

DaCosta: Winning tradition runs into challenge

By Joni Kramer

The hardest adjustment of coming to Nebraska from Jamaica for UNL track member Everton DaCosta was the change from high school to college athletics.

"It wasn't the weather or anything like that," DaCosta said. "High school wasn't as competitive as college is. I won all the time, and my first year at Nebraska I didn't win one race. It was frustrating. In college you have to have a lot of respect for other athletes. You can't be a hot shot."

A big difference DaCosta sees is the popularity of

UNL men's tennis team to attend weekend dual

The UNL men's tennis team suffered a tough weekend in Columbia, Mo., last week, but hopes to rebound when it travels to Stillwater, Okla., for duals against Oklahoma State and Kansas State Friday and Saturday.

The Huskers dropped three matches last weekend to Iowa State (2-7), Oklahoma (0-9) and Missouri (1-8). The only winners for the Huskers in singles action were Doug Elsass and Hal Koch, who defeated Iowa State netters. In No. 3 singles, Koch defeated Iowa State's Mark Paulson, 6-2, 6-2, and in No. 4 singles, Elsass swept Iowa State's Dave Eberhardt, 6-2, 6-4. Husker's No. 1 singles player Scott Baker lost a close three-set match, 5-7, 6-3, 0-6.

In doubles action, Nebraska lost eight of nine matches played on the weekend. The only win for the Huskers came with the No. 3 doubles team of Scott Klaus and Darrell White, who scored a 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 victory against Missouri.

The next action for the Huskers comes this weekend in Stillwater, Okla. Nebraska, now 10-11-1, has not played Oklahoma State this year, but did defeat Kansas State 4-2 this year in a dual at home.

UNL cheerleading squad announced

By Scott Ahlstrand

After four clinics, two days of tryouts and hours of practice, the 1981-82 UNL cheerleading squad was announced.

Dan Kendig, UNL women's assistant gymnastics coach, also serves as the cheerleading squad adviser. He said participants had to meet some standard requirements before trying out.

"We had four clinics that were available," Kendig said. "Ideally, the girls and guys would attend all of them, but due to some class conflicts, they were only required to attend two of them. They also have to be full-time students and maintain a C average."

This year's tryouts were on March 31 and April 1. The participants were judged by a panel of nine people.

"The cheerleaders were judged on how well they did in three areas," Kendig said. "They had three required double stunts to perform, two optional double stunts and they were also judged on how well they worked with their partners."

The panel of judges included Bill Bennett, assistant sports information director, Gene Huey, assistant football coach, and Steve Elliot, UNL gymnast and diver.

1981-82 squad

This year's cheerleading squad consists of Jeff Castle.



Daily Nebraskan photo

Jane Porter and Alex Ford, both members of the UNL yell squad, go through a routine at Tuesday night's practice.

track in the United States as compared to Jamaica. "In Jamaica, track is 'the' sport, along with soccer," he said. "Here in Nebraska, track kind of takes a back seat. However, I feel we have one of the best squads in the U.S. There's no doubt about that in my mind."

Despite an occasional disappointment, DaCosta said he's not sorry he came to Nebraska.

"I've had a few bad times, and some really good times," DaCosta said. "If something bad happens, I tend to look for excuses to cover it. So far, it hasn't all been a bed of roses, but I think I picked one of the best schools."

"I like Nebraska because it seems quiet to me," he said. "The things I dislike are that it's too flat, and the weather is bad. But, I guess most Nebraskans don't like the weather either."

After training for soccer when he was young, DaCosta said he decided to try track.

"We had to run a lot in soccer so I decide I should go out for track, and I did better in track than in soccer," he said. "I would have liked to play soccer if I would have been better at it than I was at track."

"I like track but it can be tough," he added. "You're out there alone. It's not a team, so if you make a mistake, there are no excuses."

According to DaCosta, being a student athlete can be rough, depending on the individual.

"Some people can be in a sport and have a 4.0 average, but for me it's hard, and I know it's hard for others," DaCosta said. "You miss so much school traveling, so it seems like you have to do so much more than a regular student. I think everyone makes sacrifices, but athletes give up more. You have to put just a little more into it, and hold yourself back from temptations."

Wally Cotton, Mike Eaton, Jerry Friedman, Alex Ford, Scott Schell, Terri Koziol, Karen Madsen, Jane Porter, Vicki Renner, Sharon Rosser and Sandy Satrapa.

The squad is supported by the men's athletic department and performs at UNL football and men's and women's basketball games. Kendig said the team gets offers for other activities, but it has to be very selective.

"We do some judging for high school cheerleading programs and anything else that is real good for our public relations," Kendig said. "We'd get asked to do a lot of activities, but we just don't have the time, so we have to be selective of the ones we pick."

Vicki Renner, a junior who made the squad for her second year, said that time was an important factor in preparing for tryouts.

"I spent eight hours in clinics and about 10 hours with my partner," Renner said. "There weren't as many people competing this year as opposed to last year, but I knew that the competition would be just as tough."

World of difference

Renner was a cheerleader at Lincoln Northeast High School, but said that there is a world of difference between cheering at college and high school.

"In high school we only did a few basic cheers, but here we do a lot more sophisticated routines," Renner said. "We do dances, lifts and pyramids. It's a much wider variety than we had in high school."

Renner said there are both advantages and disadvantages to being a cheerleader.

"It really takes up a lot of your time," she said. "We practice two hours a day and we usually perform on weekends."

"It's especially hard in basketball season, but it teaches you to budget your time," she said. "I really enjoy cheering for the team. It's great fun and great exercise. I really love it."

DaCosta, who is a squad co-captain this year, said the team spirit is good.

"When we started in September, we weren't too close, but as time went on, I've seen the team grow together," he said. "On the whole, we're really close now."

The team's performances also are good so far, according to DaCosta.

"We had a pretty good indoor season," he said. "I think a lot of people thought we wouldn't do as well as we did. Only the team knew we could. I think we surprised a lot of people."

"Right now we're looking good in the outdoor season," DaCosta said. "We're really psyched to do well."

As far as season goals, DaCosta said he hopes to break 50 seconds in the hurdles and wants some good performances at the Drake Relays.

"I think it's about time we won a relay there," he said. "We have a good chance to win two this year."

After he graduates, DaCosta said he hopes to get a job dealing with his major, public relations. However, he says he's not sure where he'll go.

"I haven't really made up my mind where to live," DaCosta said. "I will eventually go home to Jamaica. But for now I'm not sure. I guess I'll just play it by ear."

Iba: Cagers recruit a Missouri standout

Terry Smith, a 6-6, 215-pound forward, who for the last two years has been a standout performer at Moberly, Mo., Junior College, has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Nebraska, Husker Coach Moe Iba announced Wednesday.

Smith, who led the Greyhounds to a 23-8 mark in 1981 and the Mid-American Community College Conference championship, averaged 20.8 points and 11.0 rebounds a game in 1981. He also shot 59.7 percent from the field and 71 percent from the line. As a sophomore at Moberly, he earned unanimous first team all-conference, all-region 16 and honorable mention junior college all-American.

As a freshman at Moberly, the Greyhounds were 24-11. Smith averaged 13 points and 8 rebounds a contest.

At Nebraska, Smith will be entering only his fifth year of organized basketball competition. A starter as a junior and senior at Moberly High School, he averaged 25.6 points a game and earned first team all-state, all-district and all-conference honors.

Smith selected Nebraska rather than Tennessee-Chattanooga. Missouri showed a late interest in Smith's talents.

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