

Sports

Creighton players become Huskers

By Kyle Schurman
Staff Reporter

Tradition and a winning attitude persuaded three former Omaha Creighton Prep High School players to attend Nebraska on football scholarships.

I-back George Achola, linebacker Daryl Leise and tight end Dan Lohmeier were all members of Creighton Prep's 1985 and 1986 state champion football teams. The three players turned down scholarship offers from other schools to become Cornhuskers and are all making significant contributions to this year's freshman team.

Achola gained 2,348 yards rushing and scored 31 touchdowns during Creighton Prep's two championship seasons. He said he decided to attend Nebraska because of the Huskers' tradition.

"The players expect to win here," Achola said. "They have a good coaching staff and quality players and people. Nebraska cares about winning, and I can get a good education here."

Leise said Creighton Prep and Nebraska are similar because both programs are disciplined.

"The main similarity is in the complexity of the two programs in comparison to their rivals," Leise said.

Leise, who recorded 76 tackles as a defensive end during his senior year at Creighton Prep, said he chose Nebraska because "it's close to home."

"I was impressed with the academic and athletic facilities," Leise said. "The coaches and advisers take care of the players here."

Lohmeier caught 33 passes for 538 yards and six touchdowns during his junior and senior years at Prep. He also played defensive tackle during his senior year and made 31 unassisted and 20 assisted tackles.

He said he chose Nebraska because of its great tradition and because of its potential to do well over the next few years.

"I think we could win some national championships in the next few years," Lohmeier said. "Also, the coaches were straightforward with me. A lot of coaches say you'll play as a freshman, but I just couldn't see that happening at most places."

After going 12-0 in 1985 and 11-1 in 1986, Creighton Prep is 3-0 and ranked No. 1 by the Omaha World-Herald in 1987. However, Creighton Prep coach Tom Jaworski said that losing the three players to Nebraska has hurt his team.

"You don't lose those types of



Paul Vonderlage/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Dan Lohmeier, George Achola and Daryl Leise.

players without it making an impact on your team," Jaworski said. "They're all good kids with good work habits and good work ethics. They should all do well in school."

Husker freshman coach Shane Thorell agreed with Jaworski.

"They're all good kids and an asset to the program," Thorell said. "They all played well in the first game."

In the Nebraska freshman team's 62-0 win over St. Thomas (Minn.) junior varsity on Sept. 7, Achola gained 83 yards on 15 rushes and scored one touchdown. He also ran back a punt for 22 yards and a kickoff for 22 yards. Achola nearly had another touchdown, but he fumbled while crossing the goal line, and Lohmeier recovered for his first Husker touchdown. Leise chipped in a tackle for the Husker defense. All three players said winning two state

titles was a great feeling. They praised Jaworski for his coaching abilities as well.

Achola said winning the state titles was a great feeling and something most people won't experience.

"Being the best team in history is something that will stick with me for the rest of my life," Achola said. "Coach Jaworski put our team together really well. He was one of the main reasons we won."

Leise said being a state champion was "an exciting experience." He said that Jaworski was a very good coach and will have "lots of success in the future."

Lohmeier said winning the second state title was more special to him because he was a senior.

"We also came back and won it after a loss which says something special about our team," Lohmeier

said. "Coach Jaworski helps his players out a lot. He also has very good assistant coaches."

Achola was a two-year all-metro and all-state running back at Prep. He said he was struggling with the offense at first because he has never run out of the I-formation before.

"I'm finally getting the offense down now," Achola said. "I need to work on a lot of things, but everything's really coming along now."

He said his goals include helping the freshmen win and going to a bowl game.

"I also want to win one national championship here and I want to leave here with a degree," Achola said.

Thorell said Achola is a good running back.

Jaworski said he is "very solid and consistent. He's an excellent player."

"He had two great seasons for us," Jaworski said. "He was a leader on our team and a top-flight running back. He has good speed and makes very good cuts."

Achola said the weightlifting and running habits he developed at Creighton Prep have carried over to his play at Nebraska. He said that Arizona State, Colorado, Notre Dame and Iowa also recruited him.

Leise said he didn't expect to do so well this season because he is playing linebacker for the first time.

"I'm happy with any progress I make," Leise said. He said he needs to work on his aggressiveness and his technique.

Leise was a two-year starter at

See PREP on 10

Cornhuskers to compete at World Championships

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's Tom Schlesinger and former Cornhusker Scott Johnson will compete against some of the top gymnasts in the world when they travel to Rotterdam, Netherlands, to participate in the World Gymnastics Championships.

Schlesinger and Johnson will leave Saturday for West Germany, where they will train for three weeks to prepare for the United States' biggest meet before the 1988 Olympic Games. Nebraska assistant gymnastics coach Jim Howard, who is assisting Southern Connecticut coach Abe Grossfeld with the team, said Schlesinger and Johnson will have to endure three weeks of intense training.

"The workouts are going to be very hard because we have to be ready for this meet," Howard said. "They will be working out twice a

day and be spending six to seven hours in the gym. But I think we have a very good team, and we should do reasonably well if we work hard."

Howard said the meet is extremely important because the top 12 teams will qualify for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. The United States finished ninth during the 1985 World Championships in Montreal.

Schlesinger said the meet will be the toughest he has ever competed in. He said this will be his first trip to the World Championships.

"The caliber of athletes in this meet is very good; you have the Russians, Chinese and everybody else that are all the best in the world," Schlesinger said. "Making the team is a definite step towards making the Olympic team."

Schlesinger said the pressure in the meet will be very high because no one can afford to make a mistake. He said he managed to qual-

ify for the World Championships even though he had a difficult qualifying meet on Sept. 12.

Three other Nebraskans — Kevin Davis, Neil Palmer and Wes Suter — failed to qualify.

Davis, who was hampered throughout the meet by a sprained ankle, could have attempted to petition his way onto the team. But he said he chose not to because he didn't have a chance of earning a positive decision.

The only gymnast to petition his way onto the team was former UCLA star Tim Daggett, who missed the qualifying meet because of mononucleosis.

"With Kevin it was a big question on if he was one of the top four gymnasts in the United States," Howard said. "But with Daggett he is definitely one of the top four gymnasts in the U.S."

Howard said Daggett is important to the team because of his experience.

"Having Tim on the team will

make a big difference on how we do at the championships," Howard said. "Both him and Johnson give us a lot of experience on the floor, which is needed in a big meet like this."

"Tim wanted to compete in the trials, but mononucleosis affects the spleen. If he would've fallen, he could have hurt himself badly," Howard said.

Johnson said he thinks Davis should have been let on the team because he has proven himself before.

"Kevin, I think, has earned a spot on the team. He was doing excellent until he hurt himself before the Pan American Games," Johnson said. "He's worked real hard to get where he's at now, and it's too bad he won't be able to go with us."

Johnson, who is ranked No. 1 in the United States, said he is looking forward to the World Championships. He said that next to the Olympics, this is the biggest meet

for the United States.

"This is a very important meet for the United States because at the last World Championships, we had an awful meet," Johnson said. "We have to come back and show the world that the Americans are back in gymnastics. I think we can finish in the top three if everybody performs. We have some good young gymnasts who have good ability."

The United States team has seven members: Johnson, Daggett, Schlesinger, Dan Hayden, Charlie Lakes, Curtis Holsworth and Jon Omori.

Johnson said he thinks he can finish in the top 12 in the all-around competition if he performs at his potential. He said the Russians and Chinese will make it difficult to win a medal in the all-around competition because of the depth they have.

Johnson said he thinks he can win a medal in an individual event. He said his best event is the still rings.