

Sports

Student opens Omaha body-building chain

By Bob Asmussen
Staff Reporter

City. For DeBoer, the April opening was a dream come true.

Many thoughts enter the minds of graduating seniors — buying a car, getting a job, getting a place to live away from home. Something that's probably not high on the list of things to do is to open a business, especially an expensive business.

Jeff DeBoer, a 23-year-old business management major from Omaha has opened a business and he didn't even wait until graduation. DeBoer and Chris Vacanti, a recent UNL graduate, have opened an Omaha chain of the famous Gold's Gym.

Gold's is a franchised business that got its start in Venice, Calif. World champion body builders Arnold Schwarzeneger and Lou Ferrigno have helped to bring the Gold's name to the forefront of body-building establishments.

The Omaha version of Gold's Gym is at 96th and L streets. Besides Omaha, the closest Gold's had been in Kansas

"We started a gym in a friend's basement and had eight members," DeBoer said. "It was just kind of a fun thing and we said someday we'd own our own gym."

DeBoer said he was able to raise the money for his 25 percent ownership in the gym with the help of his family and banks. He said the first thing people want to know when they find out he's the owner is how he was able to get the money.

"Anybody can do a Gold's if they can come up with the finances," DeBoer said. "We pooled our family resources. We thought for a long time that we might have to sell stock to come up with the money."

DeBoer said his and Vacanti's parents were skeptical at first about getting involved. He did a feasibility study to see if Omaha would support Gold's and what the break-even point would be for the business.

"Both our fathers took off work to help us," DeBoer said. "They helped make this all possible. They were our slaves you might say."

DeBoer got his experience with weight training as an assistant manager at 24-hour Nautilus. He said for his business to be successful in Omaha it would have to cater to more than just powerlifters and body builders.

"We set people up in programs that will fit their particular needs," DeBoer said. "Obviously Gold's Gym will attract your body builders. But we couldn't survive if we just concentrated on body building."

Gold's Gym has aerobics and nautilus-like equipment called David. DeBoer said he wanted the aerobics to get female membership and the David equipment to get businessmen to join.

DeBoer estimated that 100 of Gold's members are body builders. He said another 50 to 60 come in and work out before going to work in the morning and 150 use the aerobics and David

equipment. Gold's is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. It offers three month, six month and one-year memberships, with the three-month membership costing \$35.

One thing DeBoer said he and Vacanti will avoid is an overcrowded weight room. He said they have decided to limit memberships to 1,000. They have half of that many already.

Because he is so young, DeBoer has had the problem of a skeptical clientele. He said he gains credibility with the customers when he shows them he has a knowledge of weight-training. He said he is putting in 80 to 100 hours a week at the gym and going to classes at UNL as well.

"Any business you open up, it always looks good if your owners are there," DeBoer said.

Because Vacanti's father-in-law is in the construction business, DeBoer said, they were able to get the remodeling of the building done at a lower cost. He said most of his and Vacanti's investments are the weights and equipment.

NFL takes Nebraskans in round 2

Former Nebraska center Mark Traynowicz and former Cornhusker tackle Mark Behning were both second-round selections in the National Football League draft Tuesday.

No Nebraska player was chosen in the first round.

Traynowicz was the first pick of the second round. The Bellevue native was taken by the Buffalo Bills.

Behning was the 19th pick of the second round and 47th player chosen overall. Behning was selected by four-time Super Bowl-champion Pittsburgh Steelers.

The last time no Nebraskan was chosen in the first round was in 1981. In that season, three Huskers, Jarvis Redwine, Andra Franklin and Russell Gary, were all selected in the second round.

The first pick of the draft was Traynowicz's teammate at Buffalo, Bruce Smith. Atlanta traded for Minnesota's second pick and tabbed Pittsburgh tackle Bill Fralic. The Vikings had traded for the second pick in hopes of getting Miami quarterback Bernie Kosar. Kosar decided to wait for the NFL supplemental draft.

Houston, as expected, chose Texas A&M's Ray Childress with its third pick. Minnesota then took Fralic's teammate at Pitt, Bill Doleman. Indianapolis continued the linebacker trend with its selection of USC's Duane Bickett. Detroit then took Florida lineman Lomas Brown, Green Bay selected USC's Ken Ruettgers, Tampa Bay took Washington's Ron Holmes and Philadelphia drafted Indiana's Kevin Allen.

Rugged schedule takes its toll on Wichita State

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

The Wichita State baseball program might be a victim of its own circumstance.

Shocker Coach Gene Stephenson scheduled a rugged non-conference schedule including today's doubleheader against Nebraska in order to "toughen his team up" for Missouri Valley play. He said his team is "exhausted" after playing its last 12 games in only 10 days.

"We've been on the road for our last three series and I, along with the rest of the team, am exhausted," Stephenson

said. "We're so sick of riding on buses we see them in our sleep at night."

The effects of the long bus rides and playing in foreign ballparks has taken its toll on Wichita State. They have managed only a 6-7 record in the last 13 games after a 49-6 start.

"We're not playing good at all right now," Stephenson said. "Sometimes it's our pitching that lets us down, sometimes it's our hitting, sometimes it's our defense, and sometimes it's a combination of all three, which lets us down and causes us to lose."

In the Shockers' most recent series, they had "no hitting, pitching or fielding," Stephenson said. They were swept

by Bradley.

Before the Bradley series, Wichita State was swept by Illinois State because of a "lack of hitting," he said.

"These last two weeks have been dismal," Stephenson said. "We've got to find ourselves or Nebraska will blow us out of the ballpark."

Even with all these woes, Nebraska Coach John Sanders isn't about to give up on the nation's No. 9-rated team.

"We're not ready to feel sorry for them yet," Sanders said. "We're sure they can still play hard."

The Cornhusker's Roger Webb, 7-1, and Mark Davis, 2-4, will pitch against the Shockers.

Earlier this season in Wichita, Kan., where the two teams split a doubleheader, Davis was charged with the Huskers' 8-5 loss in the first game. He gave up eight runs on only five hits in nine innings.

Jeff Mays started the second game for Nebraska, but lasted one inning before needing relief help from Bill McGuire. McGuire pitched the final six innings to pick up the win in Nebraska's 11-8 victory. It snapped the Shockers' 29 game home winning streak.

"We've been getting good pitching so I'm hoping it's contagious," Sanders said. "We'll need it, because Wichita State is going to be tough."

Softball team seeded first in regional

Nebraska pitcher Lori Sippel was named the Big Eight's "Pitcher-of-the-Week" for the second consecutive week Monday as the Huskers prepared to earn a regional tournament invitation at the Big Eight Championships this weekend at Norman, Okla.

The Huskers are 30-8 and ranked first in the Midwest Region and eighth nationally. A conference tournament title will give Nebraska an automatic bid to the regionals. Winners will go to the College World

Series in Omaha May 22 through 26.

Sippel threw a total of 23.7 innings in action against Creighton, Iowa State and Oklahoma with three victories and 28 strikeouts. The freshman from Canada has a 12-3 record with an earned run average of 0.33. She is Nebraska's single-season strikeout record holder already with a fall/spring total of 244.

The Huskers led the Big Eight with a .260 team batting average, more than 30 points ahead of second-place Oklahoma State. Nebraska

had the league's best earned run average at 0.72, allowing just nine earned runs in the league and registering 87 strikeouts in 87 innings. Sippel led the league in earned run average and strikeouts, averaging 9.4 per game. Donna Deardorff was second in ERA at 0.60. Peg Richardson was second in the league in hitting at .348, Ginger Cannon was sixth at .321 and Lori Richins, ninth at .296. Amy Love's nine runs and Wendy Turner's eight runs batted in also were league leaders.



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Calling themselves the "mud puppies," a group of Selleck residents wrestle in the mud of their "backyard."

"We started off in a regular mud volleyball game," said Dawn Kelley, one of the participants. "But it got so slippery we ended up playing in the mud, kind of mud wrestling."

Left, Becky Spawn, one of the mud frolickers, tries to clean her glasses with a muddy hand.