

# Sports

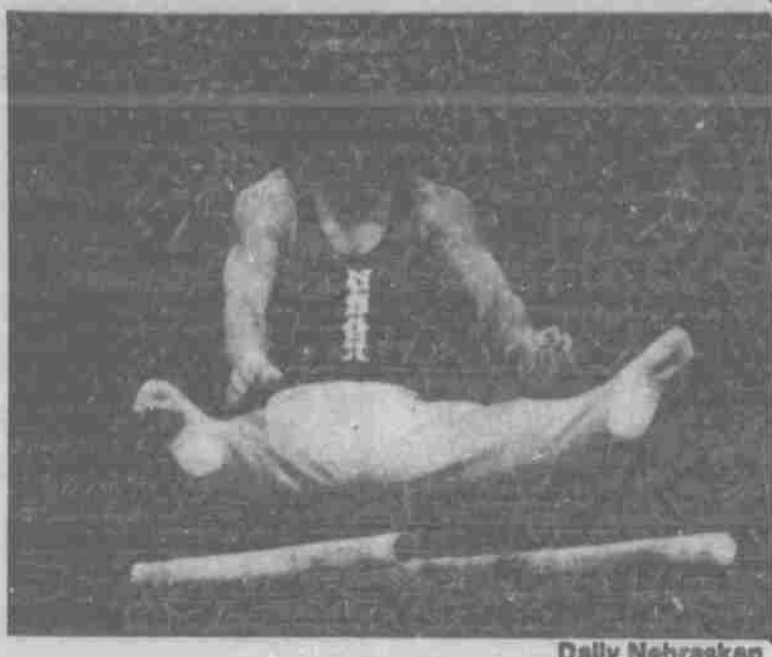
## Huskers win Olympic berths, Riegel, Mikus earn titles

The U.S. Olympic Gymnastics Trials proved to be a shootout between two of the top collegiate teams in the country.

The Olympic trials were dominated by members of the University of Nebraska and UCLA gymnastics teams. The Olympic team includes Husker standouts Jim Hartung and Scott Johnson, and UCLA gymnasts Peter Vidmar, Mitch Gaylord and Tim Daggett. Former Oklahoma gymnast Bart Conner rounded out the six-man team.

Huskers Jim Mikus and Chris Riegel, both natives of Reading, Pa., are the alternates for the U.S. team. Mikus is the official alternate while Riegel will travel with the team in case of injury to one of the team members. Mikus overtook Riegel on the last event, the bars.

Vidmar finished first at the Jacksonville, Fla., meet with a score of 117.715. Second and third place



Daily Nebraskan

Scott Johnson

went to Vidmar's teammates, Gaylord (117.325) and Daggett (117.080). Hot on the heels of the Bruin trio were Hartung (117.050) and Johnson (116.625).

Although Johnson's average score was less than Conner's 116.750, the former Nebraska gymnast earned the fifth spot on the team by out-dueling Con-

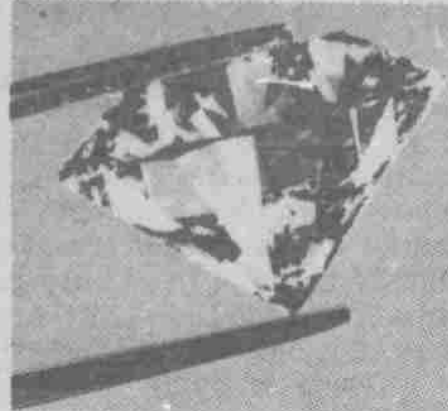
ner by one-tenth of a point at Jacksonville. Johnson competed in the USA Championships earlier, which lowered his average score.

Nebraska earned two individual titles at the trials. Riegel won the floor exercise with a 19.550 and tied teammate Mikus in the vault at 19.800.

Omaha native Phil Ca-

hoy placed 11th in the 22-man field with 114.650 points. Cahoy's top finish was a tie for second place with Daggett and Gaylord in the pommel horse.

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## Athletes juggle school, sport

By Lise Olsen

Imagine this ad in a high school newspaper: Wanted: muscular, coordinated and intelligent students for university athletic teams. The unorganized need not apply.

Actually, recruiting procedure is a little more subtle, but the career of collegiate athlete may not be as glamorous as it might seem.

"It's a hard job that involves a lot more physical labor than working as a bus boy," says Ursula Walsh, athletic department academic consultant. "You can't get off if you have to study for a test — you have to be there," she said.

The average athlete might spend anywhere from two to six hours a day just practicing and often travels one to three days a week to and from competition during their season, according to Walsh. This can affect a student-athlete's amount of studying as well as motivation.

"You're a little tired at night — not too enthused about studying," said Mike Knox, varsity football player. In addition, many athletes must miss classes and sometimes even tests in order to compete. Although most find that their teachers are supportive, it often is difficult for many to find the time to make up their work. "Taking

tests in advance kind of throws you off," said varsity tennis player Craig Johnson.

However, there are no exceptions for athletic academics: The N.C.A.A. requires a minimum grade point average of 2.0 and 24 credit hours per year for eligibility, according to Walsh, and many athletes exceed these standards. Football players are encouraged to take 15 credit hours per semester, despite their lengthy practices, in order to graduate in a minimum of nine semesters. "Due to the interference we get from pro teams, we want them to get through," Walsh said.

Despite the added difficulties that athletes face, there is a low attrition rate. In fact, a study by the N.C.A.A., indicates that athletes graduate at a higher percentage rate than that of all incoming freshman. This might be attributed to the funding and counseling they receive, Walsh said.

Johnson, Nebraska's number one singles player for the past three years, won't be competing his senior year in order to pursue his future career in physical therapy, he said.

"At this point in my life it's important that I get some job experience," said Johnson. However, he said he has no regrets about the three years that he competed.

310 economics

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