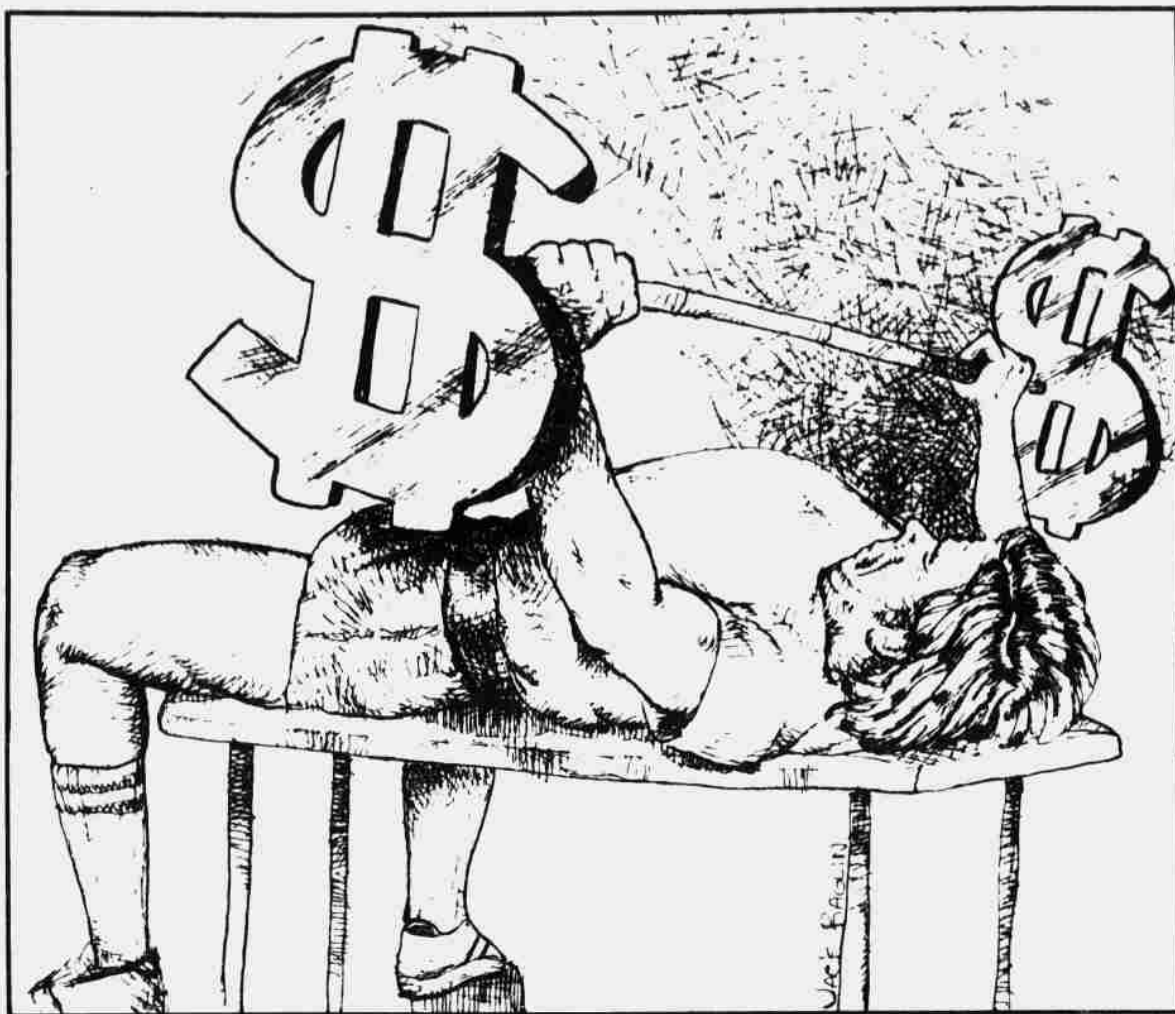


## sports

## UNL Weightlifting Club carries burden of few funds



The UNL Weightlifting Club's major burden is not weights, but lack of money, according to coach Boyd Epley.

Qualifying 11 members for nationals, the Weightlifting Club was financially able to send only three lifters to the national meet in Ruston, La., two weeks ago.

Epley said UNL could have won the national championships last month if the university had given the club financial support.

The club's president appealed to both the chancellor's office and the Fees Allocation Board for travel expenses for the 11-man team, Epley said. But, the request was denied, so the two defending national champions and several top finishers from last year's meet had to stay in Lincoln.

The fees board granted \$5 for each lifter from a contingency fund to pay for entry fees, but since only three members entered the meet, the money for entry fees for the rest of the team was turned back.

"I feel we could have won the meet if we'd had a full team," Epley said. "I'm sure they don't understand that, but it cost us the national championship. We had a lot of disappointed young students."

The board granted \$600 to the Weightlifting Club last year, but that amount

was reduced to zero last summer when the NU Board of Regents revised its stand on student fees.

Richard Fleming of the chancellor's office said the club's request last month for \$4,000 was denied because UNL has no money for club sports. Fleming said denial of the request does not imply any judgment on the sport's interest level.

Epley said weightlifting at UNL is booming. He said the club has between 80 to 90 members.

"I think it has the potential to bring recognition to UNL," he said. "But I think it's a bit much to ask these young students to pay their tuition and all and ask them to go all the way down to Louisiana to represent the University of Nebraska."

Epley also argued that UNL supports projects with less potential than the UNL Weightlifting Club.

"UNL placed second at the national championships last year and with only three competing this year placed fourth in team points," Epley said. "Nebraska has the material to win the national title. It is a shame more financial assistance is not available."

## Player's optimism fueled by revamped baseball program

By Jim Hunt

Every coach dreams of having an eternal optimist on his team and UNL baseball coach John Sanders has found one in senior Larry Winum.

With the Huskers down by a score of 7-1 in the second game of Tuesday's double-header against Creighton University, the only thing Winum said as he jogged up the left field line was, "we can still win it."

UNL scored five runs with two men out in the bottom of the seventh inning to topple the Bluejays 11-10 boosting its record to 22-13.

"Sure, I believed we could win the game," Winum said. "That's the way the coaches have us thinking now. Besides we have good enough ball players to compete with any team in the country."

Winum said the recent road trip to Hawaii, gave the entire squad a lot of confidence.

"In my four years here they (the Hawaii games) were the three biggest wins we have ever had," Winum said. "It was good for our club and for the program."

"Hawaii was ranked sixteenth in the country and we beat their top two pitchers by coming from behind in both games."

However, things were not always this cheerful for Winum at UNL. Towards the end of his sophomore season, Winum packed his bags and went back to his home in Bloomington, Minn.

"We didn't have any kind of a winter program and we weren't using the facilities available to us," Winum said. "So I just decided to go home."

"Then coach (Bob) Devaney called me and told me some changes were going to be made. Coach Sanders came and things started to happen. Now we have a first-class operation," he said.

In his third year as a starter Winum said he feels no extra pressure in his role as captain for the team. It has been more of a privilege than a job, he said.

However, one thing he has had to learn to cope with this season is splitting time at first base with sophomore Pete O'Brien.

"I don't mind splitting time with Pete. Because both Pete and I are hitting the ball well," Winum said. "Having Pete here has helped me as a ball player. This is really the first time in three years that I have had any real competition."

"Pete is a good ball player and is doing a real good job. It's a good situation for both of us because we each know that if we aren't doing the job, the other one will be in there. It makes us think about what we're doing out there."

"Sure I'd like to play every day, but

everybody on the team would too."

When he is not at first base, Winum usually is the designated hitter. Winum has a .288 batting average this season.

As a sophomore Winum batted .307, but slumped to .230 last year.

"I started out real good last year," he said. "I was hitting real well until we star-

ted Big Eight play. I just hope it doesn't happen again this year."

"I knew I had the mechanics to be a good hitter. I think it was just in my head. I hit the slump and started to worry about what I did wrong the last time and not concentrating on the pitcher," he said.

The Huskers will open Big Eight play

this weekend when they play the University of Missouri at the UNL diamond.

"We were in three of the four games at Missouri last year and we should have won the last one," Winum said. "They have mostly a senior squad and should be the team to beat."

The Tigers are 21-10 this season.

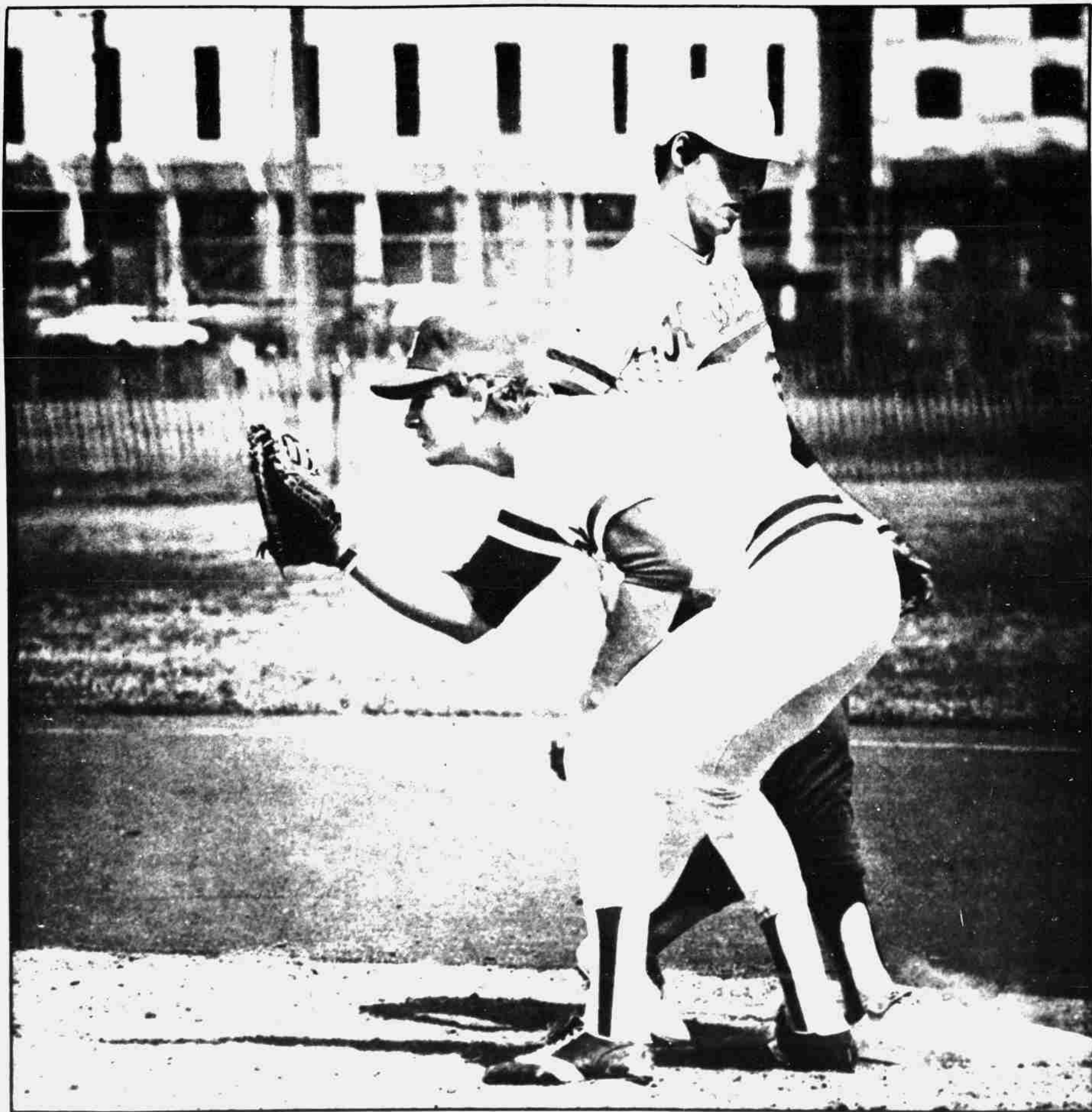


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Senior captain Larry Winum, described as an eternal optimist, holds a Kansas State player to first base. Winum, in his fourth year at UNL, said that UNL winning three of five games from 16th-ranked Hawaii last week was the highlight of his career.