

# Democratic congressional candidates face stiff odds

■ Reynolds realizes his race is a lost cause, while Jacobsen thinks he still has a chance.

BY GEORGE GREEN

Two underdogs in Nebraska congressional contests view their uphill struggles differently.

Rollie Reynolds, the Democratic candidate in the 3rd Congressional District, and Alan Jacobsen, the Democratic candidate in the 1st Congressional District, have struggled against formidable foes since the primary election.

Reynolds is pitted against Republican candidate Tom Osborne, the legendary Husker football coach revered across Nebraska.

For months, Osborne's stardom has drowned Reynolds in the polls.

According to a recent copyrighted Omaha World Herald poll, nearly eight out of 10 voters said they would support Osborne.

Osborne has overwhelmed Reynolds in financial backing, too.

Through Sept. 30, Reynolds' total campaign contributions equaled only 1 percent of the money in Osborne's campaign chest.

Despite these challenges, Reynolds said he still wants to talk to people in the 3rd District about

he will continue talking about campaign issues.

"This is a call of duty," he said. But when the game is over, Reynolds said, he will support Osborne, who, he said, will win the election.

In contrast, Jacobsen said he is far from accepting defeat from Doug Bereuter, a Republican incumbent with 22 years of experience.

"I didn't join this race to lose," he said.

But, according to a September copyrighted Omaha-World Herald poll, Jacobsen had only 14 percent of support in his district.

Furthermore, no challenger has finished within 46,000 votes of Bereuter in his 10 bids for re-election.

These odds have prompted some newspapers to characterize

the contest as the David vs. Goliath battle, Jacobsen said.

Jacobsen said he doesn't mind the characterization, because he is more concerned with important issues than contest comparisons.

Nebraska farmers are struggling because Congress passed some bad bills, in particular the Freedom to Farm Act, which Bereuter supported, he said.

It's time to rewrite this legislation to help Nebraska farmers, he said.

Jacobsen said his message and issue stances are sound, but he said it has been a struggle to get his message out.

He'll continue to fight as long as Nebraska farmers need help, he said.

"I will do everything I can to win," he said.

**Election 2000**  
farming, families and other important issues.  
Most of the time, though, it's hard to get people to listen, he said.  
"Nobody seems to care," Reynolds said.  
Even if constituents aren't listening or caring, Reynolds said,

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