

Swimmer hopes his dreams come true

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

For Nebraska swimmer Peter Williams, the "Olympic Dream" is just that — a dream.

Williams, who unofficially set a world record in the 50-meter freestyle during an open meet in Indianapolis, Ind. April 12, will not be allowed to participate in the summer Olympics because he's from South Africa.

The Olympics begin Sept. 17 in Seoul, South Korea.

Athletes from South Africa have been banned from Olympic competition since 1960 because of the South African government's policy of apartheid, which is the racial segregation and discrimination of blacks.

Since 1976, the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has also banned South Africans from competing in other international sporting events.

"I'm hoping that one day I can get a chance to swim against the best competition in the world," Williams said. "That would be a dream come true. It honestly keeps me going, because I would love to swim against the best."

Williams, a sophomore from Port Elizabeth, South Africa, said he had never thought about competing in the Olympics until last year.

"It's disappointing, but it's something I've never thought of before," Williams said. "It's still pretty much a new concept for me. I'm kind of surprised how disappointed I am now, though. When I see the Olympic previews on

television, I start thinking about it. But since I can't swim in the Olympics, I just focus my goals on other things."

Although Williams was not highly recruited out of high school, his time of :22.18 in Indianapolis beat the old mark of :22.33, which was held by Tom Jager.

With a world record credited to his name, Williams said, he's upset with the Olympic committee for not allowing him to swim against the rest of the world's best swimmers.

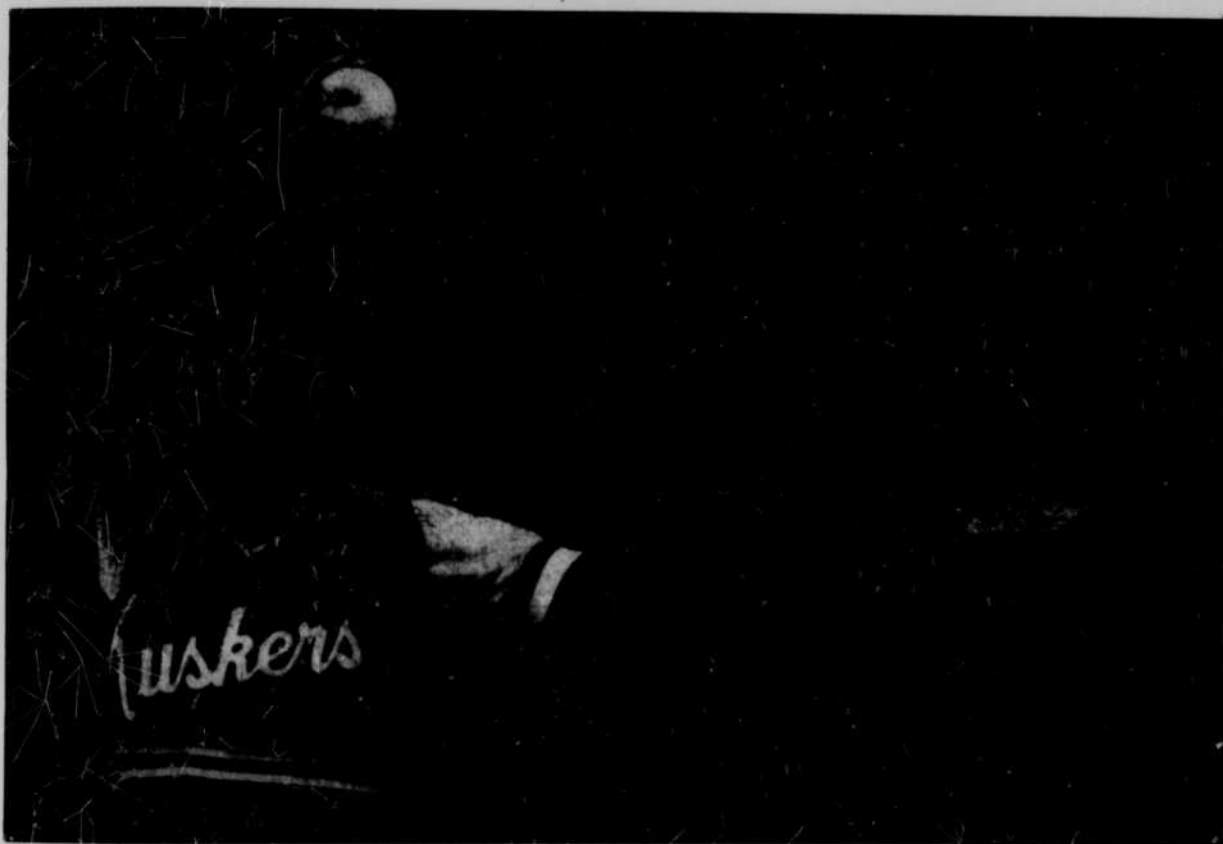
"It's unfair that the Olympics is known world wide for letting people compete in many events on an equal basis, but they're letting politics interfere with South Africans' rights to compete," Williams said.

"The Olympics are to bring the best people

together and let them compete," he said, "but we (South Africans) are used to not going. It's been this way for almost 30 years. If we were allowed to go, a lot of South Africans would make a good showing. We wouldn't have as many winners as the United States, but one or two would probably win medals."

While most of the world's top swimmers will be in training for the Olympics this summer, Williams said, he will be taking it easy.

"We just don't have the training facilities (in South Africa) that the swimmers have here," Williams said. "The area I'm from is the smallest, swimming wise. I might lift weights if I can find someone who will tell me how to do it properly. But if not, I'll just be taking a holiday. I'm use to long lay-offs."



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Lori Sippel winds up for a pitch during a College World Series regional game against Creighton.

Disappointment lessened by World Series display

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

A trip to the women's College World Series helped ease some disappointments of Nebraska's spring softball season.

Cornhusker coach Ron Wolforth said the regular season was disappointing because Nebraska fell from a preseason No. 2 ranking to as low as No. 19.

But, Wolforth said, he was pleased the Huskers, 39-20, rebounded from a slow start and finished seventh in the final season polls and in a tie for fifth place with Texas A&M at the College World Series.

Struggling at times this season taught Nebraska's team a valuable lesson, Wolforth said.

"For the past four or five years at Nebraska, success has always been a given," Wolforth said. "This year, the team had to earn every game. Our players learned that great talent doesn't always mean a great year, and that you always have to work hard."

Wolforth was especially happy

with the way the Huskers responded at the Big Eight Tournament. He said the highlight of the season was when Nebraska beat Oklahoma State two out of three games in Oklahoma City to win the conference championship.

"I don't think we played any better than the three straight games we played against Oklahoma State," Wolforth said. "They were ranked No. 2 and had won 22 straight games. Very few people thought we had an opportunity to go down to Oklahoma City and do it to them. We just sucked it up when we had to."

Nebraska hosted the NCAA Central Softball Regionals and defeated Creighton twice to earn a return trip to the College World Series.

At the College World Series May 25-28 in Sunnyvale, Calif., Nebraska lost to California Poly-Pomona 3-0, but then defeated Adelphi 5-1. Fresno State eliminated Nebraska from the tournament with a 1-0 win in the Huskers' third game.

Wolforth said the performance of

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Coach pleased with track performances

Tim Hartmann
Senior Editor

In the opinion of Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin, Sharon Powell's performance at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships placed her with some pretty impressive company.

Powell won the 800-meter run, finished fourth in the 400-meter dash and ran with the 1,600-meter relay team, which finished fourth. The Nebraska women scored 34 points to finish fifth at the June 1-4 meet in Eugene, Ore.

Louisiana State won the women's half of the meet, while UCLA was the men's champion. The Nebraska men did not score at the meet.

Pepin was pleased with the overall showing the women's team made, but especially with that of Powell.

"Sharon Powell had a magnificent meet," he said. "That was one of the finest meets a female athlete at Nebraska has had at a national meet. It ranks up there with meets that (former All-America performers) Merlene Ottey and Rhonda Blanford have had."

Powell, a senior from Clarendon, Jamaica, teamed with Karen Kruger, Michelle Milling and Linetta Wilson to turn in a 3:31.44 timing in the 1,600 relay, which was the second fastest time in school history and was good enough to earn All-America honors.

Powell also captured All-America honors in the 400 and the 800.

In addition, Wilson finished second in the 400 hurdles, Tammy Thurman was fifth in the high jump and Kruger placed seventh in the long jump.

"That was a really good meet for us," Pepin said. "That was our second-highest finish ever outdoors. We were the highest ranking school in the Midwest."

Pepin said Nebraska and Oregon, which finished third, were the only two non-Sun Belt schools that performed well at the meet.

The men's showing was disappointing, Pepin said, because he had hoped to qualify more than three athletes to the meet. The only Husker men to qualify were Dave Brown in the shot put, Dale Burrage in the 400-

meter hurdles and James Morris in the long jump and triple jump.

Pepin said Bobby Jelks and Joe Kirby just missed qualifying, Regis Humphrey was slowed by injuries and Robert Gonzales was academically ineligible for the meet.

Burrage and Morris were also slowed by injuries, Pepin said, which hurt their progress throughout the season. Burrage had a hamstring injury and Morris hurt his hip. The injuries hurt the men's team this year, Pepin said, and allowed them to hold the men to a third place finish in the Big Eight this season.

"I think we would have done better in the outdoor season if we didn't have so many injuries," he said. "It's kind of like going to battle and trying to

fight without all your troops."

Pepin is optimistic about next year's men's and women's teams, he said.

"We have had a real good recruiting year for the women," he said. "For the men, we haven't signed a large number, but the guys we've signed are real good."

The men's team will receive a strong boost with the addition of African Dudsonne Kwizera, Pepin said. Kwizera, who will be a sophomore, sat out this season because he failed to meet the academic guidelines set by the NCAA's Proposition 48.

"He runs everything from the 400 to the mile," Pepin said, "and he runs it fast."