

Captains aim for top 10

By Vicki Burge
Staff Reporter

The three Nebraska men's swimming team co-captains agreed that a top-10 ranking at the NCAA championships is a top priority.

Seniors Sean Larson and Ryan Bell, and sophomore Doug Garland were chosen to lead the men's swimming team this year, and all three are planning ahead for NCAA competition in March.

Although this is a young team, with almost half the squad being freshmen and sophomores, Nebraska also is aiming to develop a racing mind in a bid to capture a 12th straight Big Eight title.

"The relays are going to be a big part of our competition this year," Bell said. "We finished fourth last year at the NCAA finals, but I think we can be second place or better this year. Other (teams) may laugh at that but I think our team is capable."

Personally Bell hopes to qualify nationally in the 200-, 500- and 100-yard freestyle events, and the 100-yard butterfly.

It is an honor to represent the team as captain, he said.

"The guys respect you," the senior from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, said. "It means they trust you and have confidence in you and your performance."

Though there are a few exceptional swimmers on the team who may do well individually, Bell said it still is a team sport. He added

that leadership comes naturally with most of the team members.

Larson, from Omaha, sees himself as a middle man between the other swimmers and the coaches. He said that usually those swimmers who are experiencing problems are more likely to come to him first rather than the coaches.

"I know what's going on and I can see and work with the changes to be made," he said.

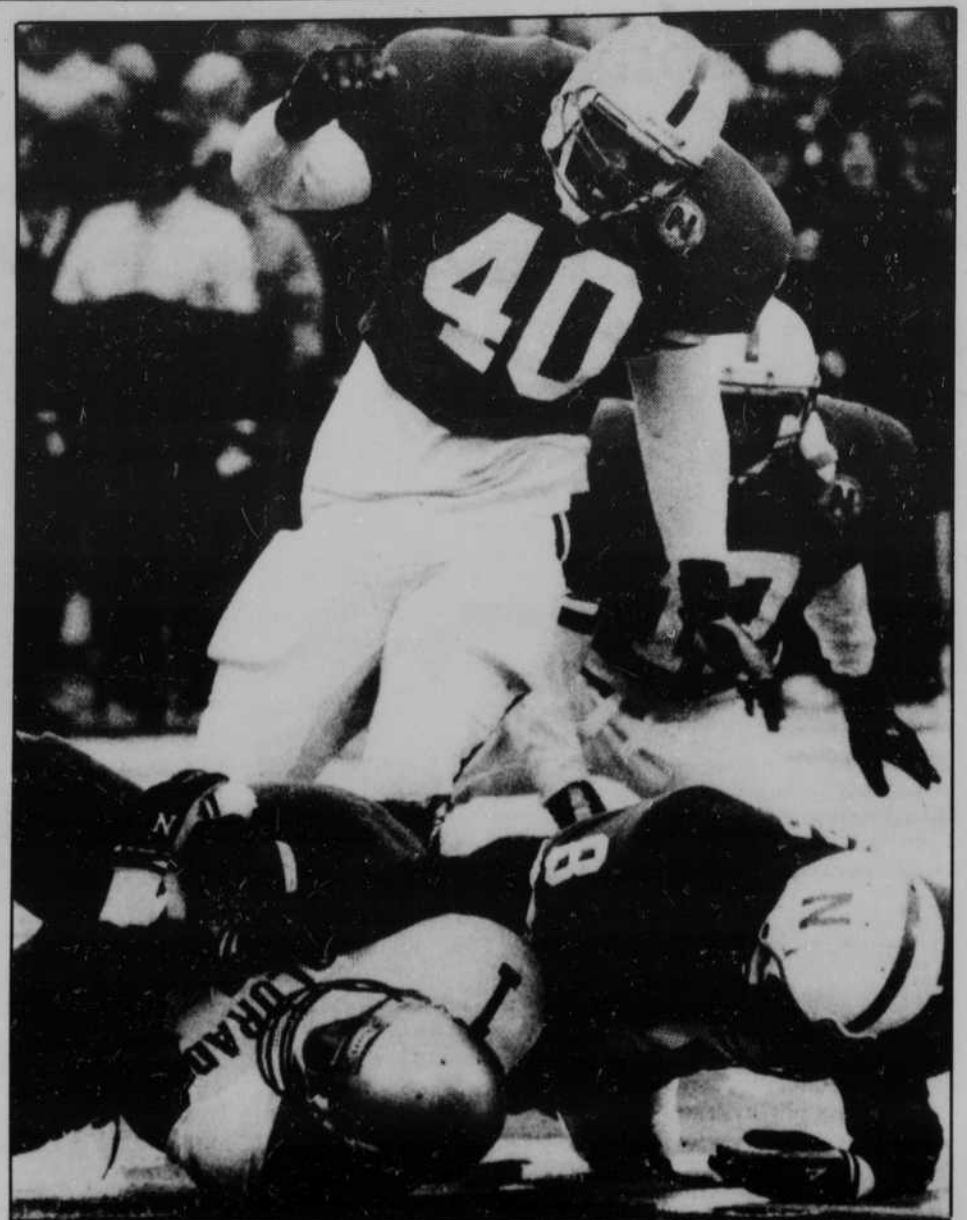
He also considers himself in charge of entertainment.

"When you swim five hours a day, it gets boring," he said. "You have to keep it fun. Just a lighthearted atmosphere helps it from being too serious."

Bell and Larson are the only four-year swimmers on the team and thus were likely candidates for captain. Garland, however, said he still is unsure how he was chosen. The Houston native said he hopes to be consistent in his events and lead by example.

Bell and Larson both said this is the most balanced team they have been on at Nebraska. And while this is his final year, Bell wants to instill a sense of long-term planning among the younger swimmers.

"(At) Texas they do a lot of redshirting and no one knows the swimmers until they are juniors or seniors and suddenly they have national contenders," he said. "I'd like to see us setting our sights two or three years down the road."



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Tyrone Byrd splashes Colorado running back Eric Bieniemy to the AstroTurf during last Saturday's 27-12 loss to the Buffaloes. Pat Tyrance (40) and Reggie Cooper are closing in to assist.

Huskers

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up their attacks, Cook said, led by outside hitters Janice Ninemire and Dana Frerker, who had nine and seven kills, respectively.

He said Iowa State setter Lisa Burke recorded four kills with a strategy Nebraska hasn't seen recently, dumping sets from the back row into the middle of the Husker defense.

But, Cook said, the Huskers never flinched.

"I just think our composure is really showing, with a lot of confidence together," he said. "We were like a boxer, taking their best shots and waiting for the knockout blow."

Cook said Hall, Eileen Shannon and Nikki Stricker played very well in delivering that final punch. Shannon had seven kills and Stricker had six. Nebraska compiled a .300 hitting percentage and held Iowa State to a .020 mark.

Cook said the Huskers had 12 serving errors, all in the second and third games, leading to the closeness of those games.

Men's and women's teams win bowling tournament

From Staff Reports

Both the University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's and women's bowling teams were victorious this weekend at the five-team Midstates Collegiate Bowling Tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

UNL won the women's division by defeating West Texas State in the final match 989-929. Wichita State was third, Illinois State fourth and Colorado State fifth. It was the UNL women's first team victory this season.

Kim Berke led UNL with a 204 average in 13 games. She also won the singles portion of the tournament with a 645 series.

The UNL men overcame a 191-pin deficit to defeat Wichita State in the final match. UNL claimed a 1,110-1,014 win in that match, and received a 100 point bonus to claim the title by five pins.

Paul Fleming led UNL with a 212 average, teammate Tom Kretzler averaged 211. Fleming also had the tournament's high game of 300, while Kretzler won the singles event with a 712 series.

Osborne

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who has a bruised ankle and sprained toe, and wingback Nate Turner who has a groin injury. Both missed most of Saturday's second half as well as practice Monday.

Free safety Tyrone Byrd who has a shoulder injury and backup strong safety Curtis Cotton who has a pulled muscle should be available to play against Kansas.

Strong safety Reggie Cooper, who repeatedly has been bothered by a pulled hamstring, has missed practice. Last week

the senior was announced one of 15 semifinalists for the Thorpe Award, presented annually to the nation's top defensive back. It is the second straight time he has been named a Thorpe semifinalist.

Osborne said freshman I-back Derek Brown, who separated his shoulder against Iowa State, will miss this Saturday's game, but upped his status to possible for the Nov. 23 game at Oklahoma.

Osborne said the Huskers have a good team, despite their loss to Colorado and subsequent plunge in the polls.

"That's something the players need to hear too," he said.

Artists

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tion as a whole, not just art, is his priority.

Cotton picked the sport.

"I enjoy football more," he said. "Well, game day I like football more — practice gets kind of boring."

Cotton, whose newfound love is sculpture, said he has tried to use the emotions from a game in a painting.

"When I do that it gets kind of

abstract," he said, "there are a lot of colors, a lot of things going on. I don't really like it."

Walker said he has always tried — mentally at least — to keep "football time" and "art time" separate.

Croel said he has difficulty keeping the game out of mind during class, but does not let one passion mix with another on his palette.

"I keep football super far away from my art," he said, saying he wouldn't know how to mix the two.

These men who so easily toss around

men of their own size admittedly have walked away from their art work in frustration. All three agree art is more difficult than football.

Walker is shy about his work. Even now, when he has been interviewed by the likes of Sports Illustrated and The New York Times for his football skills, he stays private about his art.

"I'm my worst critic," he said. "It doesn't matter what the professor gives me, I grade myself. Sometimes I think it should be lower. I ask my professors to give me a little harder chal-

lenge."

Most understand, he said, though they usually don't like his habit of sending finished work to the trash can.

"I look back at things I've done and don't like it," he said. "I'd rather do it again. I'm supposed to have a portfolio but I goof up so often I throw most things away."

But Croel said compliments motivate him. Attention also attracts Cotton, who last year sported a tall, spiked "high top" hair cut with his name shaved in back. This year he changed to a more regular cut with a blonde streak.

To Cotton, being an individual is important. It's not so much being different as being himself, he said, and art is part of that.

A down-to-earth part; Cotton doesn't go for modern art at all.

"I like realistic," he said, then shook his head. "Mike likes that abstract stuff."

Croel agreed.

"I'm a crazy person, I stick with the abstract," he said. "For a lot of my work, I'll take two or three things I like and blend them together."

Croel said his paintings are in demand from his teammates.

"Everybody wants me to make some kind of wall piece so they can put it in their house and cover up their stains," he said, adding that he may hold an art show of his work at the end of the season.

Croel said he often draws cartoons of players.

An example, he said, was the day sophomore Vernon Powell was greeted by a picture of himself in the locker room depicting the time he collided with a goal post in practice.

Another time, outside linebackers coach Tony Samuel walked into an afternoon meeting last year to find a caricature of himself in a dress on the chalkboard.

"I think I just laughed," Samuel said, trying to remember his reaction. "It was very good. The face, the eyes, looked just like mine."

Samuel spun to face the possible culprits among the laughing football players.

"That was when Kenny was an outside linebacker, too. It had to be him or Mike, they were our resident artists," he said.

Samuel fingered Croel, known for his practical jokes (on the day of the interview, Croel proudly announced that he had put Vaseline inside Cotton's chin strap).

"Every time something happens — no matter what it is, if people get a joke played on them, they're going blame me first," Croel said, shaking his head. "They just assume that I did it, no questions asked."

Walker recalled the caricature of the Samuel incident well. Why? Walker smiled.

"He picked the wrong one."

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