

Ice-ometrics

By Ed Icenogle
Sports Editor

Deciding what to write in a first column is not the most stimulating experience. You sit and wonder what could or should be said.

One logical starting point is a preview of this semester's Daily Nebraskan sports page.

The sports assistant is Terry Grasmick. The writers are Mike Babcock, Ron Pavcika and Doug Anderson. This is a larger sports staff than normal on the Daily Nebraskan, but the intention is to give better coverage of NU sports while keeping up the staff's grades.

Another point on sports page policy: Any letters submitted that are pertinent and printable will be published, either in whole or in essence in this column.

Dominance of Athletics

The story on Jon Burchill in today's paper includes an interesting look at American college sports as seen from the eyes of a foreign student.

Jon points out the complete difference in the emphasis on athletics that exists. Outside of the United States, sports are minimally accented in the schools. "Sports," in this case, means what Jon calls the "big-time" athletics, the varsity competition.

Jon declined to comment on which approach—heavy or light—to athletics in the schools he thinks best. But in this his own case is somewhat of a paradox.

He is now participating in swimming at Nebraska, and, although he is a part of the athletics that approach dominance in American schools, he doesn't place athletics as dominating in his life.

For instance, when he said that he was planning to try for the Oxford water polo team, he pointed out that this was to be an informal, almost relaxing supplement to his education. Jon didn't even know whether or not he would make all the meets if he did make the team.

He is an outstanding swimmer with the attitude of the Europeans and Canadians. This attitude seems best summed up as this:

Athletics are the same in both the extremes. It is just that they have little, if any dominance in the matter of higher education outside our country.

Sugar Not Always Sweet

Although most of the football season's injuries are healed, there is one misplaced Alabamian who has a sore neck from looking back over his shoulder.

And besides that, he seems to be somewhat near-sighted.

The Daily Nebraskan sports desk received a photocopy of newspaper clippings that appeared shortly after Alabama's 34-7 Sugar Bowl win over Nebraska. The paper was signed "from Alabama" but was postmarked Kansas City, Mo.

Although this Kansas City version of a Crimson Tide fan was not unlike the many jubilant 'Bama rooters, he seems to dwell in the past, gloating over the victory a month late.

The clippings, presumably from a Kansas City paper, were all selected and collected to create an impression. Excerpts and this writer's comments run like this:

"... it may well have been the most humiliating experience the Huskers and their followers have ever endured."

It is hard to imagine this being the most humiliating experience for the Huskers. Nebraska played to a 9-2 season; a decade ago and even now, there is little humiliating about that.

What's more, the Cornhuskers lost to a team that might have been able to whip Notre Dame or Michigan State with its speed and spirit.

If that's humiliation, it will be nice if the Huskers can be humiliated into a few more Big Eight titles.

"The Huskers went out of their way to get this game (the Sugar Bowl). They had lost decisively to Alabama in the Orange Bowl the previous year and for some reason they just couldn't believe what had happened to them. They wanted a rematch..."

That's bad?
"As it developed, the Huskers had about as much business demanding a rematch with Alabama as Cleveland Williams did with Cassius Clay."

Yeah, but what if Williams had beaten Clay in the rematch?
"The score might have been doubled if Bryant hadn't played second and third stringers."

Possible. But "it's not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game."

A few more words on the Sugar Bowl and no more.
Alabama was better than Nebraska. The Huskers know it. The Tide knows it. It may reasonably be assumed that Nebraska was not the better team in 1966-67.

But this writer remembers when a game with Oklahoma was a chance for an upset win, not an upset loss. And no matter how exciting it was to be the underdog, it's great to be on the sports' map.

Hurdlers Follow Harvey . . .

Ryun, Greene Headline Indoor Season

With the world's "fastest human" leading the way, the Big Eight Conference is well represented as it heads toward the peak of this year's indoor track season.

This is undoubtedly the season Midwest track fans have been waiting for. It is the year of the first Big Eight varsity competition for Kansas' Jim Ryun, the world's premier middle distance runner and holder of the world record for the 880 and the mile.

His initial appearance as the head of the Big Eight field comes right on the heels of a season which contributed to the Conference a national indoor team champion (Kansas) and seven individual U.S. champions, plus a national relay team title (Oklahoma State).

This dual-meet season has just started. The Conference indoor championships are coming up on March 3-4 in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium. However, the momentum of last winter and spring has carried over, with Ryun, Nebraska's Charlie Greene, Kansas State's Conrad Nightingale, Colorado's Chuck Rogers, and Oklahoma's Bill Calhoun getting off to fast starts in the early going.

Nebraska's Charlie Greene has risen to international prominence as the new "Mr. Speed" in the three years since he forced Bob Hayes to establish the 60 world mark of :05.9.

About a year after his freshman head-to-head meeting with Hayes, Greene earned a piece of that world record and as a varsity performer has never been beaten in the finals of a 60 or 100 yard dash.

Greene has taken on, and beaten, all others who also claim a portion of the :05.9 mark. Three times this winter, Greene has fled to :06.0 timings, bettering his contemporaries, including Tommie Smith, the world-record holder for the 200, and James Hines, the latest to add his name to the 60 record list.

It has been a quick start, too, for Nightingale, who intends to make sure that Ryun won't be running many miles alone this year. Nightingale is the defending NCAA indoor mile champion, who has been near four minutes the last two years. He won the Big Eight outdoor last year with a record 4:00.9.

And, just a week ago, he moved into the runner-up spot on the Big Eight list for the 1,000 yard run, with a 2:10 clocking. Only Robb Lingle, the former Missouri champion, has run the event faster.

Also hot early has been Rogers, the pole vaulter from Colorado, who bounced up from a bad fall at Big Eight outdoor time

this year to capture the NCAA title with a 16-foot leap.

In his first outing this winter, he rode his fiberglass whip to a 16-3 height to remain supreme in the Conference, even though pressured by a trio of fine sophomore vaulters — Kansas' Bob Steinhoff, author of a 16-0½ go this year and one of two to hit the 16 level as a high schooler, Oklahoma's Larry Smith, and Oklahoma State's Larry Curtis.

Twice Nebraska's Ray Harvey has equaled the existing world record of :06.7 in the 60-yard low hurdles. Harvey won both indoor Conference hurdle championships last year, but might be hard pressed to hold off teammate Dave Kudron, winner of both hurdle races outdoors, and Kansas' George Byers, who swept to a world-record equalling :06.7 in the 60 lows

last year, too.

A fourth national champion running again this year is Oklahoma's Bill Calhoun, who shared the NCAA indoor 440 title last year. Calhoun is the third fastest quartermiler in Big Eight history.

Like the others, Calhoun doesn't have it easy this year. Competition will be plentiful.

For him, the stiffest test could come from Iowa State's Steve Carson, the Federation 440 champion of two years ago who last year ran a 1:09.3 in the 600-yard dash, a mark just .3 off the world record.

Also back are a pair of seven-foot high jumpers, Missouri's Steve Herndon, owner of the all-time Big Eight best of 7-1¾, and Oklahoma's Ron Tull, a Kansas Citian, who was the first from the Conference to clear the magic height.

A third leaper at the level, Oklahoma's Jim John-

son, will be late reporting —he'll be playing basketball through March 11.

In which events will Ryun run during the indoor season?

It is not known now, but during open and dual-meet competition, he'll probably combine the mile with the 880, 1,000, or two mile. For the Big Eight indoor, he might go in either the 880 or the 1,000 runs — Big Eight rules prohibit him from running both — and the mile or two mile. There is also a possibility he could

run a leg on the mile relay.

At any rate, his primary objective from now on will be to win points for the Jayhawks.

If it is the 880 or the two mile, Ryun will be challenging a tough pair from Oklahoma State, Jim Metcalf and Chris McCubbins, both of whom are Conference champions. Metcalf won the McCubbins was setting a new league mark in the three mile outdoors before winning this year's cross country individual title.

Also former champions returning are Lee Calhoun, brother of Bill, who won the 600 title in 1965 for Oklahoma, and Gary Ard, who was a double winner outdoors for Kansas last spring, taking both the broad and triple jumps.

These are the athletes who have made things happen in the Big Eight so far. Many promising sophomores have yet to be heard from. More is ahead between now and the conclusion of the Big Eight indoor championships, March 3 and 4.

SPORTS PAGE

Daily Nebraskan

Butterfly to Water Polo—at Oxford, Yet

By Ed Icenogle
Sports Editor

Nebraska swimmer Jon Burchill, one of the top 200-yard butterfly performers in the Big Eight, will be playing only water polo next season — at Oxford University in England.

Burchill, who sports a 3.8 average as well as a 2:05 200-yard time, is one of eleven native Canadians to win Rhodes scholarships this year.

Jon, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, is a transfer to the University of Nebraska from Indiana University, which sports a powerful swimming squad. A scholarship and more chance to compete are the reasons he gives for the switch to NU.

"The swimmers who finished first and third in the Olympics in the butterfly are at Indiana," he explained. "And over short distance, they are the two best in the world."

"I wanted to compete for a team," Jon added, "and help them."

At Nebraska he has apparently done just that.

Wrestlers To Meet

The University of Nebraska wrestling team will meet the University of Colorado team at 2:00 Wednesday afternoon in the Coliseum.

Coach Orval Borgiagli's wrestlers currently sport a 2-7 record in dual meets, but according to Coach Borgiagli, "Some of the kids are young and inexperienced. They are improving and I think they will continue to improve."

Nebraska football star Wayne Meylan is expected to wrestle in the meet against Colorado University.

Last Saturday the Nebraska team defeated the Colorado School of Mines 22-11.

A pin by Ben Barends and decisions by Ron Thon, Jerry Langdon, Duane Dobson and Bob Erickson sparked the Huskers to the victory.

through clubs, rather than schools.

Although he will not join a club he expressed interest in the water polo team at Oxford.

There are two reasons. The first is month-long tours that the team makes through Europe.

The second is his ambition to make the Olympics. Jon plans to try out for the Canadian Olympic water polo team.

At Nebraska the Canadian seems to carry his school interest over into athletics. A student in economics Jon admits economizing on his "psyching" for swimming meets.

Indicating that the Cornhusker swimming squad is aiming for the Big Eight meet, rather than peaking for dual encounters, Burchill related how he "psyches" for the annual conference contest.

"I'll shave my arms and legs," he said, making him one of many swimmers who go through the ritual for the "big one." Some tankmen believe it cuts down their times.

"I don't think it helps physically" the Nova Scotian said, "but mentally it helps."

The Husker swimming squad is rebuilding under coach John Reta this season. Burchill estimates that the Huskers, although he and Reta both agree that the team is shallow this season, will be battling for a spot in the top three in the Big Eight championships.

Jon will attend Oxford for three years of tutoring and paper-writing in economics, political science and philosophy.

And, oh yes, this summer he will live in southern France and Italy before heading to England.

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