

## Rugby— after-party all part of game

Last Sunday the UNL Rugby Club braved cold winds and rain to lose 9-8 to Creighton University.

An hour later both teams were together singing, drinking and telling jokes.

That's not unusual for rugby players—in fact it's a tradition. It's all part of a sport that is called "a ruffian's game played by gentlemen," according to Dan McNulty, club vice president.

"There are three halves in rugby," McNulty said. "There are two 40-minute halves played on the field and the third half in the clubhouse after the game."

The UNL Rugby Club, which has been in existence for only three semesters, has been growing in size steadily.

While the club members may give different reasons for liking the sport, all seem to agree that the social aspect, plus the fact that the competition lacks strict organization, makes rugby unique.

## Larry Stunkel on record

"Rugby is a modified kill the man with the ball, with very organized rules," Jay Yost said.

"The sport started in Rugby, England, in the 1830s when some guy playing soccer got frustrated, picked up the ball and tried to carry it over the goal," explained Yost. "The other team got mad and tackled him, and that's how they finished the rest of the game."

Rugby, which is the ancestor of football, is played on a field similar in size to a football field. The ball is bulkier than a football, and points are scored by running the ball over the goal, which is worth four points, and drop kicking the ball through uprights, (like those in football), which is worth three or two points (if the kick comes after scoring four points).

McNulty said the game is just as rough as football but is played without pads. Play is continuous with no timeouts, and requires the participant be in good physical condition.

According to Yost, injuries in rugby aren't as serious as those in football. He attributed this to the illegality of blocking. Also, tackling is encouraged around the upper body to prevent an opponent from passing off.

According to McNulty, the medical kit in rugby consists mainly of a towel, cold water and beer.

While the game does involve a few bumps and bruises, Yost feels it's a game that can be played by anyone, regardless of size. "Most of the teams we've played this year are bigger than we are," commented Yost, "but speed and endurance are our biggest assets. As we gain experience, we should be a top rate competitor."



The UNL women's gymnastics team practices for the season-ending regional tournament at Southwest Missouri State Friday and Saturday.

## sports shorts

Freshman swimmer Jack Alexander highlighted the Huskers' performance in the Big 8 swim meet last weekend at Boulder, Colo., with a second place finish and a time of 4:26.31 in the 400-yard individual medley.

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Qualifying for the Recreation Dept.'s basketball golf (spot shooting) and basketball free throw contests will be today and Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Men's Physical Education Bldg.

## Coach: tennis team young, inexperienced

By Larry Stunkel

The UNL tennis team will open its 1974 season Friday as it travels to meet perennial small college power, Northwest Missouri State University (NWMSU) at Maryville, Mo.

Finishing in the top 10 of NCAA college division tennis championships the last three years, NWMSU boasts two All-Americans in Phil White and David Imonite.

Husker Coach Jim Porter said he hoped to do better than last year's 9-0 lost to NWMSU, but said, "Their roster looks just as strong as last year's."

Porter, who starts his second year as tennis coach, labeled this year's team young and inexperienced. "The team looks quite promising and has a lot of potential, but lacks consistency and tourney experience," he said.

Despite a 6-3 record last year in nonconference competition, Porter said the team's past Big 8 dual performances were very poor.

In this, a building year for his squad, Porter said, "Competition in the Big 8 is getting rougher. 'We aren't really contenders—Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Colorado are all stronger than last year. We have a chance to move up, but we'll have to compete with players that have considerably more tournament experience than we do, which will show up during the season.'"

Freshman John Duncan and sophomore Steve Walthan will be the team's top individuals this year, according to Porter. Porter said Duncan, last year's state high school doubles champion, has improved since last fall. Walthan, the team's number six man last year, has a good stroke and also is improving, according to Porter.

One of the problems Porter has faced this year is a lack of indoor facilities. The team has been practicing in the late evening at a new facility in East Lincoln. Porter said the team practices outdoors when the weather is nice, but cold weather has forced the team back indoors.

Porter hopes statewide increased interest in tennis continues, so more people will start playing the game at an earlier age, improving the quality of the sport at the high school level.

With better athletes to recruit locally, and as present members of his team improve, Porter expects Husker tennis fortunes to be brighter.

**Roster:**  
John Duncan (freshman), Lincoln  
Steve Walthan (sophomore), Rapid City, S.D.  
Irv Rodin (senior), Omaha  
John Granger (freshman), Lincoln  
Gary Dilley (senior), North Platte  
Fred Ogren (senior), Lincoln  
Terry Robinson (sophomore), Columbus  
Mike Portz (freshman), Atlantic, Iowa  
Dennis Scholt (sophomore), Falls City  
Rick Kullman (senior), Omaha  
Ed Raun (junior), Lincoln

**1974 Schedule:**  
**March**  
15 Northwest Missouri at Maryville, Mo.  
22 South Dakota State at Crete  
23 Doane College at Crete  
27 Oral Roberts, Minnesota, Tulsa at Tulsa, Okla.  
28-30 Oral Roberts Tournament at Tulsa, Okla.

**April**  
3 Kansas  
6 Kansas State, Lincoln 1 p.m.  
6 Missouri, Lincoln 9 a.m.  
10 Doane, Lincoln 2 p.m.  
12 Drake, Lincoln 2 p.m.  
16 Washburn University, Lincoln 1 p.m.  
18 Oklahoma, at Boulder, Colo.  
20 Iowa State, at Boulder, Colo.  
20 Colorado, at Boulder, Colo.

**May**  
16-18 Big 8 Tournament at Kansas City, Mo.



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