

# Coach optimistic after successful recruiting year

By Mary Sue Hergert

A recruiting year that Ray Huppert calls "the best I've had" should help the UNL women's swimming team improve its record. Last year, the team finished 2-6, the sixth year head coach said.

The team will open its season Saturday against UNO and Wyoming at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Performing for Nebraska will be nine returning letter-winners and 10 new recruits. Of these 19 athletes, 12 have scholarships.

By bringing in some talented freshmen, Huppert said, the competition among the team has increased. He said this would improve the program.

"As you bring in new recruits that have a good solid background in swimming, it is a positive rub-off. It makes the returning swimmers a stronger unit. You create a good, constructive competition within the team."

Huppert said he doesn't want to go into "the same song and dance," on what it will take to do well this season, but said in order to win, "we'll have to win with everyone."

## Uncharacteristic performances

"Last year our performance was uncharacteristic of a Nebraska swimming program. Our goal this year is to show a tremendous performance and be ranked as a top team in our conference."

Huppert said he did a lot of recruiting out of state. He said that last year, with the exception of a few, the top Nebraska high school swimmers did not graduate.

One top recruit is from Norway. Elizabeth Burduik, a junior college transfer, holds the junior record in Norway for the 1500- and 800-meter free-style. She has also won the Norwegian National Championship and the Scandinavian Championship.

Huppert said the returning standout is Sherri Hayward, a junior all-American from Columbus, Ohio, who is a co-captain this year.

Huppert also looks for strong performances from freshman June Meyer from Billings, Mont., and senior co-captain Laura Spindler.

This year there are nine divers on the team, compared to two last year. Junior Stacey Porter and sophomore Ann Biggs, both from Lincoln, will be returning.

Huppert also looks for a strong performance from freshman Windy Lucerno of Denver. Lucerno gained national recognition by placing 15th at the senior nationals. "I've worked these young ladies harder than they

## Gymnastics finals on NETV

The Nebraska Educational Television Network will begin its second season of *Sports Nebraska* Nov. 11 with coverage of the 1981 Nebraska high school gymnastics championships. Coverage will begin at 7 p.m.

For the second year, coverage of combined boys and girls competition in team, individual and all-around championships will be televised from the Bob Devaney Sports Center indoor track arena.

have ever been worked. This kind of training will pay off next semester," he said.

## Tougher workouts

"Because the team has more talent, I can challenge them with tougher workouts. They can take that type of training," Huppert said.

"We are going to have a challenging dual season. I do not schedule softies. The tougher the teams you swim against, the better you get," he said.

The swimming program has made some advancements since Huppert started coaching at UNL six years ago, he said.

## Tips for Turner and dirt in an eye

College football has been strange and turbulent so far this year. Five No. 1 teams lost their shirts in eight weeks and Nebraska and Oklahoma both fell out of the top 20 for a short time.

Yet both of these Big Eight powers are again in a position to do what they have done seemingly since the first wheel hit the market: meet head-on for the Big Eight championship.

## tad stryker

But if you believe Tom Osborne (remember, he's the one who predicted Kansas might be better than we all thought, and that this was the toughest non-conference schedule we've ever faced), you would have to agree that if the Huskers are not ready to play every week from here on in, they could be staring a conference standing of third place in the face.

Sure, Nebraska is leading the Big Eight with an undefeated conference record, but we've all heard that before, haven't we? It's November now, and that means it is time for the Oklahoma Sooners to start their annual end-of-year change.

Most of college football's sacred rules are being violated this year, but one remains written in stone: beating OU late in the year is like trying to corner the market in silver. You can come close, but it's hard to pull it off. Since 1975, Oklahoma has lost only once in November, and we all remember when that was.

Let I sound almost Malthusian in my pessimism, let me reverse my field. Nebraska this year has an excellent chance to win its last three conference games and go to the Orange Bowl - if it plays up to its potential. If the Huskers play the way they can, they, not Oklahoma, will set the Big Eight on its ear this month. But first, some troubling tendencies will have to be ironed out.

Turner Gill has been under almost constant pressure the last two weeks, not from Husker fans, but a strangling pass rush from Kansas and especially Missouri.

"I remember the day when athletes traveled in two station wagons. We'd schedule meets where you could get there and back in one day and we ate at McDonald's three times a day."

"Now our budget allows us to charter buses or fly. We stay in decent hotels and eat nice meals. We still have a long way to go. Not necessarily in money, but in support and tradition," he said.

Huppert said the women's programs need alumni support. He said that kind of support can only be acquired through time.

"The more years the department is alive, the more alumni you get out of the system to support you."

Gill himself has flirted with disaster with his late down-field pitches, but aren't his running backs supposed to follow him on the option play, so he doesn't have to pitch the ball forward?

Look for the Huskers to clear up these problems starting this week. Oklahoma State, Iowa State and Oklahoma could indeed prove to be a tough trio, as Osborne has suggested, but banking on the way things have gone in college football this year, it may be time to bet on Nebraska finally closing the season with a winning streak. Maybe this is the year the Huskers finally "pull an Oklahoma."

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How appropriate it was that the baseball season ended in a sloppy and boring manner, with the fans booing and the television announcers criticizing the action. It was strangely symbolic of the entire season when, in the last inning of the last game with two outs, the whole World Series had to wait while Davey Lopes went to the dugout to get something out of his eye.

When Bob Watson finally filed out to end the game, it finished a great comeback for the Los Angeles Dodgers, but signaled the end of a poor comeback for Major League Baseball.

The strike, and the subsequent "split season" format used to decide who got into the playoffs, ruined the 1981 baseball season. The Cincinnati Reds and St. Louis Cardinals are right when they say the best teams did not necessarily make the playoffs. Even so, shed no tears for them, because anyone with borderline intelligence should have known that a player strike would take the season beyond the point of no return.

Commissioner Bowie Kuhn should now put the split season experiment out of our misery and bury it forever. Baseball should not allow its playoff system to slip to the level of pro basketball and hockey.

St. Louis manager Whitey Herzog was right when he said, "This system (split season) is doing the same thing our government has been doing the last 15 years: rewarding incompetence."

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