

sports

Rock-crazy climbers get high on mountain peaks

By Ken Havlat

Head for the high country. Coors uses that expression to sell beer. Climbers use that expression to tell others the place they would rather be.

The UNL Recreation Department began its rock climbing program in 1975 when the first basic rock climbing seminar was held at a rock quarry, said Mark Ebel, outdoor recreation coordinator.

"They (the people teaching the course) found this site to be unacceptable because it didn't give a true indication of what rock climbing encompasses, Ebel said.

"It was a challenge to get a program started here," Ebel said. "We first found a site near Rapid City, S.D., but it wouldn't allow us to teach a course in a single weekend. Then we found a site near Sioux Falls, S.D., and we sent a geologist to check out the site."

The site found was Palisades State Park, which has become a popular location for rock climbing enthusiasts in the area. It took the first three years to recruit students to get the program off the ground, Ebel said.

"Now demand is such, a new trip offered fills in a matter of days," he said.

Gannett Peak

This last summer five UNL students, Laird Haberman, John Kay, Jim Carveth, Randy Sanford and Don Holmquist, took a month off to climb in and around Gannett Peak in western Wyoming. At 13,785 feet, it is the highest peak in Wyoming. Holmquist said the trip required planning two months in advance. The group placed its

freeze-dried food order and got its topographical maps for the region from the U.S. Geological Survey office in Laramie, Wyo.

"When we got there it was cloudy," Holmquist said. "We walked four miles on a glacier before we got to our base camp. It snowed, hailed and you could see lightning streaking down the mountainside."

When planning the trip, Holmquist said they didn't want to encounter too many people.

"Gannett is a popular peak to hike in from the north but instead, we got permission to go through the (Wind River) Indian Reservation and get a back-country permit from the Forest Service offices in Kemmerer, Wyo.," Holmquist said. "We felt it would be a challenge to get away from the mainstream crowd. We expected to see quite a bit of litter, but, I guess people feel and give more towards the environment than they used to."

Typical day

"A typical day would be: get up, gather wood for the fire, if there was enough to be found, prepare breakfast and get cleaned up. It was total group effort. Everyone pitched in," Holmquist said. "Depending on the day, some were for packing, other days climbing, and there were days we stayed at base camp and fished. We caught strings of brook trout in some lakes that looked like they had never been fished in before."

The hassles you might expect in planning a trip of this type didn't occur, Holmquist said.

"We found the restrictions to be minimal," he said. "They do have rangers that walk the trails and ask for your walk up papers to let them know where you are. They also ask you to check in at the ranger station before you begin."

"It was a great feeling to be on top of the peaks during the day and at other times we had our frisbee and it was pretty much a party time for us on the trip. At times we would sit around and tell stories. It (the trip) allowed us to get to know each other better," Holmquist said. Ebel said climbing Gannett Peak in the winter was "something we wanted to accomplish."

Female misconception

"There are a lot of misconceptions about rock climbing. First, people perceive rock climbing being difficult. Women tend to believe this stereotyping and therefore, don't do it. Second, people think rock climbing takes a lot of arm strength. Once you get into climbing, you discover the use of your feet is more important. Even strong men weaken using only their arms," Ebel said.

Women have been noticeably absent from the basic rock climbing seminars, Ebel said. He estimated that out of the 14 participants, an average of two women go on most trips. He said he would like to see the number of women at the seminars increase.

Ebel said Christy Tews, one of the members of the successful 1978 climb on Annapurna, a peak in the Himalays is among those attending the basic rock seminar at Palisades State Park this weekend. Tews will speak in the Nebraska Union Monday at 2:30 p.m. and present a free slide seminar on the Annapurna ascent at 7:30 p.m. Ebel said it is noteworthy because it is the first all-women expedition and the women were the first Americans to climb the mountain.

"I don't know of any other school that can travel, give personal instruction and go on international trips like we (Nebraska) do," Ebel said. "I feel it is a pretty unique program."

Men, women crews glide past Creighton

By Kevin Warneke

The UNL men's and women's crew club opened its season on the right stroke by defeating Creighton University in dual action Oct. 11.

The men's team swept both races in the varsity and novice category, while the women's club captured both races in the varsity category.

Races are in two different divisions: the eight- and four-man race. An eight-man race consists of each side having eight rowers and a coxswain. In four-man races each team has four rowers and a coxswain. The coxswain's job is to steer the board and also yell out orders. The women's clubs have the same kind of races.

The difference between the varsity and novice teams, according to Pam Shotkowsky, coach of women's crew, is novice rowers are those in their first year rowing, while varsity rowers have had at least one year of experience. She added that some novice members are juniors and seniors at UNL.

"Anyone is welcome to join, providing they are willing to put in a lot of time and work hard," Shotkowsky said.

The rowing club gets no money from the university. It receives all of its money either from donations or fund raising.

The UNL and Creighton crew clubs are jointly hosting the Midwest Regatta at Carter Lake in Omaha Oct. 25. Merriman said about 10 teams will participate including three or four Big Eight schools. Merriman lists Minnesota's women's crew and Wichita State's men crew to be tough opponents for Nebraska. He said Nebraska has an excellent chance of winning though.

"This year the men's and women's crew are working together as one crew, Merriman said.



Photo courtesy of Jim Richardson

Doug Peterson, a senior at UNL, scales a peak in Canyon State Park near Eldorado Springs, Colo.

McWhirter says it's good to be back

Junior linebacker Steve McWhirter said it will feel good to finally get back to football this Saturday.

McWhirter injured his knee in the season opener against Iowa, but is expected to play this Saturday "if my knee holds up this week in practice," he said.

"It's been pretty depressing, after getting ready all year to play, and then getting hurt in the first game," the Fairfield, Iowa, native said. McWhirter said he's been restless while out of action.

"But I know it's not good to come back too quickly," he said. "I've had knee problems before, and I know you've got to be patient."

McWhirter injured his right knee during his first year with the varsity after being redshirted his freshman year. This year he injured his left knee.

"I had to have constructive surgery on my right knee (two years ago)," he said. "This year, the trainers have told me it will be OK to play the rest of the season, and then we'll see if it needs any more work."

"It feels pretty good right now," he said.

McWhirter said he sustained a ligament tear and had to have some cartilage removed after straining his knee on a rush pass.

"I hurt it blitzing against Iowa," he said. "When I went to make a cut, the knee just turned underneath me."

McWhirter finally returned to practice last Thursday after going through a rehabilitation program which includ-

ed riding a stationary bicycle.

He said the long layoff won't hurt his playing.

"You'd think that a guy would forget a lot, but after you play a few downs, it all comes back."

Huskers top Big Eight with rushing yardage

The Nebraska football team has taken over first place on the Big Eight rushing offense charts. Nebraska's 335.6 yards per game average also ranks third in the country.

The Huskers also lead the conference in total offense with an average of 432 yards. Punt returns averaged 12.7 yards, the team's net punting average is 42.7 yards per punt.

The Blackshirts have given up only 84.4 yards per game in passing and rank first in the conference and second in the nation in that category.

In other conference team statistics, the Huskers rank seventh in passing offense, second in scoring offense and scoring defense, fourth in rushing defense, third in total defense and fifth in kickoff returns. Nebraska has no players at the top of the individual charts.

sports shorts

The Nebraska soccer club defeated Concordia College 3-0 Monday. The win left the team with a 7-1 record. The Huskers will play at York College Thursday and will travel to Manhattan, Kan., Saturday to play the Wildcats at KSU Stadium immediately before the Nebraska-Kansas State football game. ***

Nebraska was ranked 14th in the United Press International football poll released Monday. The Huskers came in 19th in the Associated Press poll. Missouri was the only other Big Eight team to make the AP list, coming in eighth.

The Tigers were also eighth in the UPI rankings. Iowa State was 17th and Oklahoma 19th in the UPI poll. Texas received the top ranking by both wire services. ***

Oklahoma State's Gary Lewis was named Big Eight defensive player of the week by the conference office in Kansas City, Mo. Earlier in the week, it was announced that Nebraska's Turner Gill won the offensive honor. ***

Students interested in trying out for a spot on the 1981-82 UNL men's basketball team should report to the Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m. Thursday.