

# Men's swim coach credits others for progress

By Tom Golden

Despite the success Cal Bentz has generated throughout his coaching career, the Husker men's swimming coach still retains his modesty.

Bentz's accomplishments as a swimming coach never were displayed more vividly than at Omaha Westside High School. During his 15 years as Warrior coach, Bentz's teams won 12 state championships and boasted countless all-Americans, including current Huskers Dave Keane and Rick Rhodes.

But perhaps even grater an achievement was his turning around the UNL men's swimming program. The year before his arrival in 1978, the Huskers finished last in the Big Eight. Two years later, they finished first.

But Bentz refuses to take all the credit for the team's successes. He is quick to acknowledge the people who worked with him.

"There are many other things that contribute to a win-

ning program," he said. "There is certainly better funding of our program than there was before. I have excellent assistants, we have done some hard work in recruiting, we have gotten more fan support each year and we have been able to develop a good schedule so that we have a chance to swim against and identify with the best in the country. I think all of those things contribute, and it hasn't been just me."

### Devaney helps

Bentz said Athletic Director Bob Devaney's support helps the swimming program improve and Devaney's confidence in him has eased the pressure, he added.

"The fact that he elected to develop a better swimming and diving program has really helped us turn things around," he said. He is an excellent leader in that he is not going to ask you to do a job if he doesn't think you're going to get it done."

Despite the progress the Huskers have made in the last four years, Bentz continues to strive for higher goals.

"I think if we were satisfied with our progress so far we would tend to shut down a little bit. We're pleased that we've made the progress that we have, but we want to make more progress. The ultimate goal would be to have a team that on a yearly basis figures among the best in the country."

Bentz admitted the program probably receives less university support than do programs at universities that are successful consistently, such as Tennessee or UCLA. The opportunity for more support exists because of the success of the football team, he said.

"I don't say that grudgingly," he said. "They have the potential to put 76,000 people in the stands." That audience generates funds necessary to operate all sports.

"One of the things I hope to accomplish here is a program that has enough interest and support from the people of the state so that we can generate some of our own funds."

### Support increased

The team's support is increasing because it has won the Big Eight Championship the last two years, he said. "Success breeds success. Before people were willing

to support us because they knew what we were trying to do. Once we were able to do that, then I think we got their attention."

The team's growing support and continuing improvement have helped increase the number of outstanding recruits, he said.

"Each year we're getting a better level of athlete and that certainly has helped us progress. We are not a household word among all of the top swimmers in the country, but I think people are becoming aware of us."

Even with the improved team, the increased support from the university and the larger number of good recruits, Bentz denied he is any better than other coaches.

"I try not to make those kinds of comparisons," he said. "They do and they are what they are. I am what I am. Sometimes it seems like I'm having a hard time accomplishing anything, and I just have to scramble around and do what I can do to get something done."

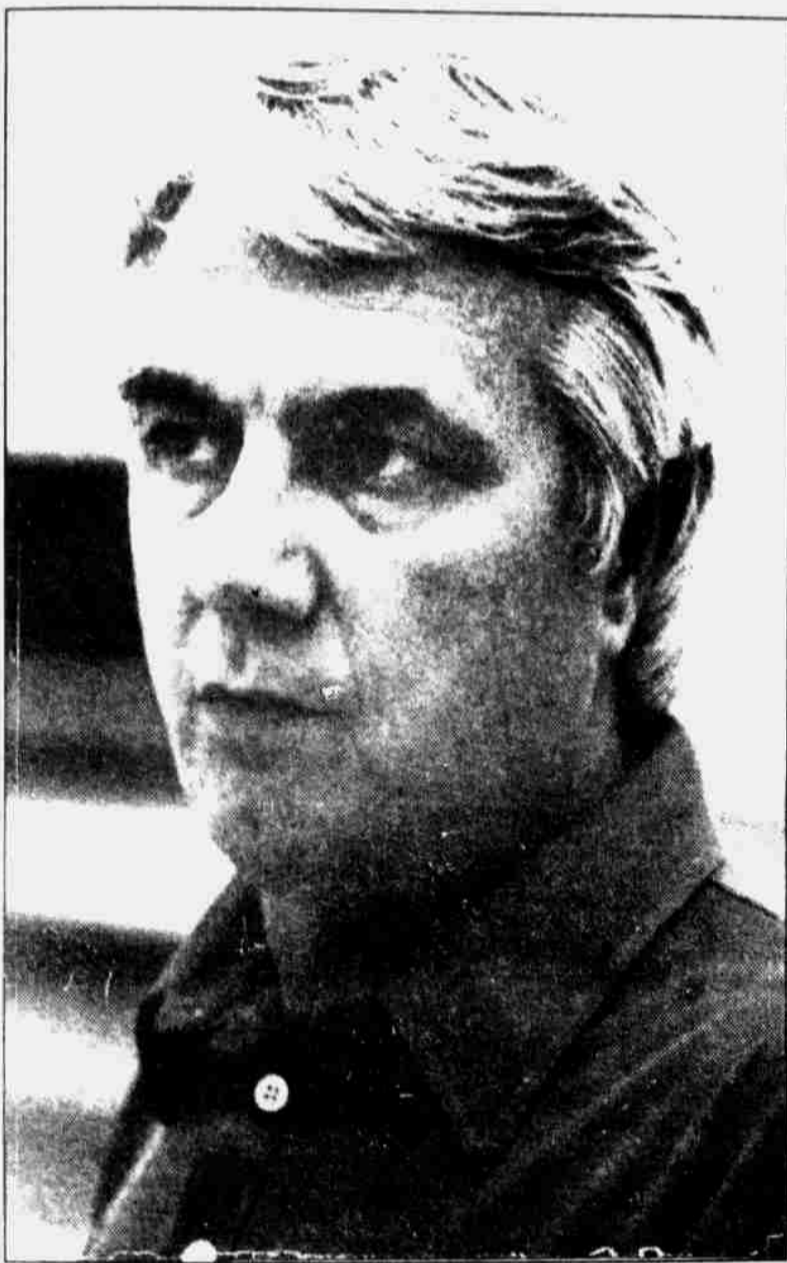


Photo by Dave Bentz

Nebraska men's swimming Coach Cal Bentz.

## KBHL-FM to broadcast bowl

The Mutual Broadcasting System has been awarded exclusive radio broadcast rights to the Jan. 1 Orange Bowl game between Nebraska and Clemson. Lincoln's Mutual Broadcasting affiliate is KBHL-FM. The network will begin its broadcast at 6:40 p.m.

Mutual and KBHL have exclusive rights to four other bowl games this month. The network will broadcast the Brigham Young-Washington State Holiday Bowl game Dec. 18 at 7:40 p.m. and the North Carolina-Arkansas Gator Bowl match-up Dec. 28 at 7:40 p.m.

Mutual Broadcasting also has rights to the Dec. 30 Liberty Bowl, which will feature Ohio State and Navy and the Dec. 31 Hall of Fame Bowl, featuring Kansas and Mississippi State.

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ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

Renee Anthonie

Renee Anthonie is the Intramural Athlete of the Month for November 1981. Renee is a junior majoring in Interior Design. She is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and is her sorority's intramural chairperson.

During November, Renee won the 123 lb. olympic weightlifting class and the women's darts tournament. She also was a semi-finalist in the one-on-one basketball tournament, played on a women's basketball team that was undefeated during league play and is now in the playoffs, played on a women's innertube water basket team, played in the women's singles and doubles table tennis tournaments, and is now entered in the table soccer (foosball) doubles tournament.

Budweiser wishes to congratulate Renee for her fine accomplishments in UNL intramurals.

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