

Scherr twins enjoying tantamount careers

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

Identical twins Jim and Bill Scherr have taken almost identical steps in their wrestling careers.

Bill Scherr was a three-time NCAA All-America selection and a two-time Big Eight champion as a Nebraska wrestler. His career record as a Cornhusker was 133-18. He defeated a top Soviet wrestler to capture the 1985 world championship. He also won the U.S. Open title in 1986 and 1987, as well as capturing the Pan-American Games title in 1987.

Jim Scherr was a two-time All-America choice and a Big Eight champion as a Husker wrestler. He won the U.S. Open in 1986 and 1987, captured the 1986 World Cup championship by defeating a Soviet wrestler and won the silver medal in the 1987 World Championships before defaulting in the finals due to a knee injury.

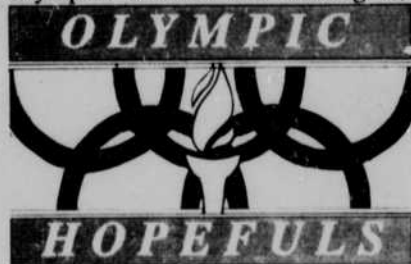
On June 18, the Scherrs took another identical step — both earned spots on the 10-member 1988 U.S. Olympic Freestyle Wrestling Team. They will become only the second and third former Nebraska wrestlers to represent the United States in the Olympics.

Dan Brand was the first Nebraska Olympic wrestler. He finished fifth as a light heavyweight in 1960 and earned a bronze medal as a middleweight in 1964.

Bill, an assistant wrestling coach at the University of Indiana in Bloomington, where he is completing his graduate degree in business, said it

was more fulfilling that both he and his brother qualified for the Olympics.

"We both worked together, trained together and set our goals together," he said. "So, it made it more fulfilling that we both qualified. It was a goal that we both make the team, not just one or the other. I could not have reached my goal of qualifying for the Olympics without Jim making it."



Jim, who is working on his graduate degree in business at the Northwestern University Kellogg Graduate School in Evanston, Ill., could not be reached for comment.

The 26-year-old twins from Moline, S.D., each won their respective weight classes at the Olympic wrestling trials in Pensacola, Fla., to gain the opportunity to compete in the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea in September.

Bill Scherr defeated Kirk Trost of Ann Arbor, Mich., 3-0 and 16-1 in two straight matches, on his way to winning his championship series at the 220-pound weight class.

Jim split the first two matches — 2-0 and 3-4 — with Melvyn Douglas of Minneapolis, Minn., in the 198 championship round before winning the third and decisive match 2-1.

Bill said he and his brother should be well prepared for the Olympics because of their extensive international experience.

"The transition from college to international is more technical than anything because the wrestlers are so much more experienced," he said. "It's another step up. To be successful you have to be able to adapt."

"We've had a lot of international experience," Bill added. "It's the same routine in the physical sense, but totally different mentally. You have to know what to do mentally, so you've got to block everything else out."

Bill said he's always been able to handle the mental strain because he is a "one dimensional person."

"I only concentrate on one thing at a time whether that be school, my job or wrestling," he said. "But, when I wrestle, my mind's on only my opponent or competitor, whoever that might be at the time."

Bill is married and has a two-year-old daughter, Sasha. He said he has been fortunate that the people around him are helpful enough to let him train and compete whenever he needs the time.

"I'm fortunate to have a boss that gives me time off when I need it," he said. "The people at grad school let me take a semester off, skip classes,

whatever to allow me to prepare. Everyone's been real cooperative."

"My wife (Teresa) is very understanding. She makes a lot of sacrifices and really picks up the slack at home."

Bill said his and his brother's chances of bringing home a medal from Seoul are good because of their experience.

"Some of the very same wrestlers that we have competed with at the world championships will be there, so the competition should be very consistent with what we've had in the

past," he said.

The Scherr twins should benefit from their successful experience while they wrestled at Nebraska, Bill said.

"It was important that we wrestled at a Division I school like Nebraska," he said. "The Big Eight is a tough wrestling conference, which helped us prepare for this kind of competition. (Former) Coach Bob Fehrs did an excellent job working with us and getting us to wrestle at our potential."

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NU hires assistant swimming coach

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert has hired former Arizona All-America selection Kelly Nordell as the Cornhuskers' new assistant coach and recruiting coordinator.

Nordell replaces Mike McManus, who resigned at the conclusion of last season.

A three-year letterwinner from 1983-85, Nordell was a middle-distance freestyle competitor for the Wildcats. She qualified for three NCAA Championship meets and the 1984 Olympic Trials. She

also served as team captain for one year.

"We are excited to have her in our program," Huppert said. "She has a lot of expertise and the knowledge of what it takes to be a top competitor today. She is going to be a great help to us in our recruiting with her contacts in the western part of the country."

"We haven't been as strong out there as we would like to be, and the addition of Kelly to our staff is a real step forward for us," Huppert said.

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