

daily nebraskan sports

Co-Captain Tom Ruud's job to instill team desire, pride

Jocks. This label has been tagged on almost any star, starter or team member involved in university athletics. Often jocks are looked upon collectively as members of an entirely different social class: the ranks of the athlete. Seldom are they looked upon as individuals.

Athletes do have personal views and insights. This column takes a look at the personalities and opinions of UNL athletes, and includes more about the athlete than just his athletic achievements.

becky morgan jock talk

Tom Ruud, returning senior line-backer, this week was named co-captain along with David Humm. His job is not only to represent the blackshirts, but to instill in team members the desire and pride needed to produce an outstanding defense.

Ruud mentioned that being a black shirt is an honor from first string on down to the second and third units. Once a unit takes the field they strive to play as if they are the top eleven playing under actual game pressures.

"The young kids are working real hard along with the older guys," Ruud said. "We have the makings for an excellent defense."

Ruud is a business major, and named to the 1973 academic All Big 8 honors team. After graduation, he plans to either work in marketing and personnel or, depending upon his performance this season, a contract with a pro team. Ruud supports World Football League and its opportunities for more athletes to participate in professional football. He said he believes the large crowds WFL teams draw indicate the league is here to stay.

In addition to football, Nebraska has offered Ruud a chance to meet different people and live in a different environment. Nebraska's agricultural atmosphere was a change for Ruud, who is from Minnesota. Ruud said he was happy here, and agrees with the attitude of the people of the state.

Ruud has five sisters and one brother. His brother, a senior at Jefferson High in Bloomington, Minn., is a halfback and linebacker. His college plans are indefinite.

Ruud said his family is a close-knit group, who generally make it down to Nebraska to see about three game a season.

"They've been other places," Ruud said, "but, they all agree they've seen none better than right here. Academically and athletically they think Nebraska is tops. They really like the attitude of the people."



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