Rodeo club...

Svoboda, an ag-honors major, said this weekend's rodeo promises to be top-notch.

"ESPN will cover the finals on Sunday and Copenhagen/Skoal will be represented," Svoboda said.

Pfeiffer said this weekend's rodeo determines who earns a trip to the College National Finals Rodeo in June. The top two teams and individuals in each event qualify for the finals in Bozeman, Mont.

The Nebraska men's team has made it to Bozeman the past two years, Pfeiffer said. This year, the men's team is ranked third in the region, he said.

The winner of the bull riding event this weekend might earn $400. Obviously, Svoboda said that something besides money motivates him, something he refers to as "the challenge and excitement of conquering one of the best."

Svoboda said he would like to conquer law school after graduation. But he said he does not rule out the possibility of pro rodeo. In fact, he's a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

"That's one thing about inter-collegiate rodeo," Svoboda said. "You can ride in pro rodeo and still retain your eligibility."

That means the best intercollegiate competitors at the finals in Bozeman are sometimes the top pro competitors as well, Svoboda said.

UNL pool player...

The national tournament will be a round robin tournament, with the top four point-scorers advancing past the second day to the championship Sunday. The game, like the others, will be eight ball.

Keeler, a graduate of Lincoln East High School and an assistant coach for Lincoln Northeast High School's women's gymnastics program, said she has been averaging three to four hours per day in practice at the Nebraska RecRoom. Her practice partner has been UNL champion Art Jiminez, who just missed a trip to Arlington by finishing second in the regional.

"Practicing with guys has helped me a lot," Keeler said. "Guys tend to play quicker games, make the shots better and run the table more. It makes me want to play better when I go against them."

When the weekend rolls around, Keeler and teammate Carla Callies challenge Sandy's patrons to matches.

"We'll play against guys there, too," she said. "Sometimes they get mad when we beat them."

Police Report