

Husker crew team members row religiously to stay fit

By George Davis
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The UNL rowing club is beginning its 14th year at UNL and is starting this season by recruiting new members.

When one thinks of rowing, images of lazy Sunday afternoons, fishing on sultry Nebraska lakes sometimes comes to mind. For members of the UNL rowing team, however, rowing is a religion.

The rowing club, started in 1970, offers UNL students what team members like to call the 'ultimate' team sport.

Rowers move in exact harmony with the man or woman in front of them to maximize the power of the boat. Even a slight timing error will turn a rower into a human anchor dragging the boat down.

For Steve Knapp, a third-year crew member from Binghamton, N.Y., rowing is a way to stay in shape and see the country.

"I have been rowing for many years and hope to make our national team in a few years," Knapp said.

Knapp said it is frustrating to

try to educate Nebraskans about rowing.

"In the East, everyone knows about rowing, — in Nebraska, people are not very aware of the sport," Knapp said.

Despite the frustration, Knapp said he has found several dedicated people at Nebraska who have worked hard to become excellent rowers.

"Once people get involved in rowing, it really becomes addictive," Knapp said. "Rowing really comes down to a finesse sport which is like a form of art to watch."

The team, headquartered at 1000 N. 16th St., just north of Nebraska Hall, receives no university support and relies heavily on fund raisers and personal contributions to buy equipment and pay travel expenses. At Harvard the crew boasts a multi-million dollar budget. Alumni sign-up on waiting lists to donate boats.

Besides the financial strains of the crew, members also must be in excellent shape and practice diligently to compete.

The crew practices at 6 a.m. on

Capitol Beach Lake. After rowing in the morning, members run 2 to 3 miles each day and run flights of stairs at Memorial Stadium.

When the weather turns colder, the practice schedule is altered, but not much. Nebraska Crew owns one of a handful of indoor rowing tanks in the country. The tank is fitted with 10 rowing stations, allowing the team to train indoors in inclement weather. Another indoor training device, the "ergometer," allows rowers to simulate the rowing motion without actually pulling on an oar. The machine is portable and can be used at home.

The crew has a new coach this year — Chip Purdom from London, Ontario.

"If they are willing to work and are dedicated, I am willing to teach them about rowing," Purdom said.

Nebraska crew will have its first meeting Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. at the boat house. Purdom says all new members are welcome and anyone weighing less than 120 pounds and interested in being a coxswain is also encouraged to attend. A coxswain sits in the stern and steers the boat.

Game added

TBS Sports has added the Sept. 15 University of Alabama at Georgia Tech game to its telecast lineup of Southeastern Conference college football on SuperStation WTBS. Air time for all SuperStation broadcasts of SEC football is 11 a.m. Saturday.

TBS Sports' complete September telecast schedule of SEC games:

Sept. 8 Louisiana State at Florida
Sept. 15 Alabama at Georgia Tech
Sept. 22 Kentucky at Tulane
Sept. 29 Tennessee at Auburn

SuperStation sportscaster Bob Neal will serve as play-by-play announcer for TBS Sports' coverage of SEC college football. A color analyst will be named at a later date.

TBS Sports' October and November TV slate of SEC football will be announced on a weekly basis 12 days in advance of the telecast date.

Soccer try-outs

The UNL soccer club will hold team try-outs when classes resume after Labor Day.

The soccer club try-outs will begin next Wednesday at 3 p.m. at the Mabel Lee Field. Team organizer Mark Menolascino said men and women are encouraged to attend. While UNL has fielded a men's soccer club for several years, this will be the first attempt to form women's team.

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