

# The Old Pro

A Decade Past

The last column that you write for something you have enjoyed is not the easiest. The history of a University passes before a student's eyes during his stay in quest for education, then flitters away in time memorial.

I am extremely happy that Dave Wohlfarth gave me an opportunity to express a few views and the fine manner in which the paper has been handled by Don Ferguson and Norm Beatty.

Also I might add that the entire group of professors in the Chemistry Department aided me greatly in knowledge and light in expression, particularly Dr. Looker.

Nebraska has vastly changed since I first imparted on an education. The old days included a multitude of activities, partying that represented the old conception of the roaring twenties, and spirit that just never died. Athletics were in the doldrums at that time and looked as if they would never recover. The student body was still very enthusiastic since the days of mighty Nebraska were not too far removed. Each year the activities dwindled, the administration put clamps on the partying, and the spirit died. Fans started turning away from the turnstiles and student enthusiasm dove to a new low point. Academically, NU was becoming stronger; other ways, it was fighting a losing battle.



'Pro'

## Program on Rise

The athletic program is bouncing back and I'm sure that the new optimism of another coach is not fraudulent at long last. Football Coach Bob Devaney is the type of coach and man a strong program requires and I'm sure he'll have boundless success. Tippy Dye should revitalize the whole program although there was some disappointment by a few he did not completely overhaul the program when he came in. I feel he was very wise in this respect. The old athletic director couldn't hold a candle to the one we have now.

My biggest disappointment during my University career was failing to letter. However, through failing to do so, I had a very rich and memory-filled intramural program. I was fortunate to play with some of the best in basketball with the Chemists and Kappa Sigs — Al Wellman, John Bartels, Bill Tuning, Mike Derieg, Bob Allen, the Peterson brothers, Ron Lantz, just to name a few. And under a great I.M. coach, Dr. H.E. Baumgarten. Also, the current Kappa Sig team has not reached its final glory and they still have many victories and possible championships ahead.

Pop Klein and Ike Hanscom have always aided me when times got rough with good advice and counseling. Although many people don't realize this, they probably were more responsible for keeping me in school and going in the right direction as were my instructors. Also, Mrs. Ethel Brownson had a big part in the road to the ultimate end.

I had only one regret in writing this column, that of the Tech-Northeast game comments. I most sincerely did not intend to shed a bad light on Tommy Thompson, head of the N.S.A.A. program, who I much respect and admire for his work done in high school athletics. Some of my greatest thrills down here came from State basketball tournaments and track meets and I'm certainly thankful that he gave me the opportunity to work and see these events first hand. The article merits an apology since it could have been misconstrued as someone possibly expressing the N.S.A.A. view and it most certainly was my biased opinion, in this case better kept to myself.

## Greatest Thrills

In reminiscing, here is what I think were the greatest points and the biggest failures of each sport during the last decade.

The greatest football thrill was the 1959 Husker upset of Oklahoma and the brilliant play of Harry Tolly and Ron Meade. The greatest individual plays were made by Pat Fisher in runs against the Varsity in the Alumni game, his first career touchdown against Penn State, and his final great run against Oklahoma State. The biggest disappointment was Bill Jennings' team of last year which stalled after the Kansas State game and never did get back on the track.

In basketball, the defeats of Kansas and Kansas State in 1958, both nationally ranked teams at that time and having such greats as Wilt Chamberlain and Bob Boozer, must be the all time cage thrills. Jimmy Kubacki's last second shot against the Jayhawks after going down to get dressed in the middle of the last quarter, must certainly be the greatest individual performance. What made it more spectacular was the fact that two weeks before, Jimmy had a knee injury that was supposed to never allow him to play again. The biggest disappointment has been the continued poor showing of the Husker cagers under Jerry Bush, despite his exceptional coaching.

In track, the most memorable moment was Kent McCloughan's 21.4 last year, in the state high school 220 after being injured prior in the 100-yard dash. In Husker annals, the Jamaican Jet, Keith Gardner, was probably the greatest performer ever. Currently, he is being rivaled by Ray Knaub's brilliant efforts in the dashes. The disappointment was the second place finish in the indoor meet this year by the Huskers after it appeared they had it won.

In baseball, the no-hitter thrown by Bear Geier in 1955 and the almost perfect game that went along with it has to be the number one thrill. The big disappointment has been the great material that has passed without a title during the decade.

## Bentley Would Remember

John Bentley would probably have some other selections and it would be very interesting to have him, sometime before he retires next year, write about the saga of great thrills which passed the Husker scene since he has been publicity director at NU.

Probably the saddest thing that happened during the past year as far as this column was concerned, was the violent attack of a local sportswriter on an article I wrote in this daily school paper vs. his paper with many multitudes of readers. The newspaper patrons couldn't read both sides. I suppose you have to expect a few bumps in this way but I'm certain it's far better to keep one's head than to have it exposed.

The last thing I'll mention is the fun I've had in counseling Boy's State. I hope that everyone had an opportunity to be around a program like the American Legion puts on each summer for the selected high school juniors. It teaches good government, living together, and cooperation that can be found nowhere else in such a great degree. Judge Carter and Warren Baker have been wonderful and most enthusiastic in this manner as have been his current group of head counselors, Ed Higgenbotham, Colonel Currie, Bill Pfeiff, and Aldie Johnson.

It's best that the Old Pro fade away in print now, the end of a good year and an educational career in the nation's number one school, Nebraska. The tender spot in your life can be many things, to me it is the years just past and the next four to come. To those just starting, never lose faith in the school, things iron out and finally even up, no matter what happens.

Prediction: Huskers rebound to the top in athletics. No more Old Pro.

# Fleming Receives Star Nod

By JAN SACK  
Sports Staff Writer

Across the finish line in 4:08.1—a joyous leap into the air—"That's how happy I was," said Mike Fleming, winner of the Big Eight mile at Lawrence last Saturday, and this week's Daily Nebraskan Star of the Week.

Now the top miler in the Big Eight, Fleming said Bill Dotson of Kansas stayed on his shoulder all the way until the last 20 yards. Dotson then moved out and Fleming took him the last 100 yards to finish about five to eight yards ahead.

Mike points for the big meets, and he has been shooting for this crown all year. Before the meet, Mike and Coach Frank Sevine talked about what kind of runner Dotson is, and they both decided Fleming has more speed in the last 50 yards.

The Big Eight crown leads to bigger and better meets such as the Meet of Champions in Houston on June 8. Both Mike and Ray Knaub will compete there before meeting Sevine in Eugene, Ore., for the NCAA tilt.

In the NCAA on June 15-16, Mike will meet such top milers as Dyrrol Burlinson, Jim Grelle, John Reilly, and Dotson. From there he will go to the National AAU in Walnut, Calif. If Fleming finishes in the top three he will be eligible to compete against the Russians in August.

Training plays an important part of any champion's life. Mike works out about one and one-half or two hours daily in Pioneers Park.

"I keep a list of my workouts and I worked out once on the track in three weeks," he said. "About two weeks before the Big Eight I got back on the track to get some speed work in."

In high school Mike didn't even run the mile, but he did turn in a 1:54.8 in the 880 which still stands as the state record in Maryland.

Mike was a college sophomore before he ran an outdoor mile. His best time was a 4:15.8. At Quantico he worked out quite a bit in the surrounding woods, gaining experience and speed.

This work has paid off. Mike is now the top miler in one of the fastest track conferences in the nation.

## Tracksters To Compete At Cozad

Twenty-two varsity trackmen and 14 freshman thinclads will have a chance to display their talents to the western part of the state as the Huskers invade the Midwest AAU Track and Field Championships Saturday at Cozad.

Only the varsity performances will count on the point total because the freshman will run unattached.

Leading the Huskers contingent will be Big Eight mile champion Mike Fleming. Fleming defeated Bill Dotson of Kansas for the conference title at Lawrence by whipping out a 4:08.5.

The thinclads fine trio of sprinters — Ray Knaub (9.4), Don Degnan (9.6), and Steve Pfister (9.7) — will all be competing.

Two of the Husker hurdlers, Bill Fasano and Ron Moore, will be in action. Fred Wilke will not be able to make the trip. Ex-Husker pole vault star, Jim Kraft, will also enter the meet, according to Coach Frank Sevine.

The broad jump event will be well represented by Victor Brooks, who took fourth place honors in the Big Eight meet in his pet event, and football halfback Rudy Johnson, also a capable jumper.

The varsity entry list: Juris Jesifers, Wesley Paulsen, Leon Ranovh, Roland Johnson, Larry Reiners, Steve Pfister, Don Degnan, Victor Brooks, Ron Moore, Bill Fasano, Stuart Tucker, Mauro Altizio, Clarence Scott, Bill Kenny, Mike Flemming, John Portee, Gil Gebro, Ray Knaub, LeRoy Keane, Ray Stevens, Rudy Johnson and Tom Saunders.

Competing unattached will be Nebraska freshman: James Pile, Jack Cramer, Kenneth Cook, Harry Krebs, Charles Meyer, Rich Hoetze, Larry Toothacher, Ken Gould, Dave Blackenbaker, Jim Murphy, George Butterfield, Richard Strand and Jim Wendt.



STAR OF THE WEEK—Husker Mike Fleming jumps with glee after his sensational victory in the mile run at the Big Eight Outdoor Track Meet last weekend.

# Nebraskan Sports

## Sabota Hurls Sig Ep Win

Frank Sabota pitched a one-hitter to lead Sigma Phi Epsilon to a seven-two win over Bessey in the finals of the organized houses intramural softball race.

The Sig Eps, who also copped the fraternity crown, exploded for five big runs in the fourth inning to sew up the victory. Tom Johnson and Jerry Gemear hit four-baggers for the Sig Eps.

Tonight the Sig Eps will vie the Playboys, independent tilters, for the all University crown.



"COLLEGE WEEK" IN BERMUDA: WHERE THE GIRLS ARE!

Each spring, thousands of well-heeled kids cut loose in Bermuda. In this week's Post, you'll find out what really goes on at these beach-house binges. And why one youngster says: "You're supposed to go home paler than you came."

The Saturday Evening POST  
MAY 26 ISSUE/NOW ON SALE

## Outstanding Athlete Announced Friday

The Outstanding Daily Nebraskan Varsity Athlete of the Year and Intramural Athlete of the Year will be presented at the Daily Nebraskan Luncheon in Student Union Room 240 tomorrow.

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## Cook in Traction

Bob Cook, Husker freshman basketball player, is getting along "pretty well," according to NU head trainer, Paul Schneider.

Cook, 6-5 forward from Chillicothe, 111, suffered fractured bones in an auto wreck at Marysville, Kans. last Friday night.

He is currently in traction at Lincoln General Hospital.

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