

Dominican diver strives for consistency

By Julie Bauer

Reynaldo Castro, UNL's most successful diver, is hoping to shake the bad luck he's encountered at the Big Eight swimming and diving meet in the past couple of years by finally earning first place in the three-meter diving event and possibly the one-meter event as well. He has finished second each of the past two years.

Both years, Castro was in first place going into his final dive, but failed to hit the last dive and subsequently took second. Ironically, he missed the same dive on both occasions.

"This year I feel more confident about my diving, so if it comes down to the final dive again, I don't think I'll look back to the past years," Castro said. "One reason is I'm working a lot closer with Coach (Jeff) Huber this year."

Castro said that in the past, he and the coaches didn't understand each other. This year he feels the whole team has been working harder for Huber.

Castro qualified for the NCAA meet in the three-meter and one-meter events again this year. He failed to make it to the finals his freshman and sophomore years.

"When I first came to Nebraska my goal was to finish in the top three in the NCAA, but things just didn't work out the way I hoped," he said.

Castro said adjusting to his new surroundings was a major problem during his first two years. Castro is a native of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. Though he spent his senior year of high school in Birmingham, Mich., he was still adjusting to the language and cultural change when he came to UNL.

"It took a lot of concentration away from my diving, being so far away from my home and culture," Castro said.

He feels this year he can win the NCAA diving competition.

"I don't like to say I'm going to win because there's a lot that could happen. It depends on how the other divers perform, but if I can hit my dives, who knows?"

While Castro feels his physical attributes have gotten him where he is in diving, his consistency, or lack thereof, is what he needs to improve.

"Right now I'm diving well," Castro said. "I've gotten some of my highest scores in the past couple of meets and I'm doing difficult dives. Now I need to dive consistently."

Castro's collegiate career is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to success. A high school state champion in diving, Castro is now looking at the prospects of becoming an international champ.

Castro has participated in three Central American Games judged by age groups, two open Central American Games, the Pan Am Games, the open World Games and the World Games for age groups. He also traveled to Moscow, to participate for his native country in the 1980 Summer Olympics, where

he placed 16th in the diving competition.

Castro was the top diver for his country in international competition, but even so, his international career has been hampered by the predominance of politics in those competitions.

"In the Central American Games I placed sixth, the first time I participated. I was 8 at the time," he said. "Later when I watched the games on television even the commentators agreed that though I wasn't the best diver there, I was better than a sixth-place finisher. But the judges pretty much know who are the winners even before the competition."

"At the games four years later, the same judges and competitors were there. I finished fifth. But that's the way things are. Next time there will be different judges and a lot of divers that were there last time won't be performing."

According to Castro, the Olympics were much the same.

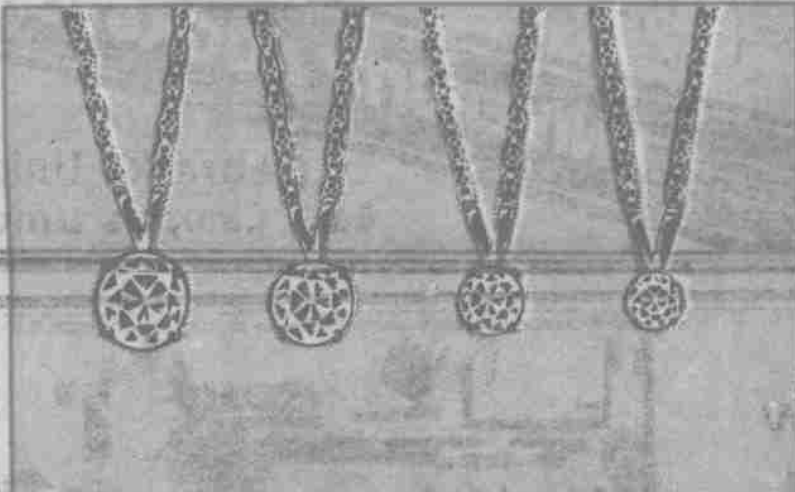
"Since we (Dominican Republic) were a democratic country, it was tougher for us because most of the countries there were communistic," he said. "Fortunately that's the only form of control we experienced over there. At first I was worried about going to Russia because I thought we might be restricted from seeing parts of the country, but we were allowed to leave the Olympic Village to sight-see and socialize anytime as long as we made it back before the Village curfew."

Castro would like to continue to improve and work on his personal goals on the international level.

After finishing his four years at Nebraska, Castro plans to continue to pursue his amateur career by participating in international games for his native country.

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Jobs, loans offered

Qualified can find aid

By Judi Nygren

"I'm flat broke," said John Hoppner, a sophomore pre-veterinary major. Without a National Direct Student Loan, a Guaranteed Student Loan, a grant and a job through the work-study program, Hoppner said he could not attend UNL.

Hoppner is one of the approximately 12,000 UNL students who receive financial aid each year, said Doug Severs, assistant director of Scholarships and Financial Aids.

Chris Vaage, an assistant director in the office, said UNL offers more than 800 scholarships ranging from \$150 to the \$2,500 Johnny Carson scholarship awarded to an incoming freshman with high academic standing.

The office has a "hodgepodge" of scholarships available based on need, hometown, major, class standing and academic standing, Vaage said.

FAF necessary

A student who applies for general scholarships must fill out a scholarship form, Vaage said. A student applying for need-based scholarship files a scholarship form and a Financial Aid Form, she said. Because the FAF allows students to be considered for all scholarships, Vaage said she recommends students fill out both forms.

UNL also offers Pell Grants. The grants, a need-based aid, range from \$200 to \$1,700 said Chris Myers, a third assistant director in the office. Students who want to apply for grants must file a FAF, she said. After filing it, Myers said, the federal government will send eligible students three forms. Students must give them to the office in order to process the grant. If students are ineligible for a grant, she said, they receive two forms. Ineligible students must submit both forms to the office, Myers said, because they still could qualify for other forms of aid.

One of the alternatives is the work-study program. Severs said 1,500 need-based work-study jobs were open last summer. Most summer jobs are in Lancaster County, Severs said, but some out-state communities participate in the summer program.

Many workers retained

The work-study program guarantees jobs with pay ranging from \$600 to \$1,500 to qualified students, Severs said. Depending on where students live, Severs said, the office expects work-study participants who do not attend summer school to save 60-80

percent of their summer earnings for the upcoming academic year.

At the beginning of the academic year, Severs said, the number of need-based job openings decline. But many local employers keep the summer workers for the rest of the year, he said.

Employment through private business and organizations also is available, Severs said.

Peggy West, an assistant director in the office, said she contacts about 4,000 Lincoln businesses to generate local jobs. Nationally, camps currently are advertising for summer help, West said.

Larry Apel, an assistant director in the office, said about 1,300 summer jobs are available on campus. East Campus needs students to help with summer field work, Apel said.

During the academic year, Apel said, 2,500 campus jobs are open.

Students who apply for the work-study program must file a FAF, and those applying for other jobs should check the bulletin board outside the office or in departments, Severs said.

The NDSL also offers aid to students. Liz Carranza, an assistant director in the office, said the need-based loan ranges from \$500 to \$1,500 at 5 percent interest. To get a NDSL, Carranza said, students again must file a FAF.

If students still need aid, Carranza said, they should apply for a GSL. She said they should use the GSL as a last resort because the interest is 9 percent and better options exist. The loan ranges from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for undergraduate students and \$1,000 to \$5,000 for graduate students, she said.

Whether students have NDSLs or GSLs, they have to start repaying them six months after they graduate or drop out of school, Carranza said.

Deadlines near

Deadlines for the 1984 summer session and the 1984-85 academic year are:

- FAFs for work-study, NDSLs and Pell Grants must be mailed to the College Scholarship Service at Berkeley, Calif., by March 15.


- FAFs for need-based scholarships must be mailed by Feb. 15.

- Other scholarship forms are due in the office by March 15.

- GSLs for the 1983-84 academic year are due Feb. 15; GSL forms for 1984-85 will be available in May.

Students can get FAFs and scholarship applications at 113 Administration Building.

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