

# Sports

## Caray does it all for WTBS

By Bob Asmussen  
Night News Editor

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Current Nebraska I-Back Terry Rodgers is dealing with the expectations of being the son of a famous father. WTBS sportscaster Skip Caray said he knows what Rodgers is going through.

Caray is the son of a broadcasting legend, Harry Caray. Caray is a former St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago White Sox announcer. He is currently the Chicago Cubs announcer and a Bud man. Skip Caray said growing up with a famous father led to problems for him as an announcer.

"In some ways it helped, but in other ways it was very harmful," Caray said

before Saturday's Nebraska-Illinois game. "If your dad is a lawyer and you follow him into the business, everybody says, 'Isn't that nice.' But if you're in the public eye in this kind of business, people accuse you of nepotism. And with some justification that would be a natural assumption. But just because you're somebody's son doesn't mean you can't do the job in that particular business."

Caray said it took him awhile to adjust to some of the criticism.

"Nobody knew my name. I was Harry's kid," Caray said. "That's a great compliment to him and perfectly understandable, and at age 47 I understand it very well. At age 19 and 20 I didn't understand it. I sort of fought against

it." But, Caray said his father's fame hasn't harmed their relationship.

"I'm very proud to be his son," Caray said. "People ask me what it's like, well, hell I don't know, he's the only father I ever had."

Caray said he first got away from being "Harry's son" when he went to work for WTBS.

"When I went to Atlanta, very few people knew who my father was, and they didn't give a shit," Caray said. "I made it on my own."

Caray said he's happy that he and his father have been successful in the broadcasting business.

See CARAY on 7



Richard Wright/Daily Nebraskan

### Mud sport

Freshman Mark Thien of the Abel 4 mud-volleyball team tosses the ball back to the referee after a diving miss. The weekend tournament was won by the Acacia-Alpha Omicron Pi team.

## Linebacker happy 'to be with best'

By Tim Hartmann  
Staff Reporter

Freshman linebacker Chris Caliendo said he's hoping to get more playing time in the freshmen team's second game of the season, against Pittsburgh State on Sept. 29, than he did in their season opener.

It wasn't a lack of playing time that kept Caliendo on the bench when the Nebraska freshmen opened their season at Ellsworth Junior College of Iowa, it was the referees. He was ejected on the second play of the game for fighting.

Despite the early adversity, Caliendo, a scholarship recruit from Brookfield, Wis., is still happy he chose the Cornhuskers over the other schools that recruited him.

"Nebraska is No. 1. I wanted to go with the best," he said.

Illinois, Minnesota and several Division I-AA and Division II schools recruited Caliendo, a 6-2, 225-pound player. He was also recruited by his home-state university, Wisconsin.

"Wisconsin recruited me heavily my junior year," Caliendo said. "In my

senior year they didn't recruit me until later in the season, and by that time I had already made up my mind I was going to Nebraska."

Caliendo was an all-state selection at linebacker, where he averaged 10 unassisted tackles and seven assists per game during his senior season at Brookfield East High School. His team finished 5-4.

**'Nebraska is No. 1. I wanted to go with the best.'**

—Caliendo

"We had a couple of bad breaks at the beginning of the year," he said.

Besides playing linebacker, Caliendo was also a two-year starter at center, and was named all-conference at that position his senior year. He was also chosen to play in the Wisconsin Shrine All-Star game.

One of the players at Brookfield East

last year was Cary Caliendo, Chris' brother. Nebraska and several other schools did not recruit Cary because he had arthroscopic surgery performed on his knee. He finally signed with Northern Illinois. The two brothers will square off on the field on 1989 and 1990 when Nebraska and Northern Illinois play each other in Lincoln.

The Calientos would have liked to play college football together, but they're satisfied with the way things ended up.

"We both wanted to play college ball," Chris said. "It we both went to the same school, great, but, we weren't going to go out of our ways."

Caliendo said he's glad he came to Nebraska and can be part of their football program.

"I love it, it's great," he said.

He also likes Lincoln.

"When I first came here during two-a-days, I didn't (like it)," he said. "When school wasn't in session I was sort of homesick and I really didn't like it. I thought, 'God, where am I?' As soon as school started everything picked up and I love it. It's a great place to be."

## Verster finds stiff competition running at NU

By Jim Ballard  
Senior Reporter

This is the seventh in a series of stories that feature foreign students who are athletes at UNL.

When Jean Verster stepped off the plane from South Africa, he wasn't sure he had made the right decision.

"I nearly got on the plane and went back," he said.

The reason for that was that he had just come from a South African summer, where it was 100 degrees, to a Nebraska winter where it was 50 degrees below zero with the windchill factor.

"I had never seen snow before, and it was kind of nice for the first few days, but then it got too cold," Verster said. "But it is nicer to run in cold weather. It works out better than the heat."

Verster was first contacted by Nebraska assistant track coach Mark

Devenney during his senior year in high school. However, it wasn't until a year later, after he attended a South African college, that he decided on Nebraska.

"After graduating from high school, I was offered track scholarships at Nebraska, Georgia, UCLA and some other places, but I had a real good relationship with my coach, so I decided to stay in South Africa," he said. "But that

didn't work out, so I decided to make a break for it."

After Devenney contacted him for the second time, Verster had to make a quick decision.

"I decided to come two weeks before I left. I didn't know where Nebraska was, exactly, so it was exciting," he said.

Since coming to Nebraska, the jun-

ior from Johannesburg has been impressive. Last season he was an All-American cross country runner after finishing fifth in National Collegiate Athletic Association Championships. Verster has also been a NCAA qualifier in outdoor track. He is the current 1500-meter event Nebraska record holder.

"In South Africa, the top guys are the same standard as here, but there isn't as much depth," he said. "I had to get used to running against good opponents every meet here. It's always the same."

Verster said if everything goes well this season, he'll be trying for Olympic qualifying time in the mile race.

"I want to run a 3:57 in the indoor and a 3:38 outdoor (indoor events are measured in yards, outdoor events in meters), and I should be running that," he said.

He added that he preferred track over cross country but enjoys the longer running of cross country because it was relaxing.

Another key reason for transferring to the United States was because of the chance offered to run internationally. Because of sanctions against South Africa, athletes are not permitted to run outside their country.

"You never know what's going to happen. Maybe five years from now, South Africa will be competing internationally," he said.

Verster said he has not had much of a problem with being from South Africa.

"The Midwest is very conservative and open minded. They don't take one side, so in general I haven't had many problems," he said.

Running internationally is a goal Verster said he has down the road, but if it doesn't work out, he still wants to stay associated with the sport.

"I wouldn't mind getting a coaching job at the college level," he said. "But only in track and field and only at the college level."



Daily Nebraskan File Photo

Jean Verster crosses the finish line during an indoor track meet last spring. Verster returns as one of Nebraska's top distance runners.

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