

# U.S. may have to dig for baseball gold

By Geoff Goodwin and Chris Burbach

The U.S. baseball team is one of the favorites to strike gold at the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. But if their game Sunday night against a team of Japanese collegiate all-stars is any indication, they'll have to dig for it.

In their first three exhibition games, the two teams scored a total of 31 runs. In their fourth game Sunday night in Omaha, it took the two teams 15 innings to score four runs, as the U.S. defeated Japan 3-1.

Pitching and defense were the keys Sunday at Rosenblatt Stadium, for both teams. It may have looked to Japanese outfielders like the sky was falling, as American batters lofted pitch after pitch to the warning track. However, all but one of those long balls were caught, and the scoreboard laid more eggs than Henny Penny.

The U.S. team finally came out on top in the 15th when Mark McGwire banged a bases-loaded single, scoring two runs and finally putting the U.S. team up to stay. That was the fourth time the Americans loaded the bases in the game, and the first time they were able to capitalize.

Veteran USC coach Rod Dedeaux, the manager of the U.S. team, said the Americans inability to score was due more to good pitching than poor hitting. "They played well and they got very good pitch-

ing," Dedeaux said. "We made all the plays and so did Japan. It was one of those games where it was too bad that someone had to lose."

Dedeaux said he expects Japan's Olympic team, which will include six players from this team and 14 others selected from Japan's industrial leagues, to be a very strong contender for the gold medal in Los Angeles.

"The team they put on the field will be like a Triple A team," he said. "They'll have much more experienced pitching."

Dedeaux said he was impressed by starting pitcher John Hoover, who shut the Japanese out for nine innings before being lifted by a pinchhitter in the tenth.

"We haven't made the starting assignments yet," Dedeaux said, "but based on Hoover's pitching performance today I'd say there's a good chance he'll be one of the starters."

Dedeaux said Sunday's game was the best performance his pitchers has turned in during the 24 games the Olympians have played.

"It was outstanding," he said. Japanese manager Katuo Kamota agreed with Dedeaux's assessment of the American team's pitching.

"If Japan plays the best it can, we are equal to the United States. Except maybe for pitching," Kamota said.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Spectators watch the zeroes add up on the scoreboard at Rosenblatt Stadium.

## Shorts

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz has signed what he calls the most balanced class that he has ever recruited.

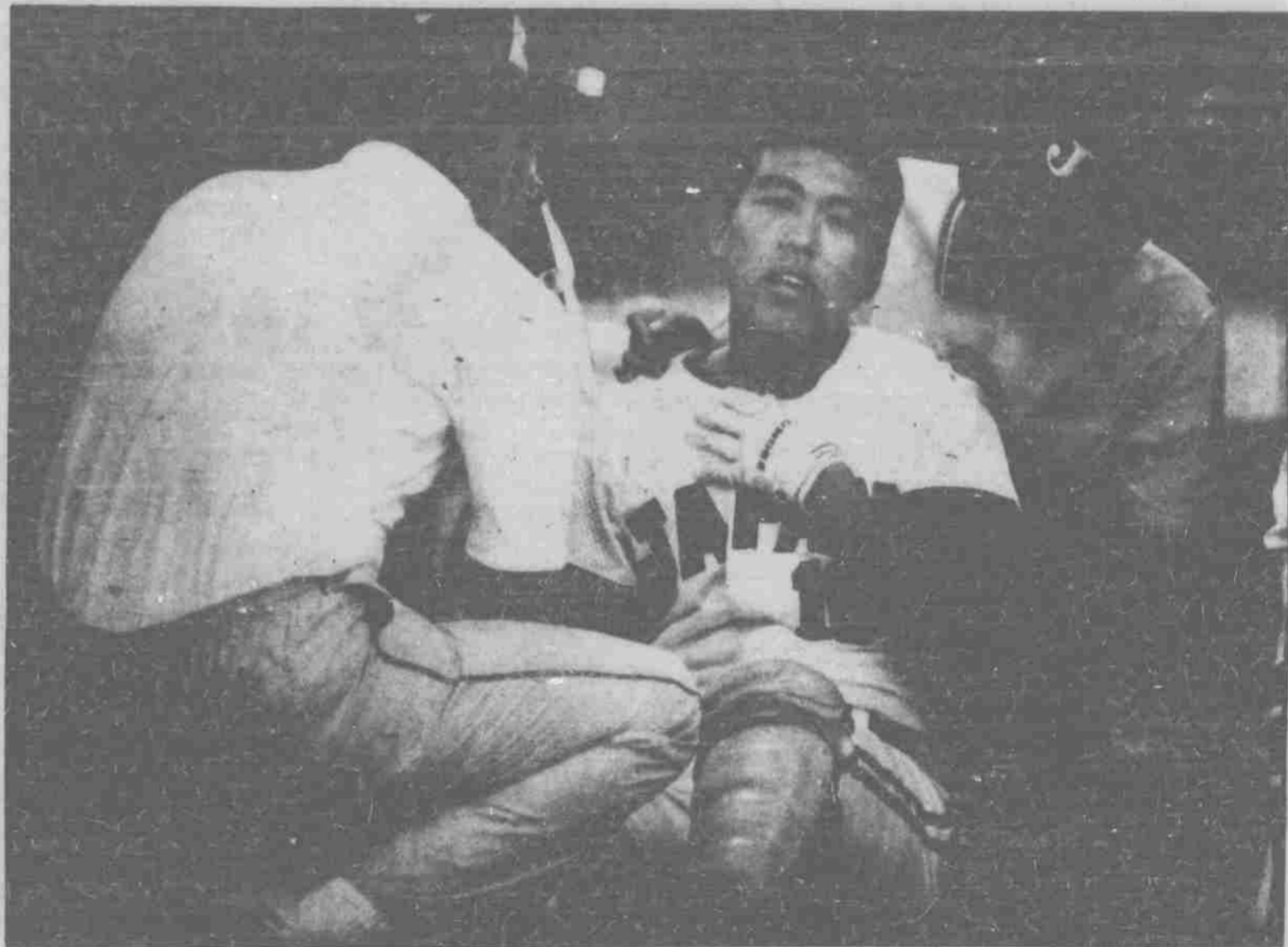
"We were able to add depth where it was needed, and also shore up our weaker areas — particularly the butterfly events," Bentz said.

The recruits are: Edmond Jowdy of Glastonbury, Conn.; Pat Klaren and Charlie Vendl of Walnut Creek, Calif.; Bryan Knudson of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Kolin Kostboth of Edmond, Okla.; Mike Ross of Mt. Lebanon, Pa.; Tom Treece of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Bill Wells of Leesburgh, Fla.; and Whit Warner of Seward. Knudson and Ross will be walk-ons.

This was an unusual recruiting year for the Huskers in that it was the first time in Bentz's seven years at Nebraska that the Huskers have not signed at least one swimmer out of the junior college ranks.

Bentz said this didn't signal a change in the Huskers recruiting strategy.

"It just worked out this year that we were able to fill all of our needs with swimmers out of high school," he said.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

The agony of defeat.

# Motocross: An unknown, unpredictable sport

By Jeff Korbek

Editor's note: This is the first in a two-part series on motocross racing.

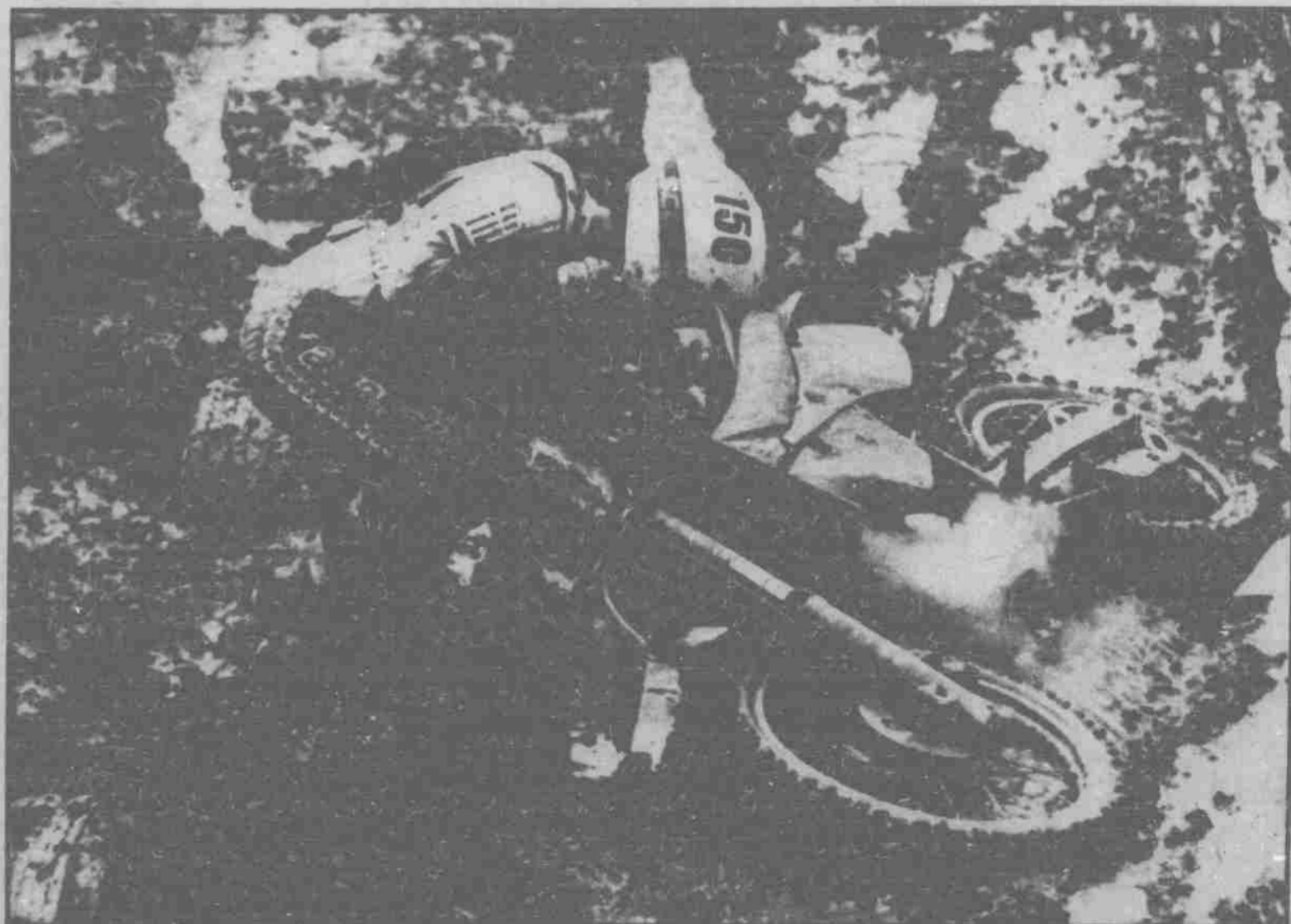
David Antinoro Jr. is working his hardest to make a name for himself in a relatively unknown sport.

The junior at Lincoln Southeast High School races motocross, a sport not to be confused with the racing of bicycles (BMX), but on motorcycles that can move as fast as 70 miles per hour on a straight away, and sail over jumps 8 to 10 feet in the air. It takes all the energy of Antinoro's 5-6 frame just to hold the bike upright, not to mention race around a grueling track for 20 minutes at a time.

"If you ask my friends at school what motocross is, half of them wouldn't know," Antinoro said. "Most of them think it's BMX."

In a school rich with tradition in both team sports and individual sports, Antinoro's accomplishments go unnoticed among his peers.

"I don't care what they think," he said. "I wouldn't care what they thought if I played football. If I'm going to play in a sport, I want to go for it. In California they have motocross teams in high school. Wouldn't it be great to letter in motocross?"



Jeff Korbek/Daily Nebraskan

David Antinoro Jr. Takes a spill.

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