

Assistant wrestling coach outlines heavy goals

By Scott Jones

Tom Pollard has taken on some heavy burdens in his life.

Before becoming assistant wrestling coach at UNL last year, for example, the 1971 graduate of Pershing College took his first coaching position at a Chicago high school which had compiled a 10-60 record the previous five years.

He led them to a two-year record of 33-10, two conference championships and was named conference coach of the year both years he was there.

His burdens as a weightlifter also have been heavy. He finished third in the National Collegiate Powerlifting Championships April 5 by lifting 830 lbs. in the three lifts.

Insignificant feats

But these feats are insignificant compared to what Pollard is planning for the

future. First, he would like to become a world-class powerlifter in the 123-lb. class.

Second, he is an advisee for a new sports consulting firm about which he says, "No firm has ever been able to offer the athletes as much as we will be able to."

Third, he would like to improve the system by which this country sends amateur athletes to international competition.

To achieve his first goal, Pollard must raise his total lifting weight from 830 lbs. to at least 960 lbs., thus making him a class one powerlifter eligible for international competition.

Pollard has been lifting weights since January and said he expects to improve quickly. He will compete in the State Powerlifting Championships in Omaha Saturday and, if he attains the class one ranking,

the Junior National Championships in Lincoln July 26.

Olympics possible

From there, he said he hopes to compete in the Senior Nationals in August, the World Championships in London in November and possibly the 1980 Olympics.

Only the traditional Olympic lifts, the snatch and clean-and-jerk are now in the Olympics, but Pollard is confident that powerlifting, with the deadlift, bench press and squat, will be accepted in the Olympics soon.

"It won't be in the next Olympics but it'll be in the one after that," he said.

Should he make the Olympic team, Pollard, 28, said he would be an upstart by weightlifting standards.

"It is a sport you can compete in into your 50s," he said. "As I get older I'll get

stronger. In international competition I'm a baby in the woods. I won't reach my peak until I'm in my 30s."

After retiring from coaching, Pollard said he will "probably spend my dying day," working for an Olympic development camp which he devised and is now promoting. According to plans, Pollard said, the training camps would be financed through a 50 cent donation clause on tax returns similar to the \$1 option for political campaigns now on the forms.

Beg, borrow

"This would eliminate the Olympic Committee going around to beg, borrow and steal," he said. "No athlete in the U.S. would have to pay to go to international competition."

Pollard said he would like to have training camps in 10 cities that offer coaching and equipment in every Olympic sport. An exchange of coaches with other countries would also be possible, he said.

"If an athlete doesn't have any money and he has the potential we could provide him



Tom Pollard

with the best coaching from the U.S. and around the world," Pollard said. "This would be one way of saying to the athlete, 'Here's a chance—if you're good enough to go, go.'"

Pollard could only estimate when such a program would begin.

"When America gets trounced again for the second year in a row people will start to wonder," he said.

sports



Photo by Steve Boerner

UNL Dick Anderson, 10, gets a single in Monday's doubleheader with Dana College. The Huskers captured the opener, 4-3, and lost the second game to the Vikings, 3-1.

Despite few lakes, UNL club promotes student water skiing

By Pete Wegman

Despite the lack of a large number of good water skiing lakes in the state, the University of Nebraska does have a water ski team.

"We're organized to promote water skiing," said Bob Mayfield, UNL Water Ski Club president. "We want to help the inexperienced learn to ski and the experienced to get better."

According to Mayfield, UNL's club is in its first year on campus. Previously the now-defunct Lincoln Water Ski Club was the only organized water ski group in Lincoln.

Mayfield said UNL's club is attempting to bolster its 70-plus membership by recruiting members from the

old club. He added that the club would like to obtain a jump and some slalom equipment owned by the old club to help defray expenses for new equipment.

Will request funds

The club recently submitted a constitution to the Office of Student Activities. Mayfield said the club will ask for funds from the Fees Allocation Board next year to purchase some additional equipment.

"We'll mainly use the money for safety equipment. It would be foolish to ask for a boat," he said.

Membership in the club is free. However, each member helps pay for gas for skiing. Members are encouraged to join the American Water Ski Association (AWSA).

AWSA's initial dues are \$10, followed by \$7.50 annual fees. Mayfield said that as soon as the club gets 20 AWSA members, UNL's water ski club will be recognized by the AWSA.

Sponsor meets

He said that this is important because "to compete in water skiing, one almost has to be a member of AWSA, since they sponsor most of the meets."

Mayfield said there is a possibility that UNL could host a meet sometime next year if the club is recognized.

The club, with eight or nine members' boats available for skiing, has yet to find a place to call home. The skiers are

attempting to get permission to use Capitol Beach, but Mayfield admits the situation there is difficult.

"Capitol Beach is a private lake and the people who live there must pay to use it, but we would get it free," he said. "However, if we can't use it, we will ski at Branched Oak or at Emerald."

Three excellent skiers

In water ski competition, skiers participate in slalom, jumping and trick skiing. Mayfield said UNL has three excellent skiers in Dan Maser, Jeff McCabe and Scott Wiegert.

Mayfield envisions intercollegiate skiing as a distinct possibility sometime in the future.

"If students show interest, it (intercollegiate skiing) has a good chance," he said. "So far on this campus it looks pretty good."

According to Mayfield, the only problem with becoming an intercollegiate sport and operating under the athletic department would occur if some of the club's less talented members failed to make the team.

He said he is proud of the fact that the club now has people with all degrees of water skiing ability.

Mayfield, a mechanical engineering major who is the club president "mainly because no one else wanted it," said the club will have an organizational meeting for next year tonight at 7:30 in the Nebraska Union.

sports shorts

UNL's baseball team Monday split a doubleheader with Blair's Dana College, winning the first game 4-3 and losing the second 3-1.

The Huskers hosted UNO Tuesday in a doubleheader. They travel to Omaha today for another twin bill with the Mavericks.

Two Indiana all-stars signed national letters of intent to play basketball at UNL next season.

Husker coach Joe Cipriano announced Val Martin, a 6 ft. 7 in. forward from South Bend Adams High School, and Brian Banks, a 6 ft. 1 in. guard from Hammond, became the first two athletes to sign letters with the Huskers.

After losing to Kansas 7-4 last Saturday, the UNL women's tennis team travels to Lawrence, Kan., this weekend to participate in the Missouri Valley Women's Intercollegiate

Tennis Tourney. The team will host Dana College next Tuesday at 5 p.m. for their final match of the season.

Winning two of four games, the UNL soccer club placed fifth in the Big 8 tourney held in Ames, Iowa last weekend. The team beat Iowa State 2-1 and Colorado 1-0, but lost to Missouri 6-1 and to Kansas 3-0. Top scorer for the team was Doug Trenerry with two goals.

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