

Weight training coach decides to stay at UNL

It seems Boyd Epley, UNL's weight training coach, is staying after all.

Epley told the *Daily Nebraskan* Wednesday he was leaving the Huskers to become weight training coach for the Detroit Lions of the National Football League, who offered him a \$10,000 salary increase and an unlimited budget with which to build his program.

In the story, Epley said his only regret was taking the job without consulting Husker football coach Tom Osborne, and admitted coaches and players were giving him second thoughts.

Osborne too, said he was sorry Epley didn't talk to him about the decision.

"I think I could have made him see the advantages of staying with our program," Osborne said.

Changed mind

Evidently, Osborne did just that. Epley said Friday he changed his mind and is staying at Nebraska.

The main reason Epley changed his mind was an offer Osborne made Wednesday night. However, Epley said he had other reasons for staying.

Even though Epley refused to explain the specifics of the offer, he did say it included more money, more responsibilities and more job security and offered some solutions to other things he was dissatisfied with.

"Right now I'm perfectly happy to remain here," Epley said. "Coach Osborne realized I was satisfied here except for a few things, and he made those things more comfortable for me. But the offer wasn't

cash, and wasn't immediate. The understanding is that this would be the way things will be in a few years."

Wife's happiness

According to Epley, other considerations included his wife's happiness (she teaches in Seward), and the fact he only knew the best side of the situation at Detroit.

"Here I know both the good and the bad," Epley said. "Up there I was treated like a recruit, they only showed me the best things. The job offered glamour and opportunity, but no security."

Larry Stunkel on record

Epley also found himself in the situation of a man at his own funeral last week. People started telling him how much he'd be missed.

However, it was Osborne who told Epley how important he was to the program. Even though Epley seemingly had made his final decision, Osborne kept trying, and eventually demonstrated his ability to persuade and changed Epley's mind.

Bend over backward

"Coach Osborne really bent over backward for

me," Epley said. "No one I've ever known has gone to that great of length for me."

This says a lot for Osborne. It's a trait the people who have worked with the coach always bring up.

However, a few questions are raised by the whole incident. First of all, what is it that made Epley's value double in one week from the \$8,000 a year he was being paid by the athletic department? (Inflation must really be bad).

Even though the exact amount of extra money offered by Osborne is not known, where did it come from? Will Epley's having declined the Detroit offer hurt his chances for future offers?

Was underpaid

Epley admits he was underpaid before this week. Even though he said he did not take the job at Detroit to pressure Nebraska into giving him more money, he did admit he was glad things turned out as they did.

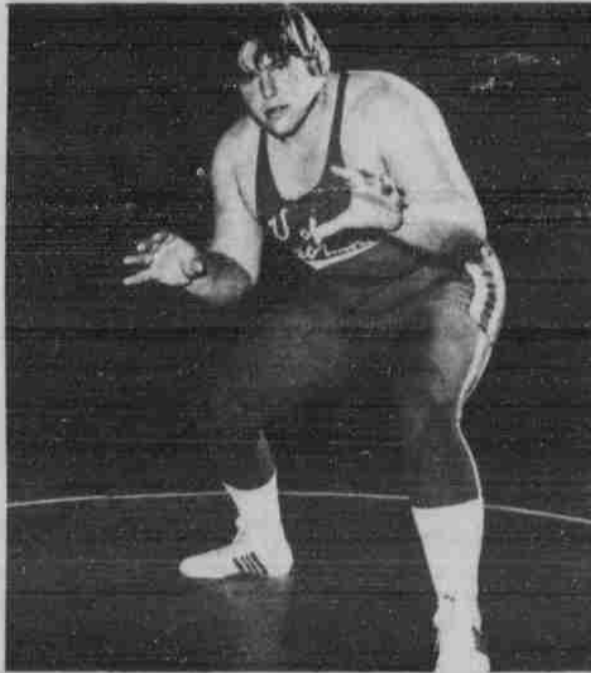
Epley also said that although the Lion's head coach felt "I had embarrassed the Lion organization," because he is one of the experts in weightlifting, there will still be jobs available when he decides to leave Nebraska.

Despite the questions, the pros and cons of the decision and the reasons for the decision itself, the important thing is Epley is happy, the Huskers are happy and nobody seemingly was hurt by the decision.

One would hope this is the end of the issue, yet the lingering suspicion is that it won't be.



Freshman gymnast Larry Gerard (left) and sophomore wrestler Bruce Conger (right) were among top placers for UNL sports teams last week. Gerard scored a 9.7 in the high bar against Southern Illinois. Conger finished third in the heavyweight class at the Big 8 tourney.



Track team last, wrestlers fourth

Gymnasts have shot at nationals

By Pete Wegman

Last weekend, a UNL athletic squad finished last in a Big 8 meet, one finished in the middle of the eight schools and another appears to be heading toward the top of the conference.

Friday and Saturday, the Cornhusker track team, including only one senior and one junior on the traveling roster, finished last in the Big 8 Indoor Track Meet at Kemper Arena in Kansas City.

The Huskers could manage only three points at the meet, marking their worst point showing at the indoor meet since it began in 1929.

The last place finish was only the second in head coach Frank Sevigne's 19 years at Nebraska. Sevigne's only other last place finish was in 1956, his first year.

Husker points came from junior Chuck Malito's fifth place finish in the 440 yard dash and the mile relay team's fourth place showing.

Jayhawks win

The meet was won by the Kansas Jayhawks with 63 points. Last year Kansas finished fifth. Kansas State, the defending champions, were second with 53.

The Big 8 Wrestling Tournament held Friday and Saturday at Oklahoma State was somewhat of a disappointment to head coach Orval Borgialli and his Husker grapplers.

Before the meet, Borgialli had said he hoped his team could break Oklahoma State, Oklahoma and Iowa State's domination of the top three places in the tournament and send at least six wrestlers to the nationals March 13-15 at Princeton.

However, the Huskers finished fourth with 22.5 points, trailing Oklahoma State, defending NCAA champion, Oklahoma and Iowa State, with 92, 75.5 and 72 points respectively.

Husker qualifiers

Nebraska wrestlers Tony Jennings at 134 lb.,

190 lb. Bob Johnson and heavyweight Bruce Conger all placed third to be the only Huskers to qualify for the NCAA tournament.

Thursday night, Nebraska's gymnasts continued to give indications that they are national title contenders when they defeated national power Southern Illinois, 221.15-220.25 at Henzlik Hall.

The Huskers 221.15 total proved that the 221.70 they scored against the Oklahoma Sooners a week ago to set a national scoring mark was no fluke. The old mark of 218 was held by the same Southern Illinois team Nebraska defeated.

Coach Francis Allen's gymnasts won four of the six events Thursday. Husker first place finishes included junior Steve Dickey with a score of 9.5 on the pommel horse, sophomore Kurt Mackie on the still rings with a 9.6, senior Jim Unger's 9.35 in vaulting, and Larry Gerard's meet high of 9.70 on the high bar.

Only a freshman

Gerard, only a freshman, was Nebraska's leading scorer in the all-around competition with 54.25 points, good for second place. Jim Ivick from Southern Illinois won with 55.15.

Allen said the Husker gymnasts have a good chance of defeating defending NCAA champion Iowa State at the Big 8 meet March 14-15 at Iowa State. Nebraska hasn't won the Big 8 since 1964, when Allen himself was a team member.

The winner of the Big 8 will advance to the NCAA championships at Indiana State April 3-5. Should Nebraska lose the Big 8, the team still has a chance of attending the nationals, according to Allen.

"There will probably be at least two teams that will attend the meet as at-large teams. If we lose to Iowa State at the Big 8 meet, we still have a chance at beating them at the national meet," Allen said.

Swimmers, gymnasts end season with wins

With a two week lay-off before tournaments, both the UNL women's swimming and gymnastics teams closed the regular season with victories Saturday.

Coach Pat Sullivan's swimmers defeated Kearney State 69-62, while the gymnasts coached by Karen Balke claimed a 64-51.5 win over Drake.

Ending their season at 5-3, the swimmers were paced by freshman Mikki Crosby, who won the 100-yard individual medley with a time of 1:08.04, and the 50- and 100-yard butterfly events, clocking 29.6 and 1:05.6 (her career best), respectively.

Deb Peterson and Ginny Kincaide each placed first in two events. Peterson won the 50- and 100-yard backstroke, while Kincaide won both the one and three-meter diving competition.

Sullivan summed up the team's fourth season by saying the record was "unbelievable, considering the competition we had."

Four members of the team will travel to the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) national tournament March 13-15 in Tempe, Ariz. They are Peterson (50-yard backstroke), Ruth Spencer (50-yard breaststroke) and Kincaide and Nancy Dykes, who both qualified in the one and three-meter diving.

Kathi Ruddick lead the gymnasts, winning the vaulting, uneven parallel bars, floor exercise and all-around competition.

Carol Lundeen placed second in the floor exercise and all-around, Peggy Newport was second in vaulting and Peg Van Beek earned second in the uneven parallel bars.

Finishing the season with a perfect 4-0 mark, the gymnastic team will travel to Ames, Ia. March 13-15 for the AIAW Region 6 tourney.

sports shorts

The UNL football team was given a vocal reprimand by Big 8 officials at their meeting this weekend for including ineligible transfers Vince Ferragamo and Ray Phillips on the traveling roster to the Sugar Bowl.

The reprimand amounts to nothing more than telling Husker coaches they were wrong in taking the two athletes to New Orleans. When the NCAA officials meet next month, further action may be taken.

Speculation by the Omaha World-Herald Friday, stated the NCAA would force Ferragamo and Phillips to remain out of action for one game next season.

Husker coach Tom Osborne told the Lincoln Sunday Journal-Star the World-Herald story may prejudice the NCAA's position into not handing down a lighter decision so they don't lose face

with the public.

Entries are due Wednesday for any women interested in Table Tennis doubles and the women's swimming tournament offered by the UNL Recreation and Intramurals office. For additional information, contact the Recreation office, 1740 Vine St., 472-3467.

Linda Bradshaw will appear tonight with Chuck Roberts of the Zebco fishing equipment company, to discuss a woman's role in the fishing family.

The event will be held at the Lincoln High auditorium as the fifth in a series of fishing classes sponsored by the Lincoln Park and Recreation and the Surplus Center, at 7 p.m.

Roberts will give information concerning fishing equipment while answering questions concerning fishing gear.