

## Intramural teams hit 146

About 3,200 UNL students will be competing on 146 intramural flag football teams as competition begins Monday, according to Intramurals Coordinator Gale Wiedow.

Ten more teams will compete this year. There were 2,905 participants last year.

The teams will be classified according to level of skill and preferences listed by team managers, Wiedow said.

"The class A Division is a skill level division with more competitive and more highly skilled players," Wiedow said. "The other classes represent a descending level of skill."

Although class C team members may not have the skill to compete against class A teams, Wiedow said there have been some good class C teams in the past.

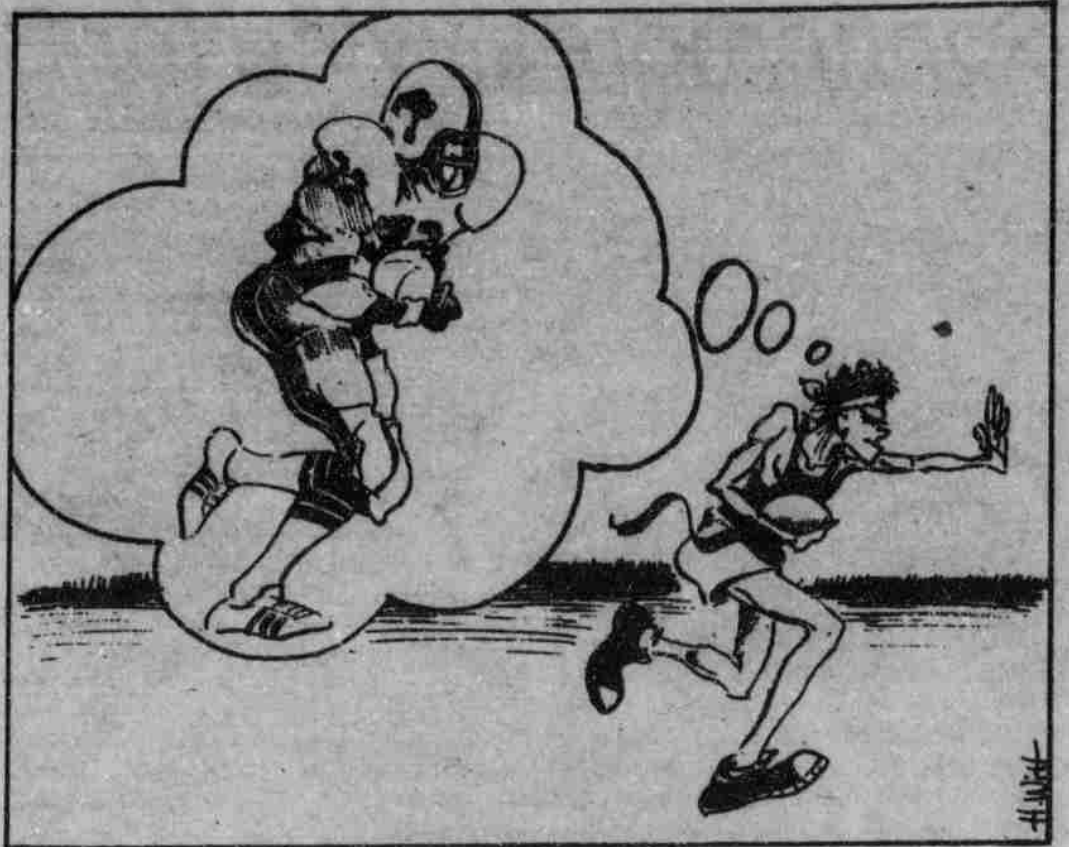
Lower class-level competitors usually play flag football more for recreation than competition, he said.

The teams will be further divided into fraternity, residence hall and independent divisions. Fraternity teams will compete in all three classes, while residence hall and independent teams will compete in classes A and B.

Wiedow said 21 leagues will be formed. Fraternity teams in class A will compete against each other, as will residence halls and independent teams.

A team will play other teams in its league once during the season, Wiedow said. The season will culminate with the beginning of the single elimination All-University Championships on Oct. 20th.

The top two fraternity and residence hall teams in class A and B will compete with the top two independent teams in the All-University playoffs.



## Soccer club takes 5-2 win over UNO in season debut

By Jim Hunt

UNL's soccer club opened its season Wednesday night with a 5-2 victory over UNO.

The match was a preliminary event for a professional soccer league match between

Chicago and Boston, held to measure interest in soccer in Omaha.

UNL scoring was led by Mario Hamdan, who had two goals. Dave Erg, Jim Fullerton and Emmanuel Ekeberme each scored one goal for UNL. Coach Franz Blaha said goalie Stan Kull played well and that members of the Boston club expressed interest in him.

The club, sponsored by the Recreation Dept., is coached by Blaha, a native of Austria. Blaha is a professor in the English Dept., and has played amateur and semi-pro soccer and coached soccer in Austria.

Blaha said anyone is welcome to join the club, which practices Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6 p.m. in Memorial Stadium. There is a \$2.50 fee per semester.

Competition for the starting 11 positions is keen, according to Blaha.

There are about 40 men out for the team, but Blaha said the figure will probably drop to about 25 by the end of the semester.

To be considered for the team, a candidate must pay a \$10 deposit. Fines for missing practices and games are taken from the deposit, the rest is refunded at the end of the year. The method encourages players to show up for practices and games, Blaha said.

Club members officiate intramural volleyball to help raise fees to add to the \$380 allotted them by the Recreation Dept. The club also is helping the Catholic elementary schools start a soccer league in Lincoln.

Next match will be Sunday at 2 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

## sports

### Pool pro shakes off 'Fats' image

By Larry Stunkel

Consider the stereotype of a professional pool player.

Someone who looks like Minnesota Fats, has a vocabulary of "dem, dese and doses," who never graduated from high school and plays the game in smoke-filled, small town bars where he arrogantly hustles farmers away from their money.

This was the picture I had of billiard pros until Wednesday, when I met Paul Gerni.

While still prejudiced by this stereotype, I viewed his afternoon exhibition in the Nebraska Union. To my delight, he missed a few shots, and I wasn't too upset when I asked him some general facts and was told, "Go find my personal fact sheet."

#### Not putting off

But I was surprised a half-hour later when he walked into the office.

"I hope you didn't feel that I was putting you off," were his first words.

"Naw," I replied. "Everything I wanted was on the fact sheet. But as long as you're here I might as well ask you a few more questions."

The ensuing two hours killed forever my stereotype of the professional pool player.

Gerni didn't look anything like Minnesota Fats. His grammar was better than mine and he holds degrees from Purdue University in marketing and economics. He toured 123 universities last year and won the 1975 European Billiard Championship in Munich, Germany last February.

#### Why here?

So what's a guy like Gerni doing on the UNL campus?

Would you believe he's trying to change stereotypes and promoting the game of billiards?

"I love the game and I love to travel," Gerni said. "I'm trying to show people that billiards is a gentleman's game. Our prize

money is larger and our tournaments are getting bigger and are no longer played in bar rooms, but in hotel ballrooms."

Although he's been a pro for more than six years, the South Bend, Ind., native said he has been at the level he is now for three years.

#### One tournament

"There were times I just about starved," he said. "Only the top players make enough earnings. Last year I only played in one tournament (in Houston), but I perform a lot of exhibitions."

"This year I'll have over 200 exhibitions," he said. "I only have to practice about a half-hour for an exhibition, but when I'm preparing for a tournament, it's six hours."

"Most of it is mental," he added. "Overall exhibitions detract from my tournament play. I haven't played as well in tournaments since I started exhibitions."

Gerni, one of 10 children of a "strict Lutheran minister," said his father didn't like the idea of having a professional pool player in the family because of the old stereotype.

"But he likes it now," he said.

Ironically, Gerni's first exposure to billiards was in the basement of his father's

church.

"We were there for this men's group," he said. "I snuck down the hall and found these guys playing pool and smoking cigars. I was looking at the cigars, but the next thing I knew I was on top of a coke crate with a cue in my hand."

#### Other sports

Gerni said he is interested in sports other than billiards, and played varsity football and baseball while he was at Purdue.

Lincoln was the first stop on Gerni's fall tour, during which he will be at Westroads shopping center in Omaha through Saturday and in Seward Sunday. From there he will travel south, then up the east coast, where he will perform in a "World Premiere of Interpretive Chamber Selections for Billiards" by composer Patrick Kavanaugh in Washington, D.C. Oct. 26.

According to Gerni, he will shoot on four pool tables while musicians play chamber music with his movements.

When asked if he could explain it so I'd have an idea of what would be going on, Gerni said, "I really don't know what will happen either."

### Borgialli expects interesting year

## Wrestlers to face tougher opponents

By Pete Wegman

Orval Borgialli's twelfth year as UNL head wrestling coach could produce the team's most interesting year ever.

First, the Huskers will face what Borgialli said is the toughest schedule he's had at Nebraska. In addition, this season's team will have more seniors than Borgialli has ever had.

Kansas State's recent decision to drop wrestling leaves the Big 8 with only six schools with wrestling programs (Kansas last wrestled in 1966), forcing the Husker grapplers to face more non-conference foes.

Borgialli cited Air Force, Northwestern and Minnesota as the toughest nonconference opponents, adding that the schedule is still indefinite.

#### Dropped Nebraska

Fort Hayes State, 39-0 losers to Nebraska last December in the Huskers' first wrestling shutout, dropped Nebraska from its schedule, according to Borgialli.

The Huskers had hoped to wrestle the home portion of the 1975-76 season in the new sports complex but construction delays will probably force the wrestlers to compete in the Coliseum at least one more year, Borgialli said.

"The biggest factor concerning the field house is recruiting for us," Borgialli said. "It's a lot easier to recruit someone if you know you'll be in it (the new fieldhouse) and not just think you will."

The wrestlers took their physicals Tuesday night. Borgialli said it would be next week before he knew if all the team members had passed.

"One year I brought in 13 new recruits and ten failed the physical," he said.

#### 18 new recruits

This year the Huskers will have 18 new recruits, including three junior college transfers along with three two-time Nebraska state high school wrestling champions, an Oklahoma champion and a runner-up from the Iowa high school ranks.

However, Borgialli said it will be the seniors who will determine how well the Huskers fare this season.

"The seniors will make or break us," he said. "If they do what they're supposed to do, we'll be respectable."

The seniors are Mark Borer, Joe Carr, Ken Christensen, Tony Jennings, Bob Johnson and Tom Knobloch. Also, the Huskers return two-year regulars Bruce Conger and Bill Hoffman.

Nebraska graduated Gary Harnisch, Tom Luth, and Tom Prichard last spring, but the biggest off-season loss, according to Borgialli, was Doug Hassig.

Hassig, a freshman starter last season, quit wrestling and transferred to Kansas University.

## sports shorts

UNL's football team is hitting well, but having a hard time staying healthy, according to Husker coach Tom Osborne. I-back John O'Leary suffered a strained knee in Wednesday's "dummy scrimmage," but the injury is not believed serious.

Senior wingback Tom Heiser suffered a sprained toe and middle guard Kelvin Roehrs sustained an ankle sprain.

Other developments included the loss of a grant-in-aid given to Marti Wolever of Council Bluffs, who signed a pro baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds.

Osborne said it was "a shame" Wolever practiced before signing the contract. If he

hadn't, the scholarship could have been given to a walk-on who "would give an arm for it."

Husker officials don't know the implications of a ruling by Alabama Federal District Judge Sam C. Pointer denying the NCAA the right to limit traveling teams below the number allowed for home squads.

The NCAA limited travel squads to 48 last August, but the ruling states, "Having one team with 60 players and another with 48 is totally inconsistent with the basic concept of fair athletic competition."