

# Tutors, study halls help busy athletes

By Susie Reitz

Although some students may think the scholarship athletes receive preferential treatment in classes, they don't, according to Ursula Walsh, academic counselor for scholarship athletes.

"I think many students think the athlete is favored by the professor," she said, "but often professors are extra tough on the athletes because they don't want to be accused of favoritism."

First semester freshmen with football and basketball scholarships are required to attend a first semester study hall every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m., Walsh said.

"Attendance is mandatory," she said. "It's explained to the athlete before he gets the scholarship that this is expected."

## Study time scarce

With classes in the morning and practices all afternoon, the athlete often does not have time to see teacher assistants or professors with a problem, Walsh said.

"We provide tutors for scholarship athletes only," she said, "to make up for the lack of time during the day."

"Upperclassmen also may attend the study halls and tutors are available for any scholarship athlete, Walsh said.

Women athletes and non-scholarship male athletes are not allowed to have paid

tutors according to National Collegiate Athletic Association and Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association rules, Walsh said.

## Four full-time tutors

Four full-time tutors are available during study halls, and part-time tutors help when there is a test or a heavy load in one subject, Walsh said. Full-time tutors work five to six hours a week.

"We hire tutors in accounting, calculus, and English full-time," Walsh said, "because those are the subjects with which the students need help most often."

Tutors also are available in physics, chemistry and other subjects but do not come to study hall regularly, she said.

"We try to keep track of time spent by each athlete with a tutor," she said "sometimes it will indicate how he is getting along in the subject or indicate a problem area."

Walsh also keeps records of individual grades on quizzes, tests and papers, she said. If a student fails a test or paper, she talks with him to identify problems.

## Attendance problem

"If there is some problem with attendance, I ask the professor to make a report for a couple of weeks, Walsh said, "but that usually isn't necessary."

Walsh is planning a workshop for the athletes in note-taking, efficient reading of text books, managing time and hints on test taking, she said.

"We're planning it for Oct. 23 after the mid-semester so they can see where they really need help," she said.

Tutors said they act as catalysts for the athletes.

"I didn't realize how short of time they are, with classes and practices all the time," accounting tutor Becky Arney said.

"Knowing how short my time is, I just can't imagine doing all they do and getting it all done."

## No stereotypes

Ruth Pekar, English tutor, said, "Something I found from tutoring was that no athlete fits the stereotype."

"I imagined them to be cocky, a little stupid and very demanding," Pekar said, "but it's been just the opposite."

When she started tutoring 15 years ago, she said freshman English was standardized and most freshmen were studying the same thing.

With varied freshman English classes, Pekar said, it is rare for more than two athletes to be on the same subject. She works on an individual basis now, she said.

Pekar, who also has tutored non-athletes and special services students, said she sees no difference in ability between athletes and other students.

## Athletes representative

"Athletes are like a cross-section of students," Pekar said, "some really bright, some slow, but most just average."

Margaret Robertson, a former English teacher has tutored English for two years.

Calculus tutor Betty Johnson, a junior, said she helps with individual problems and review for tests. She applied as a math counselor in the Math Dept. and was referred to the Athletic Dept., she said.

Judy Hansen, a graduate educational psychology student, helps Walsh supervise the study halls and keep academic records.

This is the first year Walsh has been full-time academic counselor. The past two years she has been part-time counselor and part-time professor in Teachers College. She still teaches a graduate course in tests and measurements, she said.

"What we try to do in the study halls by providing tutors, is to make learning fun," Walsh said. "We don't want the athlete to look on studies as a chore, we want them to have fun learning."

"We assure they are here to get a degree and we keep that in mind at all times."

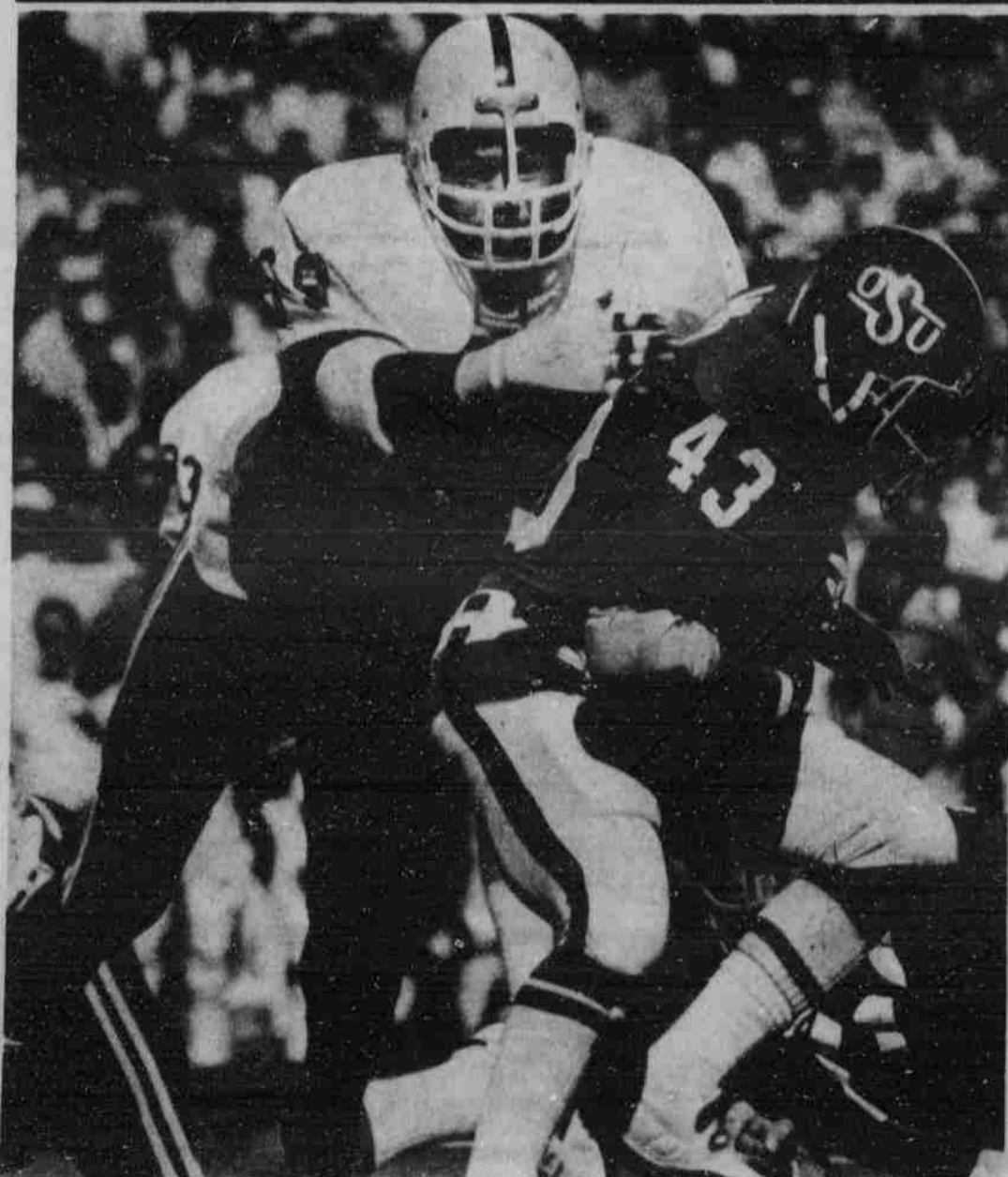


Photo by Ted Kirk

Cowboy running back Terry Miller (43) didn't escape Husker John Lee (69) this time during Nebraska's 28-20 win in Stillwater last Saturday.



Photo by Kevin Higley

Husker defensive end Bob Martin (87) will return to action this week after recovering from a knee infection.