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During their first three games, which were all at Boulder, Colo., Colorado players would point toward the press box after making good plays. Aunese, who had his own private box, would point back.

But now, the pointing is over. The Buffs know what needs to be done, and they know how to do it. The tribute to Aunese at Washington won't be the last.

Before his death, Aunese told his mother to pass along one wish to his former teammates: to bring the Orange Bowl trophy back to Boulder.

If Colorado players and coaches needed any more inspiration before Aunese's death -- which is doubtful -- they now have it. That's bad news for upcoming opponents.

Last season, the Buffs lost 7-0 to Nebraska. Colorado tailback J.J. Flannigan fumbled the ball in the open field on his way to the end zone, eliminating one touchdown against the Cornhuskers.

The Buffs later turned the ball over inside the Nebraska 30-yard line to end another scoring opportunity.

Against Oklahoma, Colorado missed a field goal at the end of the game that would have tied it.

Two mistakes, no Orange Bowl. So far this season, Colorado has played virtually mistake-free.

Colorado sports information director David Plati has designated the Nebraska game as Sal Aunese Day. His jersey, No. 8, will be retired that day, and the Buffs undoubtedly will play in all black uniforms, as they did two years ago against the Huskers.

Last Saturday in the press box, a member of Nebraska's sports information office told me he thought it was "tacky" for Colorado to milk Aunese's death for an emotional edge.

Tacky? Aunese's dying wish was for his teammates to win the conference and bring home an Orange Bowl championship. Plati is doing only what any sports information director in America would do. He's waiting for the most potentially emotional moment, in the school's biggest game of the year, to pay tribute to a team leader.

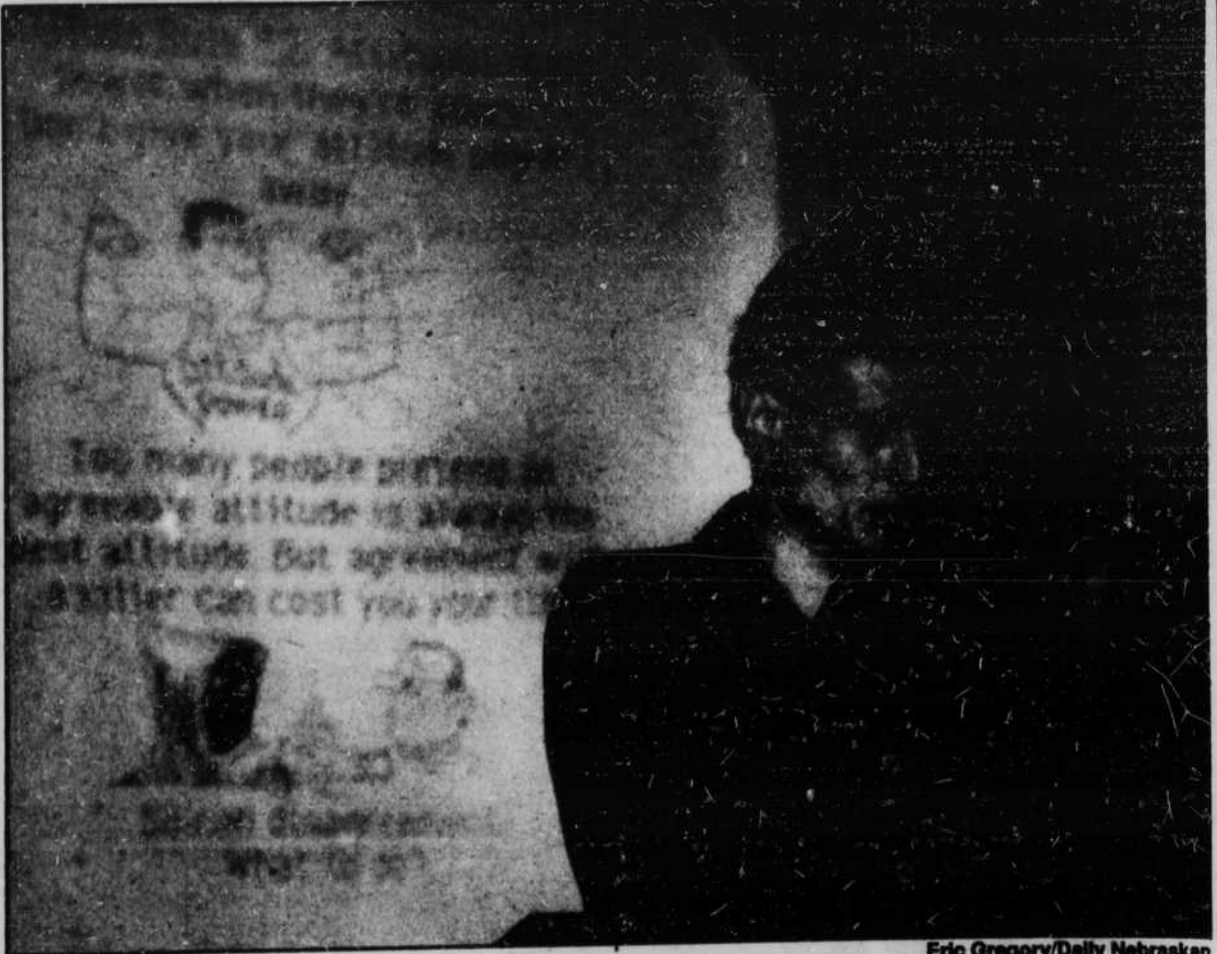
If former Husker quarterback Turner Gill would have died during his Nebraska career, would Nebraska officials have honored him during the Kansas State game? Of course not. It would have been at the Oklahoma game.

The game against Nebraska will be one of the most emotion-filled games in college football this year. Colorado's fans, which are not the most congenial folks around, will be in their usual fine form, throwing bottles, rocks and obscenities at Nebraska fans.

Husker fans are not advised to wear red for this one.

The game, which tentatively is scheduled for 3 p.m. Nov. 4 in Boulder, won't be a fun one for Nebraskans. It probably won't be fun for Husker players, either. Losses never are.

Green is a senior news-editorial major, is a First Down Magazine co-editor and is a sports senior reporter.



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Pete Strudwick delivers a speech titled, "Dare To Win." Strudwick is the author of a book titled, "Come Run With Me."

Distance runner's defiant attitude lets him 'Dare to Win' despite odds

By Chris Hopfensperger
Staff Reporter

Pete Strudwick was born with legs that end in stumps just past the ankles, a left hand that only has a thumb and one finger, and a right arm that stops at the wrist.

But that did not stop him from running in the Pike's Peak marathon and more than 800 distance races. And it also did not stop him from delivering a pair of speeches Tuesday in the Nebraska Union.

During his evening presentation, "Winners and Losers: That's Us?" Strudwick spoke about the ingredients runners need to be successful. He also spoke about the thousands of miles he has traveled since he began telling his story.

His morning presentation was titled "Dare to Win." The speeches, which were co-sponsored by the Office of Campus Recreation and the University Health Center, were part

of the Steinhart Lecture Series.

Strudwick said his speaking engagements have taken him around the world -- and farther.

Strudwick's second speech centered on his secrets of DARE -- which stands for diet, attitude, rest and exercise. It also focused on tenacity, imagination, motivation, discipline and self-control, abilities he said he learned in a "failure of courage" in 1953.

"I was afraid to have another human being look at me and find me lacking," Strudwick said. "I could've turned my back to the wall, could've blown my brains out."

"But I knew that if I did that I had no more opportunities, no more sunsets, no more mountains. I made a decision to stand up and walked out and faced the world head-on."

Strudwick's birth defects were caused by measles that his mother caught during pregnancy. She decided to have her child even though

doctors recommended that he be destroyed because he was deformed.

As part of his evening presentation, Strudwick showed his audience of 50 people a film entitled "The Human Race." In the film, his mother reacts to the doctor's suggestion by saying "I will have this child and if he is deformed, he will just have to fight like all the others."

Strudwick said his mother's defiance helped him face the challenges of life and long-distance running.

The film also dramatized Strudwick's first marathon, in 1969, in which he finished last among the 1,500 participants. He was so far behind that the finish line had been taken down and only his wife and children remained for his finish.

Strudwick said he was not discouraged by his performance.

"We're all winners and losers every moment of our lives," he said. "We have to decide to go for the win or settle for the loss."

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lightly, because Colorado is capable of beating us," he said.

After Nebraska's two weekend matches against Hawaii, the Huskers will have one day of practice before traveling to play the Cyclones.

Cook said the Iowa State match is a concern. Although the Cyclones are winless in all 30 matches against Nebraska, he said the trip to Ames will be tough.

"That may be our stiffest road challenge in our conference," he

said.

He said it will be difficult because the preceding matches against Hawaii in addition to a four-hour bus ride to Ames, Iowa, could prove tiresome.

Cook also said Iowa State always creates a lot of hype whenever the Huskers play there. He said last year it televised the match statewide and he thinks it might do the same this year.

"When Nebraska comes to town it's a big deal," Cook said.

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on yet another project which he said could start soon. He described the project as a voluntary "certification" program in which universities would set down guidelines that would compare athletes to the rest of the student population in terms of academics and conduct.

The program, which would be done in conjunction with a mandatory self-study, is being designed to keep graduation rates as well as the everyday life of the athlete as comparable as possible to the "normal" student.

The NCAA would then examine the results and either "your program will pass muster and we'll certify it, or it won't be certified," Schultz said.

Schultz said the NCAA is counting on a volunteer from each conference and the idea that academic certification would be desirable to schools from a recruiting standpoint.

The organization also is planning legislation because of a study of 4,000 Division I athletes who said

that their time was too limited because of their sport, Schultz said.

The athletes, all football and basketball players, said they felt isolated from the rest of the student body. Schultz said. He said that within "the next year or two" something would be done, possibly including practice restraints to "limit the demands on athletes."

UNL Chancellor and NCAA Presidents Commission Chairman Martin Massengale announced after the start of commission meetings this week that the NCAA would look to shorten spring football practice and the basketball season.

Also on the drawing board are more ways to help athletes with financial need, which would include need-based items such as trips home and other allowances.

"That scholarship for some kids is all they've got," Schultz said, "so I would support that (need-based aid)."

"My feeling is that we bring the athletes in. We recruit them, they ought to be able to live like the average student."

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