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Sport Shorts By The Old Pro

-Bob Prokop

Today's college athlete is the most misunderstood and ridiculed individual on campuses around the country. The non-collegiate set as well as the Ivy Leaguers usually jibe the jocks as college burns who play for pay. The faculty seem to get the idea that each and everyone of these physical specimens are in school to

freeload and academically are the lowest of the homo sapiens class.

To some poor guys who have trouble lifting a ten pound barbell above their knees or the high school all staters with stars in their eyes, a varsity athlete at a school like Nebraska is the biggest thing since Quaker discovered oats. The image left in the minds of the man in this status is that each and everyone of these all Americans is a real dealer with the dollies, goes to class half the time and still gets

the good grades, receives

the good grades, receives The Old Pre frequent publicity from a smelly toenail to outstanding accomplishments on the battlefield, and in general, is the matinee idol of the bygone days of the flicks. Beware, you're being fooled by a picture that just hasn't hit the college campuses during this day and age. How about going through a normal day with a star or a bench warmer and analyzing what the school program contains in the way of academics to take up his spare time. spare time.

For example, let's take a basketball player's routine from October until March. Normally a cager will start his day by getting up at 7 a.m. to finish preparations for the 8:00 class. Attending lectures all morning and possibly an early afternoon class, he swings over to the Coliseum at 3:30 for the 4:00 practice session. After jaunting for a mile or two, at 6:30 he hops down stairs for a quick shower and heads for the training table for

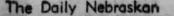
a little chow. After stoking a little fuel into the system, a half bright at trying to obtain a little knowledge. After studying for 3-4 hours, the sack is a bright prospect at 1:00 in the morning. The next day, it is the same story but the second verse. This is the ideal schedule. Further examination of

his actual varsity competition shows that he must miss ten days of school due to the road schedule. Along with this, he must make preparations and take finals during

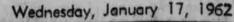
the middle of the season. The physchological problem still has to be taken athlete has when he's worried about bad practice sesathlete has when he's worried about bad practice ses-sions or games, a coach's verbal dress down, and the scholastic assignments that he must finish by deadlines. He's fighting a war by himself in keeping his mind on academics and trying to stay away from daydreaming about the things which transpire on the courts. Further, he has to worry about maintaining a de-cent average to stay in school and the further stipula-tions that he must comply with to stay eligible for

tions that he must comply with to stay eligible for

varsity sports. No matter how hard he tries, his mind still wonders the day's proceedings, why did he antagonize the ime, and how can I improve my mistakes. Then, to the backseat coaches of the crowd who boo loudly at mistakes, an athlete wonders how much he's actually accomplished. The next point is the fantasy of the social life of our hero. Few people realize that athletes practice Sat-urdays in addition to the other five days a week. If he has enough energy left on weekends and he doesn't have to catch up on scholastic work, he might have time to enjoy himself on the weekend. Sunday nights are out because of school preparation, road trips and clinics cut out whole weekends. To further make life miser-able, the jock doesn't know what is in store for him At Nebrasha, the further complication arises of hav-ing to get dates in advance provided you aren't going teady. If the athlete doesn't concentrate on his train-ing program, he might lose his only means of getting hrough school as well as not being able to do the job expected of him on the court. It's also nice for the calous set to point the accusing finger at the idols of he court in order to further bolster their own ego. You reessed it, this poor guy is caught in a vicious circle. The Old Pro always gets a kick out of the non-thletes who wear the red triangle sweatshirts with the lack dot in the middle to fill the old ego. They just ion't realize that this isn't bigtime and it really doesn't impress anybody. One must really admire the great athletes who are also excellent scholars. They really went through hell to make it and they're well deserving of the honor and credit that they have received. Colorado's Joe Romig and Utah State's Merlin Olsen are good examples. I also admired men like Don Oberlin, all-Big Seven tackle who is presently a topflight engineer, Dr. Rex











Grupe with 32.



the boards, also ranks 9th in ond place with 2-1 records, scoring average. He is tied while Iowa State, Oklahoma with Oklahoma State's Eddie State and Kansas are knotted Bunch with a 12.3 scoring av- in fifth place with 1-2 marks.

the leading scorer with a 23.5 campaign and goes against average. He is the only player Kansas State Thursday night on the league-leading Buffalo at Columbia. squad in the top 16 scorers. Nebraska g

Marysville, Kan., is fourth on

(Continued on page five)

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equally deadly with a set shot or a jumper as the southpaw shooter has pumped in 21 field goals in conference play and added seven free throws.

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erage

Senior Tom Russell is 11th in Big Eight scoring with an 11.7 mark. Russell's performances have fallen off slightly in recent games as the 6-7



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