

Ancient sport revived on University campus

by WARREN OBR
Assistant Sports Editor

Crew, one of the oldest sports in history (ranking in longevity with horseracing) has made its way to the University of Nebraska. Bill Brush, a junior, is coach of the newly organized team.

"The idea to form a team came from Allyn Maybee," said Brush. "Maybee is a social worker who is in no way connected with the University. He just had an interest in rowing and took it upon himself to do the initial public relations work."

Brush has been interested in crew since he participated in the sport in high school at Andover, Mass. He became coach of the team because "I was probably the only person Maybee could find who knew how to row."

When established, Nebraska will join Kansas State as the only other Big Eight school competing in the sport. Races have been scheduled with Kansas State, Washburn, Minnesota, and Notre Dame. In these races, sophomores and upper classmen will compete with junior varsity crews. One race with Washburn is scheduled for the home waters of Capitol Beach in April.

"Invitations have been received to national regattas from all over the country," said Brush. "Apparently they want a shot at Nebraska one way or another. At our scheduled races away from home, we'll probably use the other schools shells."

The crew team works out every afternoon in the Coliseum, and anyone interested is invited to join the squad.

"I want to emphasize, though, that there is still a long road ahead," Brush concluded. "Success only comes with a lot of work and hard training."

Crew, or rowing, traces its origins back to Christian slaves who rowed in galleys. Modern rowing began in England in the 16th Century with ferrymen racing across the Thames River in London.

SPORTS

The first formal racing event was held in England in 1715 while the United States was still a group of colonies, and the race has now been held annually for more than two centuries. The first intercollegiate race in the U. S. was held in 1852 between Harvard and Yale.

Modern crew has developed into races of long (up to 63 ft.), thin shells at distances up to 2,000 meters, a little more than a mile. The shells begin from a dead stop and at the end of the race the oarsmen are physically exhausted.

In England, crew has survived as a "gentleman's sport." Varsity crews in England frequently arrive at races in Rolls Royces and with top hats.

Crew is divided into classes of eight-man shells, four-man shells, two-man shells, and one-man shells or skulls. Crew squads usually consist of tall, lean men and small, vociferous coxswains. That tall men have an advantage is a matter of physics. Tall men are usually more powerful and in a shell have a longer, more powerful oar stroke.

A coxswain is defined in a dictionary as the person who steers a boat. But in crew he is defined as a "170 lb. boss." It is the Coxswain's job to organize his men, get them psychologically prepared for a race, judge what it takes to beat the other team in terms of strategy and as a side light, steer the shell during the race. A single coxswain is essential for each shell.

Nebraska is going into this sport with donated equipment. "We've had three shells given to us, two four-man shells from Purdue and an eight-man shell from the National Amateur Athletics Organization," Brush said. "We've also gotten other equipment such as oars from other schools around the country. This was the result of a massive number of letters sent to every school that has crew."

The move was necessitated by the fact that the new club as yet receives no money from the athletic department, and a new shell costs approximately \$4,000.

This competitive sport demands a great deal of physical conditioning. "You can't teach a person how to row a shell until he is in very good shape," commented Brush. "Weight lifting and running are especially good for a crew squad. Our squad will train for two months before ever getting into a shell."

High school players sign letters of intent

Nineteen high school football players have signed Big Eight Conference letters of intent to attend the University of Nebraska.

The conference letter is no guarantee that the athlete will attend Nebraska, but it does prohibit his signing with another school in the Big Eight or Southwest Conferences.

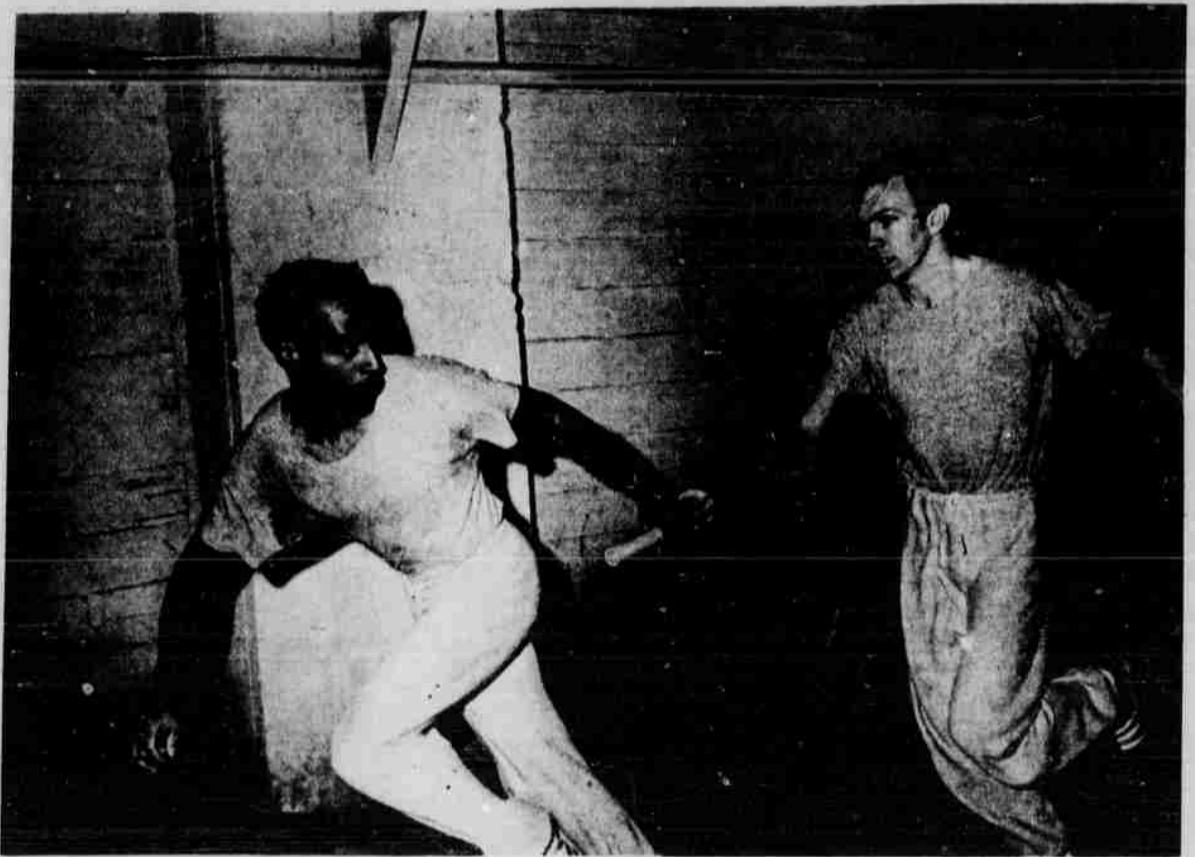
National letters of intent may be signed May 5.

Those signing Big Eight letters with Nebraska are:

Ken Adkins, Lincoln High end; Lynn Finney, Pius X back; Archie Gray, Omaha Benson end; Jerry Lloyd, Omaha Central guard; Randy

Ross, Omaha Tech back; Tim McGuire, Creighton Prep guard; Tom Kropp, Aurora back; Ritch Bahe, Fremont back; George Mills, Omaha Bishop Ryan tackle-end; Larry Honke, Columbus Scotus tackle.

Chuck Jones, Beatrice back; Bob Rutan, Blue Springs (Wymore Consolidated) back; Tony David, Tecumseh back; Mike Offner, Red Cloud back; Dave Redding, North Platte end; Rod Norrie, Geneva tackle; Ron Lowenstein, Grand Island back; Edgar Farris, Toledo, Ohio, defensive end and John Jones, Toledo, Ohio, back.



Mottley . . . receives baton from Pierce in mile relay.

Thinclads to compete in Houston

Husker track coach Frank Sevine has a squad of fifteen to compete in the United States Track and Field Federation Meet Friday and Saturday at the Houston Astrodome.

Fifteen world indoor records have been set at this meeting during the past two years and it's a safe bet that more standards will tumble this weekend. The biggest reason for the record book assault is the Astrodome oval itself — billed by most as the fastest track in the world.

"It's really faster than an outdoor track," said Assistant Track Coach Dean Brittenham. "It's 330 yards a lap and has banked curves. This should especially benefit the 440 races."

One of the brightest hopes for Nebraska is the mile relay team composed of Garth Case, Bob Pierce, Leighton Priestley and John Mottley. This is the same quartet that won the Big Eight indoor and outdoor mile relay titles last season but they should be pressed by Oklahoma State who has a 3:16 clocking already this year.

Hopes are also riding on the two-mile and distance medley relay squads.

"It's very difficult to evaluate our chances in these events," said Brittenham, "because we don't know which schools are entering. As for the teams in our conference we just haven't seen enough of them this year to know who's strong where."

NU miler Greg Carlberg will get his first competitive challenge of the season when he matches strides with Marty Liquori, Chris Mason and Dave Wottle — all sub four-minute miles. Kansas' Mike Soloman and Bowling Green's 1970 NCAA steeplechase champion Sid Sink are also expected to be factors in the race.

"We qualify Friday morning and getting into the finals won't be an automatic thing," Carlberg explained. "It'll probably take a 4:12 to qualify." Carlberg will see additional duty as anchorman on the distance medley.

Freshman Bob Unger will be aiming for a new school record in the two mile run. Unger turned in a personal best of 9:05 two weeks ago against Indiana and should sneak under Carlberg's mark of 9:00.2 on the huge Astrodome track.

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