walk-on freshmen players who deserve scholarships.

The Huskers completed a clean-sweep of in-state athletes as they signed 12 players to Big Eight letters of

the Top 20, including No. 2 ranked Syracuse.

Top-notch recruits

Don't let it concern you that Nebraska is still prusing some recruits so rigorously. Nebraska has already landed some top-notch recruits.

Fort Worth, Tex. quarterback Turner Gill already has committed himself to the Huskers after Oklahoma Coach Barry Switzer reportedly offered to change his offense for the talented Texan. Gill told Switzer that he was going to be a Cornhusker.

The Husker coaches also learned Friday that Camarillo, Cal. receiver Scott Kimball has decided to attend Nebraska. Kimball is a nice surprise for the Huskers since his brother, Bobby, started at split end for Oklahoma in 1978 before making the Green Bay Packers as a free agent rookie last season.

In addition to NU and OU, Kimball was offered scholarships by UCLA and Arizona. Last season, he caught 62 passes for 987 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Whether or not Nebraska signs any of its latest recruits, the recruiting crop should be a good one for 1980.

Iba: team performance needed

By Frank Hassler
Managing editor

If the UNL men's basketball team is to snap out of its two-game losing skid in time to gain momentum for the upcoming Big Eight playoffs, it will have to come up with a better team performance to complement good individual showings, Acting Head Coach Moe Iba said Tuesday noon at the weekly press luncheon.

The Huskers, 16-10 overall with a 7-5 Big Eight record, have two conference games left before the Big Eight tournament Feb. 26. The Huskers play Kansas State Wednesday in Lincoln and travel to Norman Saturday to take on Oklahoma.

"We've had good individual performances, but not all of them have come at the same time," Iba said. "One or two players drop off, and it really hurts us."

"We'll just have to play better, shoot better, and do some of the things we haven't done," he said.

Against Kansas State, the Huskers will need strong play in the first part of the contest, something they have not had in the last two games, Iba added.

Ready to play

"The kids were ready to play (against Colorado)," Iba said. "But they got off to a bad start and missed a couple of shots. It was the same thing that happened against Oklahoma State (an 83-68 UNL loss Feb. 13)."

"It's really important how you start a game out," he said.

Iba said the loss of Tyrone Adams, a 6-6 sophomore forward, who broke his hand Jan. 16 when KSU played Colorado, has forced some changes in the Wildcat starting lineup.

"They thought Adams was a big part of their basket-

ball team," Iba said. "They've been playing around with their lineup some. It'll be interesting for them."

Against Kansas State, UNL may have to face a taller lineup with All Big-Eight Rolando Blackman moving to guard and either 6-5 Manley Ray or 6-6 Dean Danner moving into the starting five, Iba said.

Foot injury

Ray Collins, a 6-3 sophomore who appears to be recovering from a foot injury, may start at a forward spot for UNL, the coach said.

"Ray gives us good stability, which is something we need. We haven't been getting the rebounds (from that spot) and we might as well try someone who can score." Iba is pleased with his team's attitude in practice this week.

"It makes me feel good," he said. "Our kids are very concerned about the losses. They've shown concern at practice."

"So far this year, it's been really funny about the Big Eight," Iba said. "The teams that don't have much pressure on them seem to be winning."

"At the beginning of the year, we played loose, won, and had a chance to win the league," he said. After the games against Kansas State and Oklahoma, the Huskers will play in the Big Eight tournament Feb. 26 through Mar. 1.

"When you start the tournament, it's a whole new season," Iba said. "There's no telling what's going to happen."

"One team I wouldn't want to play right now is Oklahoma State," Iba said of the Cowboys, who are tied for last place in the Big Eight. "They're a tough team for people to play."

brent robinson

intent. Out-of-state recruiting also has been good, but there still are a few big-name recruits which could change a good recruiting year into a great one.

California running back Kirwin Bell heads the list. Many feel that Bell may be the best running back prospect in the country. Bell has been timed at :04.3 in the 40-yard dash.

High on Miles

He has limited his choices to USC, Oklahoma, Texas and Nebraska. At different times, it has been announced that he dropped USC, Oklahoma and Texas from his list of choices. Now however, he says it is between Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska.

The Huskers are also very high on Miami running back Freddie Miles.

Known as "Fast Freddie" in his home state, the 5-10, 193 pound Floridian apparently has limited his choices to the University of Miami and Nebraska.

Washington D.C. tight end John Chesley is one player which Nebraska coaches wanted very badly, but gave up on when it appeared that he was going to sign with the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

Chesley has not signed a letter of intent with Oklahoma State and it appears that Nebraska may be back in the hunt. Chesley has been offered scholarships from Nebraska and UCLA along with OSU. He also has been offered basketball scholarships by at least three teams in