

Sports

Top NU diver says deafness may help

By Mark Derowitsch
Staff Reporter

Being deaf would not help in most sports, but Eric Ognibene sees at least one benefit.

Ognibene is 70 to 80-percent deaf, but that hasn't hindered Nebraska's All-American diver.

"Without my hearing aid I don't hear anything at all," Ognibene said. "A lot of people think that's good, because I can concentrate a lot better and I don't have to hear any noise. I never thought about it because I never heard it before."

"I think it is an advantage to be able to not listen to any sound or little noises that might be distracting," he said. "But I do get nervous. A lot of people think that I don't get nervous, but I do. When I see all the people around, that makes me nervous. But I can really narrow down my concentration better without my hearing aid, so I think that might be an advantage."

Ognibene, a senior from San Antonio, Texas, was born deaf because his mother had German measles while she was pregnant. But even at an early age,

Ognibene was diving. Ognibene started diving when he was 8 because he preferred it to swimming. His brother got him interested in swimming, but it wasn't long before he



Ognibene

joined his sister on the diving platform. In fact, it wasn't long before he was diving better than his high-school-age sister.

Ognibene was a high-school All-

American and state champion during his senior year. He also competed in gymnastics and had to choose what sport to compete in during college. That choice, he said, was easy.

"I had a number of scholarship offers for diving and gymnastics, so I had to choose one sport, because it would be very difficult to choose both sports while going to school," Ognibene said. "I only spent five years in gymnastics and I spent a lot more time diving. I chose diving because I spent so many years doing it. I feel I have more of a chance diving going to the Olympic trials, which I'm trying to go for."

Last year, Ognibene was on the U.S. National Diving Team. If he can qualify this year, Ognibene automatically will be invited to the Olympic trials.

So far this season, Ognibene won the Big Eight Conference Championships in both the one- and three-meter events. That was the third time in his four years at Nebraska that he won the conference title on the one-meter board; he finished second as a freshman.

He said he hopes to make the Olympic team, if not in 1988, in 1992.

"My main concern this summer is to work on my platform," Ognibene said. "My main thing is to get to the Olympic trials. If I get there, anything can happen. If I make the Olympics, great. If not, I still have another four years."

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—Ognibene

One thing Ognibene doesn't lack is confidence. He said he isn't nervous against the best competition since he's been competing with it.

"I have been competing with Greg Louganis with the U.S. National Team,"

Ognibene said. "I feel that I have enough experience to compete. Just recently I was in Fort Lauderdale and I was competing against Louganis and Mark Bradshaw. That kind of competition gives me confidence. Competing with Greg Louganis, I feel that it's not too much of a big deal because he's human. He's not perfect, but he is the best diver in the world. That really helped me to be competing against someone like that."

Football ticket lottery begins March 30

The student season football ticket lottery will be March 30 through April 3 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the South Stadium Ticket Office. A completed application, cash, personal check or money order and current full-time student ID must be presented.

A group representative may present all applications with individual payments and current full-time student IDs at the ticket office. The maximum size for a group is 100. Students will draw a lottery number; the highest number will be filled first.

Student price will be \$49 for seven home games. A spouse ticket may be purchased for \$129.50.

All students may apply after April 3 until 4 p.m. on August 25.

Applications are available at the Athletic Ticket Office (South Stadium 117), Student Accounts (Administration Building 110) and the East Union information desk.

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Nebraska takes powerlifting title

Nebraska's powerlifting club recorded three first-place finishes and set a new weight-class record during Saturday's Nebraska State Powerlifting Meet.

Nebraska's team, which hosted and won the meet, was represented by six men. Mike Kros placed first in the 148-pound class, lifting a total of 1,140 pounds. In the 165-pound class, Nebraska's Steve Pankas finished in first place with a total of 1,330 pounds and Larry Tewell finished third with a total of 1,220 pounds. Pankas also set a new record in the deadlift, lifting 550 pounds, and Tewell tied the bench-press record of 300 pounds.

Dolan Smith, also from UNL's team, won the 181-pound class with a total of 345 pounds. The other Nebraska finishers were Craig Schink, who placed third in the 198-pound class, and John Gross, who lifted 1,290 pounds in the 220-pound class.

Other records set during the six-team meet were in the 220-pound class by Mike Bollard and Norm Svoboda, both from Wayne State College. Levi Webb, also from Wayne State, set three new records in the super-heavyweight class.

Nebraska's powerlifting club will host a body-building physique meet in the Nebraska Union on April 18. The meet is open to men and women.



There's no place like home for the holidays. Sometimes, however, it's not so easy to get there. The Daily Nebraskan classifieds can put you in touch with other students who are traveling to the same destination. Sharing a ride makes your journey more enjoyable and less expensive. The Daily Nebraskan wants to help you share the holidays with your friends and family. Because there's no place like home sweet home.

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