

Bell and his boa

by Kim Ball

It's a Saturday night, and there's a wrestling meet at the Coliseum. John Bell, UNL's 190-pounder, takes off his warm-up jacket, unwinds the baby Colombian boa constrictor wrapped around his neck and hands it to teammate Jeff Class for safe keeping. An unnerved opponent collapses on the mat.

This, of course, didn't happen. Bell does wrestle, but he doesn't tote his pet snake to meets despite encouragement to do so by UNL wrestling coach Orval Borgialli.

Borgialli thinks it would be a good way to get more people to come to wrestling meets.

Bell, who perhaps is better known as football player Rich Glover's back-up last fall, likes animals. Besides the boa, Bell and his wife Paula own three aquariums (filled with meat-eating fish), a puppy and a small black cat.

"We just like animals," Bell said, adding jokingly: "We're trying to substitute for kids."

Since returning from the Orange Bowl, Bell has won all his matches. But the late start has hurt.

"I'm in terrible shape, really horrible shape," he said. "If I can put out the work I need to, I'll keep on winning. But if I don't get in any better shape, there's no way I'll keep winning."

Bell could give up wrestling and concentrate on football since he probably will be the leading candidate for middle guard next fall. But he says he likes wrestling too much.

"I'll be getting in better shape wrestling than if I was just conditioning for football," Bell added. "Wrestling is a total fitness sport. It helps your quickness and endurance."

One aspect of wrestling Bell doesn't like is losing weight. He had to lose 10 pounds to wrestle at 190 pounds.

Despite the dieting, Bell said wrestling really complements football.

"It teaches you a little more coordination with your hands. You learn how to get past somebody's guard."

"When you can go through eight minutes of wrestling, you know you'll be able to play a football game," Bell said.

The Huskers next home wrestling match is Feb. 10. Bell says there is a chance that his snake may attend.



Bell . . . "We like animals."

Triangular could be season's top

Defending Big Eight indoor track champ Nebraska hosts Kansas and Colorado Saturday in what could be the top meet of the indoor season.

Top performers are returning for both the Colorado and Kansas teams that finished second and third respectively in last year's Big Eight rankings.

Nebraska's middle-distance runner Jim Hawkins heads the list of three defending Big Eight indoor champions to be at the Saturday meet.

Hawkins, Husker co-captain this year along with Wes Leonard, won the Big Eight indoor 1,000 yard run last year in 2:12.0.

Kansas shotputter Rudy Guevara and Colorado sprinter George Daniels are the other Big Eight champions that will compete in the meet which begins at 1:30.

Guevara won the Big Eight shotput

championship with a 58'-11 3/4" effort while Daniels took the 440-yard run with a time of :49.1.

Also performing Saturday will be four men that won titles in last year's national junior college meet.

The former champs include hurdler Ralph Fisher and sprinter Karl Webb, both from Nebraska, and Kansas stars, miler Jim Euell and pole vaulter Terry Porter.

Sevigne said that this year's Husker squad should feature great balance with it's only weakness in the pole vault.

Bill Lauer, who holds the school record in the pole vault with a mark of 15'8", is out with a broken wrist indefinitely, according to Sevigne.

Field events begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday with track events starting at 2 p.m. at the indoor track on the east side of Memorial Stadium.

sports shorts

Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers was selected by the San Diego Chargers in the first round of the National Football League draft Monday. He was the 25th player

selected.

Willie Harper and Monte Johnson were selected in the second round. Harper went to the San Francisco 49ers and Johnson to the Oakland Raiders.

Bill Olds and Rich Glover (Glover won the Outland and Lombardi trophies) were picked in the third round. Olds was picked by the Baltimore Colts. Glover went to the New York Giants.

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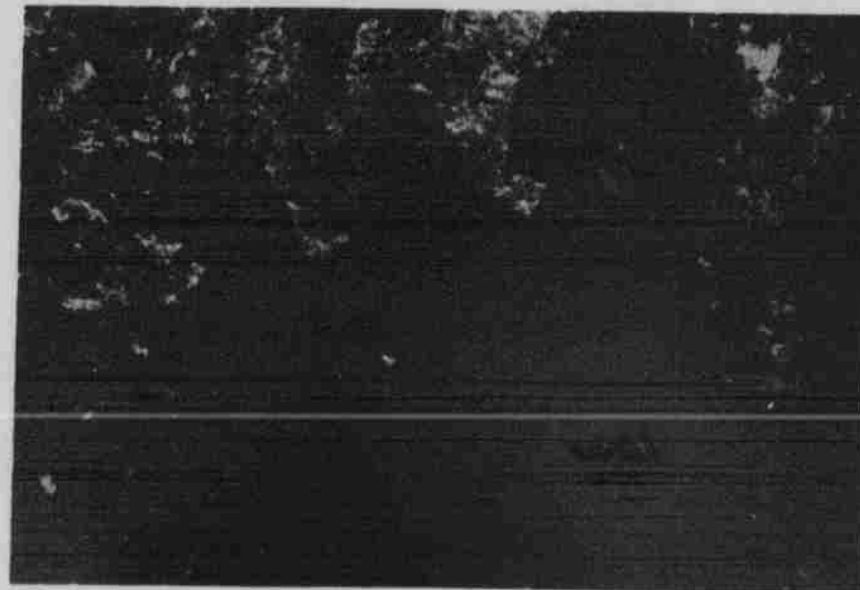


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