

rankings, 11 NCAA Gold Medals and 11 individual Big Eight Titles.

Hartung started competing in gymnastics when he was six years old. When he was young, he set two goals for himself, making the Olympic team and getting a college degree. In 1983, he graduated from UNL with a degree in business administration. He made the U.S. Olympic team in 1980, but that year the United States boycotted the Olympics so he waited until 1984.

This fall he started working on his masters degree. As far as his job is concerned, Hartung said he would like to see more fan support for Nebraska's minor sports like gymnastics and swimming.

"When I was competing for Nebraska the reason we drew the big crowds was because there were several Nebraskans on the team," Hartung said. "Now there are no native Nebraskans on the team and so we don't get any people coming out to watch the meets, even though they've finished second three years in a row."

Hartung said his body feels much better now that he's not competitive in gymnastics.

"When you train seven days a week for almost 18 years it starts to take a toll on your body," Hartung said. "I now feel a lot better and I can concentrate all my energy towards my job and coaching gymnastics."

If he returns to gymnastics Hartung knows he would be competitive. But for now, he's satisfied with coaching, he said.

He fulfilled a life-long dream when he competed in 1984, he said. That squelched his desire to compete in 1988.

"For me, I guess the main reason why I retired was the 1988 Olympic games were not a dream of mine, '84 was," Hartung said.

"I didn't have the capacity to look past '84 because it was sort of like my life.

"Looking back at it all, yea sure I could have kept training for '88. However, I had done gymnastics at a higher level longer than anybody. In fact, I don't really know anyone that's competed in gymnastics for 20 years."

Hartung said he'll never forget the 1984 Olympic games. Even if he did become a member of the 1988 team and they won the gold medal, it wouldn't be the same, he said.

Even though the Olympic dream is nothing but a memory for Hartung, the desire to compete in the Olympics is still there for former Nebraska gymnast Phil Cahoy.

Cahoy, who first came to UNL in 1979, made the 1980 Olympic team but didn't compete because of the boycott. When 1984 came around, he was unable to try out for the U.S team because of a shoulder injury.

Now, while training four times a week for the 1988 Olympic team trails, Cahoy is in his second year of medical school at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

Cahoy says training for the Olympics helps take his mind off the pressures of medical school.

"Working out helps me to get rid of my frustrations," Cahoy said. "I tried to quit after starting medical school but I went back two weeks later because I couldn't handle getting rid of those pressures.

"Not working out just drove me crazy because I had been doing it for so long."

Cahoy said he has always been fascinated with medicine. Eventually he expects to be an orthopedic surgeon.

At the age of 26, critics might say Cahoy is too old to compete in gymnastics, but Cahoy said his body feels good.

"I guess if I was training every day my body would feel it, but I try not to push myself and if my body hurts I take it easy," Cahoy said. "I don't look at myself as being too old to compete in gymnastics because the gentleman who won the gold medal at the 1984 Olympic games was 28."

Between training for the 1988 Olympics and going to medical school, Cahoy said he has little free time. In medical school, he said, a person can't blow off his studies. His homework assignments are sometimes overwhelming.

But five years at UNL gave him good study habits, he said.

If he makes the 1988 Olympic team, he would be given a month to train with the team.

"By the time the Olympics come around I should be able to get some time off," Cahoy said. "But first, I have to make the team, which will be very hard because I'm not working out seven days a week for five hours."

But 10 years as a gymnast has given Cahoy the discipline to get through medical school.

"To be a successful gymnast you have to work to get to that goal," he said. "In medical school it's the same way, you have to do the work and you have to budget your time."

In 1980, when he made the Olympic team, Cahoy said he wasn't upset that the competition was boycotted because he didn't think the U.S. team was prepared for competition.

But disappointment followed with the shoulder injury that

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***'It doesn't matter if you were an All-American when you were in college because the coaches that pick the players to play on their teams don't care about that. What they want are the best players because professional football is a business.'***

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forced him to sit out in 1984.

"In 1984, I was disappointed that I couldn't even train, it was very hard for me to concentrate on other things," Cahoy said. "When my shoulder finally did heal I decided to start training again, and if I stayed in gymnastics until 1988, great."

In 1985, Cahoy returned to competition at the World Championships as a member of the United States Team. But medical school was in the back of his mind. That summer Cahoy competed in his last competition, the Goodwill Games in Moscow.

Cahoy said he doesn't know if he is going to make the Olympic team. All he can do is continue to train.

"The competition and the pressure to make the team will be intense," Cahoy said. "But I've been in those pressure situations before and I feel I'm in pretty good shape so I have a shot."

For Brian Carr, coaching basketball is something that he would like to do for the rest of his life.

The former Husker basketball player, who led Nebraska to the semifinals of the National Invitational Basketball tournament last year, is now an assistant boys' basketball coach at Northeast Lincoln High School.

Coaching allows him to stay involved with basketball.

"Coaching is something I have always wanted to do because I love the sport of basketball," Carr said. "The program here at Northeast is good, Rick gives me a lot of freedom to teach the fundamentals.

"Plus, the rest of the coaching staff respects me which takes a lot of pressure off me."

Carr said he never considered playing professional basketball because the amount of pressure involved. He has been contacted by the International Basketball League, which is for players 6-4 and under, but, he doesn't know if he wants to give up his coaching job, he said.

"Playing basketball is something that isn't really that important to me," Carr said. "I want to go on to bigger and better things, like coaching. I feel that I can get a lot more satisfaction. It's what I really want to do."

He was hired because Northeast coaches understood his interest in the job and knew of his success while playing for Nebraska, he said.

Coaching was an adjustment for Carr.

"It took me a while to get used to the kids and it was the same way for them also," Carr said. "The kids want me to play with them all the time and at first when I did, it was hard for me not to go all out.

"It also took a while for the kids to get used to me being a coach, not Brian Carr the basketball player from the University of Nebraska."

Disciplining players for things they did wrong was his biggest challenge, he said. At first they didn't take him seriously.

The coaches at Northeast appear to like his input because they know it's going to help the team, Carr said. His greatest satisfaction is being able to watch students improve, he said.

"It's fun to watch the kids play and see the things that you have helped them to improve on," Carr said. "Coaching is a learning experience for me also, before I was just playing basketball, now I have to coach it."

Carr said he thinks he has come a long way since he first came to Nebraska. Playing helped him to grow as a person and to communicate with people better.

"I've paid my dues, I had a lot of fun playing basketball but I don't miss it at all," Carr said. "I'm not making any long-term goals, I'm just taking things on a day to day basis.

"I grew so much as a person while playing at Nebraska. Now, I can relate to people, I'm not the shy quiet kid from Indiana anymore."

- by Rich Cooper