

# husker galaxy | UNL swimmer: 'Good' not enough

By Scott Jones

Ellen Hollander won four individual swimming events and swam on one winning relay last weekend in the Big 8 Conference meet. That's good. Good enough, anyway, to be named this week's athlete of the week.

But amid that success, freshman Hollander also failed to meet any of the qualifying standards to compete in the national meet March 18 through 20 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

That's bad. Especially because UNL swimmers have only one more chance to qualify—at time trials Friday in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. pool.

"I felt that I had to do it (qualify) in the Big 8 meet, but I'll just have to wait and see," Hollander said. "I just wish there was a little more time."

Hollander, a graduate of Omaha Marian High School, won the 50-, 100- and 200-yard breaststrokes (all in Big 8 record time), the 100-yard individual medley and was a member of the winning 400-yard medley relay team, which also set a conference record, in the meet.

Her 50-yard breaststroke time of 33.4 seconds is only three-tenths of a second above the national qualifying

time, but Hollander and her coach, Pat Sullivan, say they are more optimistic about her qualifying chances in the 100- and 200-yard events.

Hollander won the 200 in 2:37, but that was the first time she swam the event competitively this year. Because of that and the longer distance, Sullivan said, Hollander may have a better chance of beating the 2:35 200-yard qualifying time.

"Everything has to be letter perfect in the 50," Sullivan said. "In 200 yards it wouldn't be that hard to make up two seconds."

Ironically, Hollander said, the 200 "was always my worst event before, I didn't really like it." She won the 100 in 1:12.9, 1.2 seconds above the qualifying time.

Senior Ruth Spencer, who finished second behind Hollander in all three breaststroke events, competed in the 50-yard breaststroke at nationals last year, but qualifying times have been lowered this year—as much as two seconds in some events.

Hollander, one of seven swimmers on scholarship, also was recruited by the University of Kansas and Kearney State College. She said lifting weights has led to improved performances.

"I didn't like it at first," she said, "but I saw how much it helped so I don't mind it now."

Hollander, a social work major, said she misses many activities because of the time spent on swimming, but said she does not regret it.

"Just like any sport you get a lot of satisfaction, and it helps you in everything you do," she said.

In addition to her five victories, Hollander also finished second in the 50-yard butterfly and fourth in the 50-yard freestyle at the Big 8 meet. In all, she competed in nine events.

Other athlete-of-the-week nominees were swimmer Pat DiBiase, a junior from Omaha; basketball forward Bob Siegel, a junior from Fairbury; gymnast Peggy Newport, a sophomore from Lincoln; and basketball guard Kathy Hawkins, a junior from Omaha.

## one at a time | Higher-round draft choice 'big assist' in pro football

By Jim Zalewski

Amidst a flurry of lawsuits and players' union demands, the NFL soon will hold its annual college player draft. The draft holds special meaning for Husker football seniors, some of whom have a good chance to make it in the play-for-pay ranks. And, according to two men who have been through the process, being a higher-round choice is a big assist.

Tom Ruud, who ended his playing career at UNL in 1974, closed out the past season as a starting linebacker for the Buffalo Bills. Jerry Tagge, who directed the Huskers to national titles in 1970 and '71, is a former Green Bay Packer quarterback who recently "agreed to terms" with the Chicago Bears. I recently spoke to both, questioning them about adjustment to pro ball and the implications of the draft.

"I can't speak for the NFL overall, but I think the coaches expect more from a top round choice," Ruud said. "It's sometimes a matter of being at the right place at the right time, but I think if you've got the talent, you'll make it somewhere."

Tagge agreed that higher round choices may get a better shot.

"They (professional teams) put a lot of money and effort into the scouting process," he said. "They don't want to waste a draft choice. Those that have proven themselves in college over the years have less to prove in camp."

Somewhat surprisingly, neither cited the increased size or overall speed of professional opponents as the major adjustment. Both mentioned increased mental strain of the professional game.

"Learning the system is the most difficult adjustment," Tagge said. "It's even more difficult at quarterback. It took me one year just to learn the system."

"Everybody runs the same plays, but the terminology is different. A team like Dallas, with the multiple offense concept, is simply using a few plays with a lot of formation."

The thinking man in professional football is not relegated solely to offense, Ruud said.

"The major adjustment was the mental game, learning coverages and defenses," he said. "It's a business. It lacks

the sport concept of competing for the college. It's a longer season and there is more pressure."

The era of the proven veterans resenting the "glory boy" from college with the fat contract is virtually gone, Ruud said. If the veterans see that a rookie can help the team, they're all for him, he said, and most athletes respect another's ability.

What do the pros look for in the draft, size or speed? "It depends on the position, but the overall movement recently has been to speed at all positions," Tagge said. "Both," Ruud answered. "The pros are always looking for some guy 6 ft. 5 in., 240 lbs. who runs a 4.5 40-yard dash."

What chances will this year's Husker seniors have in the draft?

Tagge declined comment because he said he had seen only one game and did not know most of the players on last year's team.

"The draft isn't a matter of chance," Ruud insisted. "Once you are picked, you get your shot to make it. You have an opportunity to prove yourself."

"I think this year's seniors will fare pretty well overall when they get to camp. They're competitors."

Last year four Huskers—Ruud, Bob Nelson (Buffalo), Dave Humm (Oakland Raiders) and John Starkebaum (New Orleans)—gained spots on NFL rosters. From this year's crop of seniors, it appears Wonder Monds will be chosen first, possibly in the first round. Rik Bonness, an All-American center, would benefit from being drafted by an expansion team, since the others already have established centers and the turnover rate at that position is not too high.

With his desire to hit, fullback Tony Davis could make any team. I foresee him leading the charge on the "suicide" kickoff and punting teams, eventually gaining playing time as a running back. Defensive end Bob Martin appears headed for a position change, either as an outside linebacker, as Ruud suggested, or as a strong safety.

Coach Tom Osborne once said John O'Leary "could play four or five positions for us." It wouldn't surprise me to see O'Leary get a trial at safety if he fails as a running back. The dynamic duo at tight end, Larry Mushinski and Brad Jenkins, must be considered "sleepers."

# nebraskan sports

## sports shorts

The Husker women's basketball win over Wayne State College Sunday was by a score of 58-55, rather than 68-65 as reported in Monday's Daily Nebraskan. The victory in the finals of the large school state tournament advanced the Huskers to the regional tournament in Fargo, N.D., March 4 through 6. The team is now 18-7.

The intramural indoor track meet will be tonight at the indoor track in Memorial Stadium beginning at 6:30 p.m. Entries will be taken from 6 to 6:30 p.m. Events will be in the following order: 60-yard dash preliminaries, mile run, 60-yard dash finals, 60-yard dash high hurdles preliminaries, 440-yard dash, 60-yard high hurdles finals, 600-yard run, 60-yard low hurdles preliminaries, 880-yard run, 60-yard low hurdles finals, two-mile run. Field events are the high jump and long jump.

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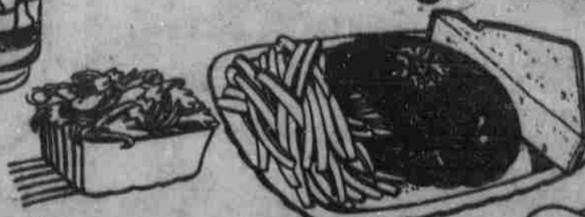
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