

## 'Colorado jinx' haunts Unger in opening meet

by Jim Johnston

Bob Unger took a serious look at himself after the 1972 outdoor track season.

Unger, Nebraska's leading long distance runner, had recovered from a "weak feeling" to record a 13:36 three-mile in a dual meet at Missouri last spring before the Big Eight meet in Colorado.

"That meet at Missouri did a lot for me," Unger said. "I went into the Big Eight meet confident. Before then I had a weak feeling and had to work at preparing myself mentally to run."

But Unger's hopes were quickly shattered at Colorado. He slipped to a 14:37 showing in the conference meet and didn't threaten the front runners.

"I don't like to think I get psyched out," Unger said, "but I've never been able to run good at Colorado. I really don't know what went wrong there last spring."

Although Unger's previous times had qualified him for the NCAA outdoor meet, Nebraska track coach Frank Sevigne elected not to take his top distance runner to the meet because of his poor showings late in the season.

"It was naturally discouraging," Unger said. "The NCAA is what you shoot for. But I understand Coach Sevigne's decision. I wasn't running well. I don't think I could have done much at the nationals."

Unger decided he needed rest. He didn't do any running for the first two weeks of the summer.

"It helped," he said. "Late during the season last spring I didn't have that mental desire to run. The rest brought back that desire. It was no longer

difficult to think about running 70 or 80 miles a week."

Unger now heads into his junior year at Nebraska as the favorite to win the Big Eight cross country title. He finished second in last year's meet to Kansas State's Jerome Howe, who graduated last spring.

But winning the conference championship will not be easy for Unger. He will receive stiff competition from John Halerstadt, an Oklahoma State runner from South Africa who was not eligible to run during the first semester last year.

Unger claims he possibly is in better shape now than he was last year at this time. But the Nebraska junior has a tougher obstacle facing him this season.

"I feel I have to prove myself again," Unger said. "I look at long distance running just like any other sport. An athlete is going to have his ups and downs. I just have to come back. I can't let what happened last spring bother me."

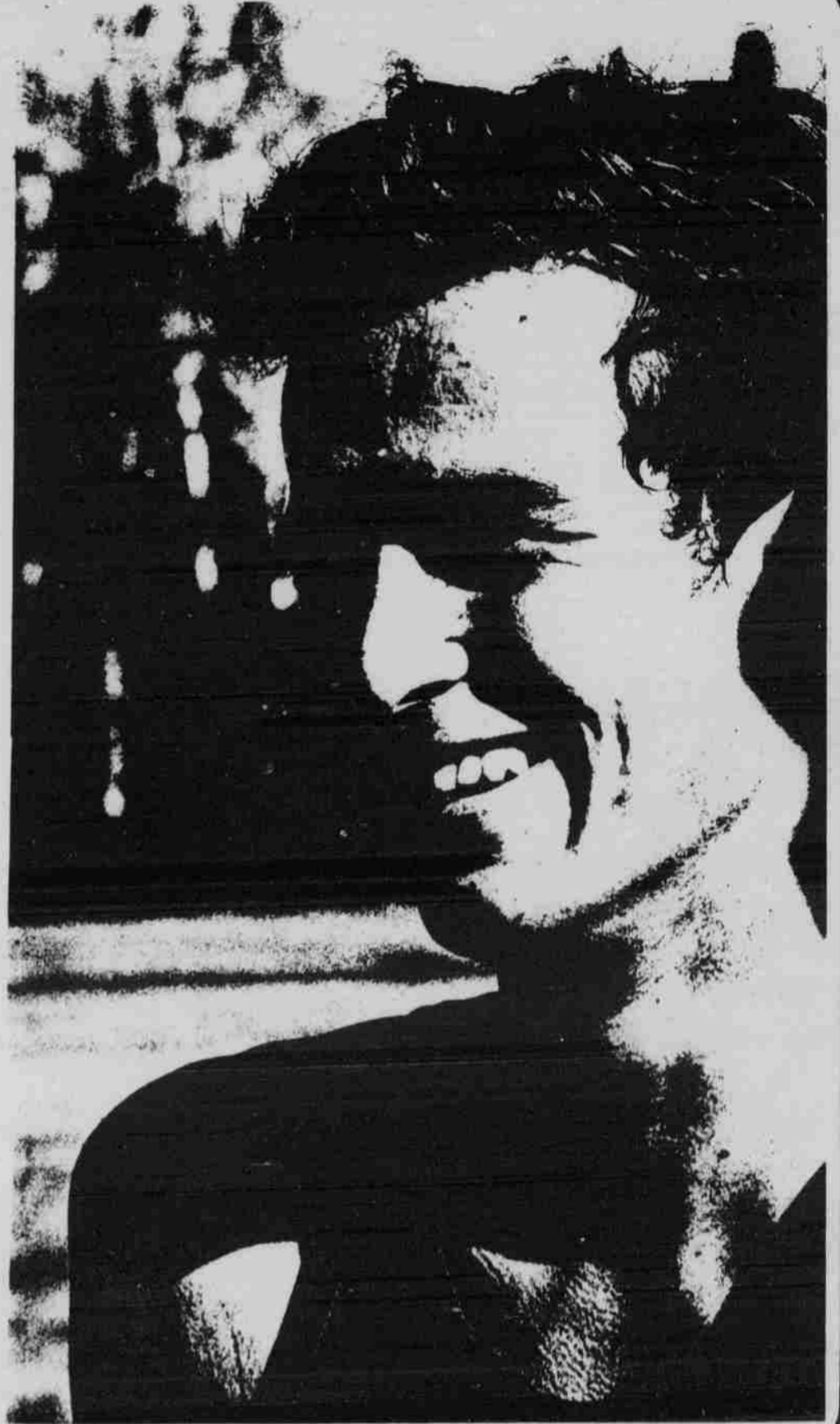
Unger will have an early opportunity to get back that psychological edge. The Cornhuskers open the cross country season a week from Saturday at Colorado.

"If I run good at Colorado it will mean a lot," he said. "I'm not letting the fact that we're running at Colorado bother me."

But what happens if Unger runs poorly at Colorado? Will he still be able to come back?

"I guess I'd just have to prove myself some other time," Unger said. "This isn't a sport where you can ever be satisfied."

And right now Bob Unger isn't satisfied.



## Devaney— team needs consistency

As the Cornhuskers head into their third game of the season, Head Coach Bob Devaney stressed the importance of not "typing the offense."

"We were pleased with the balance between running and passing our team showed against Texas A & M," Devaney said. "You have to have that three to two balance to have a good football team."

"You can't be a consistent football team if all you do is pass," Devaney continued. "If we play the type of game we want, we have to have good balance."

Devaney said it is important to go into a game thinking you can do what you want against a certain defense.

"In the 1971 Orange Bowl they said you couldn't run against the LSU defense," Devaney said. "So we just went into the game thinking we had to have a good running game. You just can't say you can't do certain things against certain teams."

In Nebraska's two games this season, the Cornhuskers have attempted 110 running plays and 42 passes.

The Cornhuskers split Wednesday's practice between the Astro-Turf and the indoor practice facilities in the fieldhouse because of rain. The team originally was scheduled to work on the grass field to adjust to the playing surface at West Point Saturday.

Devaney indicated that defensive end Willie Harper, who did not play in the Texas A & M game, has recovered from an elbow injury and will start against Army. I-back Dave Goeller, who injured a shoulder last week also will play Saturday.

Offensive tackle Al Austin still is listed as doubtful, but Devaney said Marvin Crenshaw now has earned the No. 1 tackle position.

"Crenshaw has played some good football for us," Devaney said. "We have complete confidence in him."

The Huskers will leave Lincoln Friday morning and work out at West Point that afternoon.

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## Flag refs no longer blind

by Kim Ball

A flag football official was once said to be a "blind-headed dummy who didn't know what the hell he was doing."

This is no longer true of the unpublicized referees of the past few years. All officials are required to attend rules clinics.

Phil Sienna, mens intramural coordinator, says an official "has to have a working knowledge of the game of football. He has to know how to apply the rules. Someone might know the rules, but maybe he can't apply them."

A majority of the flag football officials like their work. They like the idea of running the show and earning a little extra cash.

One official, Steve Timmons, says "I enjoy it, (officiating). I have fun doing it. That's the only reason I do it."

Dave Sukup, an intramural supervisor who has refereed the past two years, thinks it's "one hel. of a good experience, coming in contact with a great number of people. Building pride in your work (officiating) is a good education."

Another referee, Bruce Evans, has a different viewpoint. "It's a lot of fun really. I don't like playing though because the rules are too restrictive for me to have any fun."

Gary Rose, who officiates with his roommate, comments on problems officials have. "There are teams that don't know the rules. There are guys with big mouths, not matter if you're right or wrong."

"Being a former athlete, I've been on both sides. I know how it is to get screwed, that's why I try to do a good job."

Thompson says "There'll be some guys that are always griping. I don't let the guys that are griping bother me."

"You can't get to the point where they are taking advantage of you. You have to be firm and positive of all the calls you make."

Timmons looks at it another way. "If you get the respect of the individuals, you don't have any problems. I've never had any problems last year and I haven't had any this year."

"You take authority on the field," says Sukup. "You can't let the consequences of a game or consequences of the night get on you or you don't do the best job you can."

Sukup adds, "They're there to play football and to keep their mouths shut. They don't have to run the game. They can either hate me or respect me for the job I do."

"Phil (Sienna) backs you all the way," says Rose. "It helps to know you have somebody behind you."