

Swim team 'reddens' after dunking Mustangs

Win-loss records do not always indicate how successful a season is for an athletic team. Last Saturday the Husker swimming team completed its dual-meet schedule by dunking Southwest Minnesota University, 97-16. A year ago, the same basic Mustang team scored a 73-40 victory over UNL.

Sports Illustrated magazine had earlier in the week praised Southwest Minnesota but said the victory last season over the Huskers in Marshall, Minn., was not such a great feat, because when it comes to swimming "the Big Red is a pale pink." Husker Head Coach John Reta said his "kids rose to the occasion and swam with vengeance in mind."

During the course of UNL's 4-5 dual meet season, several varsity and Coliseum pool records were established. Freshman Jack Alexander set a varsity and pool record when he became the first Husker to swim the 500-yard freestyle event in less than five minutes. His time was 4:59.4. Alexander also established a new Husker standard in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a 10:22.0.

"The unique thing about Alexander is he swims the 500 and 1,000-yard freestyle events every meet, the equivalent of a track man running both the mile

bob hill over the hill

and 2-mile events every meet. The effort put forth to combine these two events is tremendous," Reta said.

In the 400-yard medley relay, the team of freshmen Norman Jackman, Stuart Waterbury, Scott Martin and sophomore Rick Redfield set a Coliseum pool record of 3:44.5 breaking the old mark set in 1969 by Iowa State University of 3:45.6.

John Williams, another freshman, lowered the Coliseum record in the 200-yard individual medley with a 2:04.2 clocking against Air Force Academy

last week. In that same meet the all-freshman 400-yard free relay of Martin, Steve Raynor, Paul Duxbury and Bill Davis combined for a 3:19.0 which also was good enough for a pool record.

"This year has been a learning experience for my kids. The contrast between high school and collegiate swimming is great. We swim longer distances, have more practices and face stiffer competition than they are accustomed to. This year we've worked on refining stroke mechanics and helping individuals develop a sense of pace in their races...I can't help but think we must be on the right track when kids start breaking our varsity and pool records," Reta said.

True, perhaps a 4-5 season does not sound like a successful year but comparing the times of this year to those of last, and realizing the numerous records established this season, more than any one year since Reta's arrival at UNL eight year ago, I must consider this year's Husker swim team very successful.

Mackie's career uninjured despite bad breaks; future M.D. still patient

By Larry Stunkel

If there is a word in the English language to describe Husker gymnast Gene Mackie, it would have to be patient.

According to Mackie, "One thing gymnastics teaches is patience."

First of all, Mackie, a junior from Omaha, sat out this season because of a broken ankle. The year before, a broken arm sidelined him until the Big 8 tournament. His freshman year was marred by a knee injury which required surgery.

Mackie hasn't competed in a regular season meet since his freshman year.

Yet despite his limited amount of collegiate competition, Mackie has established himself as one of the best all-around gymnasts in the conference.

"Gymnastics has taught me how to budget my time," Mackie said. "It's helped me figure out what's important in my life, to exclude extraneous things and concentrate all my energies to either gymnastics or school. They don't leave much time for anything else." He practices four or five hours daily.

Mackie plans to apply for medical school in 1977 or 1978.

"I plan to put off applying for med school until I'm satisfied with what I've done, until I've gone as far as I think I could go," he said. "Then I want to become a good doctor."

Concerning his goals in gymnastics, Mackie presently is working toward the World Games in May.

"If all goes well, I'll compete," said Mackie, "Right now I'm getting healthy, but I'm a little out of shape because it's taking longer than expected for me to recover."

"Of course I want to do well in college," he said, "but I'm going to be in gymnastics a long time, and I plan to follow it several years after college. College is more or less a stepping stone in the right direction toward international competition."

Concerning his injury, Mackie observed that "all of the better all-around gymnasts I've read about have been prone to injury. Gymnastics is the type of sport where the risk is such that minor injuries ensue."

Mackie said that the attention given his injury by the press is overplayed. "One gymnast doesn't make a team," he stated. "If you don't have a good basic team, no gymnast in the country can make you good."

Mackie started gymnastics in high school. Two members of the Omaha Creighton Prep gymnastics team noticed him on the still rings during a lunch period and asked him to join the team. He went on to win the state all-around title three years in a row.

Mackie said he has improved considerably since high school.

"Once you get to understand gymnastics and start working with that understanding, you tend to become better," he said.

"Gymnastics is such an all-engrossing thing. It's composed of flexibility, fluency, strength and so many other intricate parts, that if you're lacking in one part, you're not a good gymnast," he said.

"I don't think I've taken more than four or five days at a time away from gymnastics since I was a sophomore in high school. It's just that much a part of my life."



Photo by Stewart Neisen

Gymnast Gene Mackie works out on the still rings.

Upset moves DUs to top

Alpha Tau Omega fraternity saw its intramural dynasty shattered this week by Delta Upsilon fraternity, losing a low-scoring game, 25-22 and losing its all-University top ranking.

As a result of the upset win, the DUs move to the top spot in the fraternity division. However, they are runners-up in the all-University division to the powerful independent 69ers. That quintet set an

intramural scoring record last week when it devastated Boars Head, 111 to 36.

Regular season play is drawing to a close. Next week the play-offs begin. The rankings:

All-University Top Five

1. 69ers
2. Delta Upsilon
3. Bongs
4. Abel 8
5. Alpha Gamma Sigma

Fraternity A Division

2. Alpha Gamma Sigma (5-0)
3. Acacia (5-1)
4. Theta Xi (5-1)
5. Alpha Tau Omega (5-1)

Independent A Division

1. 69er's (5-0)
2. Bongs (5-0)
3. Gregg's Gang (6-0)
4. Brown's Team (5-0)
5. Nad's (5-0)

Dormitory A Division

1. Abel 8 (5-0)
2. Glenn (6-0)
3. Harper 3 (5-0)
4. Harper 2 (5-0)
5. Parshing (6-0)

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