

Sports

Scherr fights for Olympic spot

By Kirk Zebolsky

Jim Scherr knows what he'll be going up against May 18th at the U.S. Olympic wrestling trials in Iowa City, Ia.

The All-American has wrestled former world champion Chris Campbell and former Oklahoma Sooner Mark Schultz during his career at UNL. He said he will have to defeat both to make the Olympic team.

Scherr lost to Campbell 3-2 last year in the finals of the freestyle national championships. He said Campbell probably would have won the 1980 Olympics, the year the United States boycotted the games. Scherr lost several close matches to Schultz in 1983. Schultz won the last match on a referee's decision after Scherr wrestled him to a 1-1 tie.

Scherr said he thinks he can beat Campbell and Schultz.

"I think I've improved considerably since those matches in technique and in mental outlook," Scherr said.

Scherr said he must concentrate on working hard before the trials, because he has slipped mentally and physically since he won the 177-pound NCAA championship in March. He said he weighs 200 pounds. His weight class at the trials will be 180.

Scherr said defeating Campbell and Schultz will be as difficult as winning an Olympic medal.

"I want to beat those guys and I'm going to have to work hard to develop myself to beat those guys," he said. If he makes the team he will be in a position to win a medal, he said.

Scherr is familiar with Olympic quality competition. He wrestled for three summers in Europe. He lost 3-1 last year to the current world champion from Russia, but said he could beat the Russian in a rematch.

Scherr said he wrestled more freestyle matches in his career than collegiate-style matches. He said this should help him against other collegians at the trials. The trials and the Olympics will be competed in freestyle.

Scherr said he plans to wrestle until the 1988 Olympics, but still wants to give Los Angeles his best shot.

Scherr said he competed with identical twin brother Bill in everything while growing up. Scherr said he never accepted losing. That brotherly competitiveness carried over into high school and college at UNL where both became national champions.

Scherr said he wants to work on reaching his potential, to be the best he can be.

"If I fall short of that, I feel I've cheated myself," he said.

Scherr said his development as a person and his love of wrestling have made it worth all the hard work. He said the qualities he has developed — discipline, the ability to handle setbacks, and the

ability to use his inner resources — will help him excel at whatever he does.

Scherr said he likes the individuality of wrestling and the fact that it's demanding. He also enjoys the challenge.

"The things that draw me are the things that are hardest to do," Scherr said. "I think wrestling was one of the hardest sports for me."

Scherr said football competed with wrestling for his attention at Moberly High School in Moberly, S.D. He made all-state in football as well as wrestling. He said he would have liked to try out for the Nebraska football team, "especially with all the attention football gets down here."

Harrison quick from mound

By Stu Pospisil



David Trouba/Daily Nebraskan

UNL freshman pitcher Phil Harrison.

Opposing baserunners may reach first base against Phil Harrison, but if they stray too far...they are in danger of a tongue-lashing from their coach after being picked off by the Husker pitcher.

Harrison, a freshman from Glendora, Calif., has dealt that fate to 25 runners in his freshman season. With a 9-1 record, the left-hander needs one victory to win the most games by a Husker in one season.

As evidence when he picked off three consecutive runners in one inning last week, Harrison's "modus operandi" keeps teams guessing.

Harrison said he uses a series of moves with his head and shoulder to make the runner believe that the pitch is being delivered to home plate. On a pickoff throw, he will make eye contact with first baseman Mike Duncan.

"As I lift my right leg, I make sure my foot always points to first base," Harrison said. "Even if I find myself leaning to home plate, the umpire can't call a balk if the foot points over there."

Instead of pitching from the stretch with a runner on first, Harrison said he favors making his move while facing the batter.

Not only does Harrison have confidence in his pitching, but he said it rubs off on his teammates.

"They know when I pitch, I'm often going to pick the guy off," he said.

Entering the season, Harrison was the Huskers' left-handed reliever. His chance to start came on the team's March trip to Hawaii and Harrison responded with a complete-game victory against Liberty Baptist.



"I'm going to be competing until 1988 at least," Scherr said. "But I don't want to have any kind of letdown."

After the Olympics, Scherr said he wants to be a graduate assistant wrestling coach. When his competitive wrestling career ends, he said he would like to get into the job market. Scherr is a finance major with a 3.54 grade point average, which earned him Big Eight All-Academic status three times.

Scherr credits his national championship and 100-win career to hard work and dedication. He said his mother instilled hard work in him when she told him he could be whatever he wanted to be.

"When you get told that as a kid, I guess you start to believe it," Scherr said.

Mooney injury slows Huskers

By Ward W. Triplett III

An injury to the No. 2 player might effect the Nebraska women's tennis teams chances at the Big Eight tournament, which opened today in Kansas City, Kan.

Liz Mooney, a sophomore from Denver, Colo., was discovered to have contacted tendonitis in her left wrist during the teams' 1 win - 2 loss trip to Kansas last weekend.

Mooney joined the team in Kansas City last night, but coach Kathy Hawkins said she is still questionable for today's action.

"We're hoping it's going to be OK and she can play," Hawkins said. "(Monday) morning she was pretty sore."

The Huskers, after beating Kansas State 9-0 and losing to Kansas 5-4, finished in a tie with Kansas for third place going into the tournament. Both teams trail the overwhelming favorites, Oklahoma State and Oklahoma, though Hawkins said the Sooners are within striking distance.

"We're expecting to get on the winning side of the bracket after today," Hawkins said. "We should be seeded second at No. 1, No. 2, No. 5 and in No. 2 doubles. I think we've pretty much won a good seed for ourselves."

If Mooney, who is also part of the No. 1 doubles team, cannot play, sophomore Jenny Mortell will take her place. Mortell has seen action in only three meets this spring.

Hawkins said she was disappointed by the loss to Kansas and non-conference Wichita State, but it might have been good for the team.

"I felt we were a little flat," she said. "That was surprising considering the importance of the meets. But it did show our players they're very beatable, and maybe that's the push we needed."

The same four players who earned points in the Oklahoma meet last Saturday won points in the Kansas match, Hawkins said.

Although Oklahoma State is almost guaranteed to run away with the conference title, Hawkins said Nebraska might get its first NCAA qualifier if Jamie Pisarcik has a good meet. Pisarcik, the No. 1 singles player, is currently ranked fourth in the region, but has beaten Allison Ingram of Oklahoma and Sandy Sadler of Wichita State this spring. Ingram and Sadler were ranked first and third respectively.

"The NCAA will only take four from our region," Hawkins said. "If Jamie can do well this week, with those victories behind her she should be one of the four."