

# Sports

## Schulze leads tennis team in Midwinter Tournament

By Kevin Warneke

Fresh off a strong showing at the Midwinter Tennis Tournament in Sioux Falls, S.D., the Nebraska men's tennis team is anxious to hit the courts again.

Although there were no scores kept in the tournament, Coach Kerry McDermott said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"We felt very good about our play," he said. "It was good to get some experience under our belts."

Nebraska was led by upset-minded Dave Schulze, who captured the single crown and also paired with Brian Edwards to win the doubles crown.

"The team played real well for our first tournament of the year," McDermott said. "We placed three of our team members

into the semi-finals of the singles."

Schulze, who came into the tournament unseeded, defeated Shaun Miller of Minneapolis, Minn., 6-3, 4-6, 7-6, to capture first place.

"Not only did he (Schulze) upset the No. 2 seed, he also defeated a former Division 3 NCAA champion," McDermott said.

Schulze defeated Nebraska's Jim Carson, the No. 2 seed, in the semi-finals, while Miller defeated Craig Johnson, also of Nebraska.

Other single players for Nebraska this year are Brian Edwards, Ridge Smidt, Ashwin Vasari, Doug Elsass and Tony Sloboth.

Now the squad must wait until March 11 to compete again, when they are scheduled to participate in the Iowa City

Invite.

"Basically it's tough to get matches up until March," McDermott said. "Most teams are just practicing now."

The long layoff could have a positive aspect, McDermott said.

"We try not to let them get burned out . . . we want them to peak," he said. "This will make them hungry for a match."

While the Big Eight Tennis Championships are not held until the end of April, McDermott said that his team is already looking forward to improving on last year's performance.

"On paper we match even in the Big Eight," he said. "Last year we had four freshmen on the team and they were kind of leery of who was good."

"This year they know they're capable

of winning."

Last year, Nebraska tied for third in the Big Eight Championships and, according to McDermott, it should place at least third again this year.

"We should finish third or higher," he said. "We don't want to count ourselves out of first, though."

Two of Nebraska's strengths are team unity and hard work, McDermott said. "Everyone on the team is a real hard worker and gives 110 percent," he said.

"Our weakness for our individual playing is that we don't play high percentage tennis," he said.

High percentage tennis, according to McDermott, is when players take too many chances and don't play conservative tennis.

"We like to see our players take their time," he said.



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

Glen Loontjer

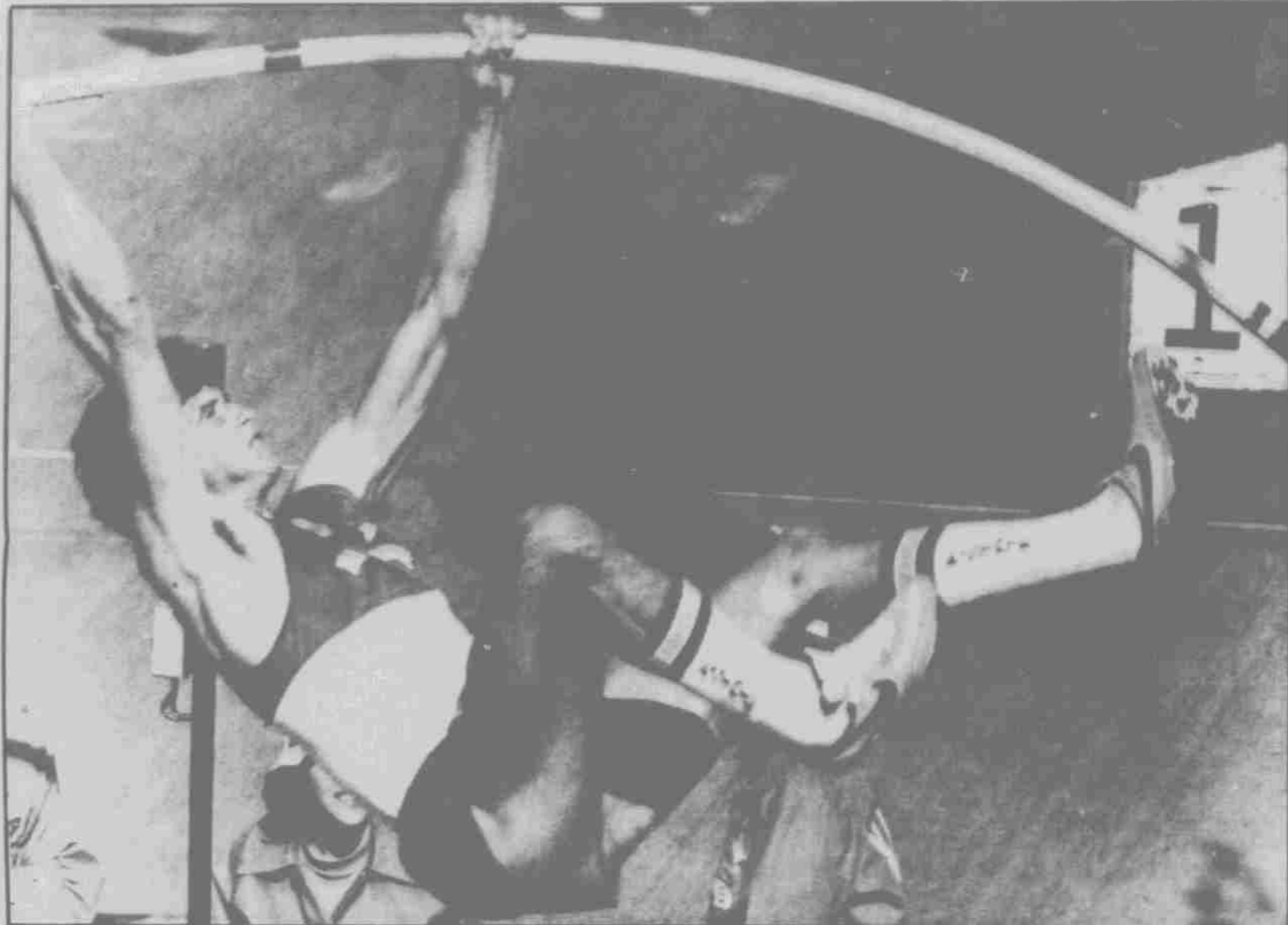


Photo courtesy of Kansas State Sports Information

Doug Lytle



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Jeff Buckingham

## Railsback: World vault record in sight

By Jeff Korbek

When you are DIALing BUCKINGHAM'S palace (Bob Devaney Sports Center) this weekend you may wish to speak to a Mr. Lytle or a Mr. Loontjer.

The names above, Oklahoma State's Joe Dial, Kansas' Jeff Buckingham, Kansas State's Doug Lytle, and Nebraska's Glen Loontjer, refer to part of this weekend's competition in the pole vault at the Big Eight Indoor Championships.

"We could see an attempt at the world record," Nebraska Assistant Coach Dick Railsback, former world record holder at UCLA (17-6 $\frac{3}{4}$ ), said. "It (pole vault) is one of two or three premier events in a strong conference."

The world record is held by Billy Olson of the Pacific Coast Club of Los Angeles when he cleared 19-0 $\frac{1}{2}$  in Canada earlier this year. Buckingham nearly broke that record three weeks ago after he established a new NCAA, Big Eight and sports center marks with a vault of 18-7 $\frac{1}{4}$  in a dual with Nebraska.

"Buckingham has to be the favorite," Railsback explained. "(But) They all like this place to jump and they are going to be primed. The vault is a funny event, a lot of things could happen."

"I hope I go into the meet as the favorite," Buckingham said. "I'm gunning to jump 19 feet and I'm sure I can jump it."

Buckingham's vault of 18-7 $\frac{1}{4}$  was the first time Buckingham had gone over the 18-foot mark in his career. His previous best was a 17-10 $\frac{1}{2}$  vault that he cleared at last year's Nebraska-Kansas dual.

Buckingham said he considers the sports center as a "home court advantage."

Buckingham said he has barely missed three attempts at 18-9 and commented, "Right now I am healthy and I'm ready to go this week."

Competition will come from Dial, who Buckingham said is "more of a threat because he's jumped 18-4."

Dial's style has helped him work on a technique called Volzing named after Indiana's Dave Volz in which the competitor places the bar back on the standards after dislodging it as he went over.

"I practiced that at the first of the year, but now I have kind of gotten rusty," Dial said. "It definitely helps a little bit."

Dial is the defending Big Eight champion. His jump of 18-4 $\frac{1}{4}$  is the third best in the world while Buckingham's is second.

"I have changed a lot since I jumped against Jeff," Dial explained. "I backed my run up because last week I jumped terrible and still did 18 foot on what would have been a 17-foot day."

"I expect Jeff to jump 18-4 to 18-8, and I have to be prepared to go higher than that," Dial said.

"I'm looking to win," Kansas State's Lytle said. "I feel like I'm going to be ready to go 18 or 18-6. I've beaten them before and there is no doubt I can beat them again."

Lytle is last year's NCAA indoor champion, but so far this year he has only vaulted 17-6.

"I haven't been jumping as efficiently as I should be," Lytle explained. "I had problems at the bottom of my vault, but last week I did 18-3 in practice. Under meet conditions I think I can do well. I'm starting to rebuild my confidence."

Nebraska's Loontjer is looking for a new career best this weekend. He has vaulted 17-0 $\frac{1}{4}$  this year and is rated No. 13 in Track and Field News and sixth in the Big Eight.

The junior from Geneva said it is "within my realm to vault 18, but I need a lot to improve." He is looking at 17-6 in indoor competition and 18 feet outdoors.

Going into this weekend's meet Loontjer said, "I'm a little bit less than their quality (Buckingham, Dial, Lytle). They're about a half a step above me. They make it look so easy."