### NU keeps hoping it can make the grade

By Ed Sherman and Neil Milbert

The comparisons are inevitable—again.

Here is Duke University: A private institution with an excellent academic reputation that maintains rigid entrance standards and plays in one of the toughest basketball conferences in the country. Duke has reached the Final Four four times in the last five years.

Here is Northwestern University: A private institution with an excellent academic reputation that maintains rigid entrance standards and plays in one of the toughest basketball conferences in the country. Northwestern has suffered through six straight seasons of 2-16 records in the Big 10. For the Northwestern athletic department, the

comparisons conjure up jealousy or inspiration, depending on the point of view.

"On the one hand, it [Duke's success] isn't in our best interests, because we'll suffer by comparison," said Northwestern Athletic Director Bruce



#### Can NU win?

This is the first in a two-part series about the problems facing the troubled football and men's basketball programs at Northwestern

Corrie. "On the other hand, here's a school that shows you can have academic integrity and athletic excellence. Let's say none of those schools was successful. Then the question would be, What makes you think you can do it when nobody else has? Duke has been able to do it. I think we can, too."

Can Northwestern? The school seems to be terminally locked in the "We-can-do-it" stage. Results continue to suggest it can't.

Another year has come and gone, and at Northwestern the standings look painfully familiar. Coach Francis Peay's football team finished

last in the Big 10 with an 0-11 mark. The Wildcats won only 18 games in the 1980s, a period that included three winless seasons.

Expectations were high among Northwestern basketball fans this season. Key injuries, though, became a factor and the team never realized its potential. Coach Bill Foster's club played several top Big 10 teams tough at home, but the bottom line was a 9-19 season record and another lastplace finish in the conference. And the situation seems to be getting worse for the basketball team now that two players, including leading scorer Rex Walters, have decided to transfer. Two other players are said to be considering the same route.

Northwestern officials are quick to point out that the school has enjoyed great success in its minor sports programs. However, university President Arnold Weber is realistic about the situa-

"We do very well in the amateur sports," Weber said. "We don't do well in the semiprofes-See NU, pg. 10



Tribune photo by Bob Lange:

Northwestern basketball coach Bill Foster's team played several top Big 10 teams tough at home, but still finished last.

## Duke rolls, UNLV rocks into final

#### Devils drub a drooping Arkansas

By Skip Myslenski Chicago Tribune

DENVER—Too often, the press it uses to upset its opponents was no more bothersome than a gentle breeze. Too often, the style it likes to call "40 minutes of hell" was no warmer than a mild spring day.

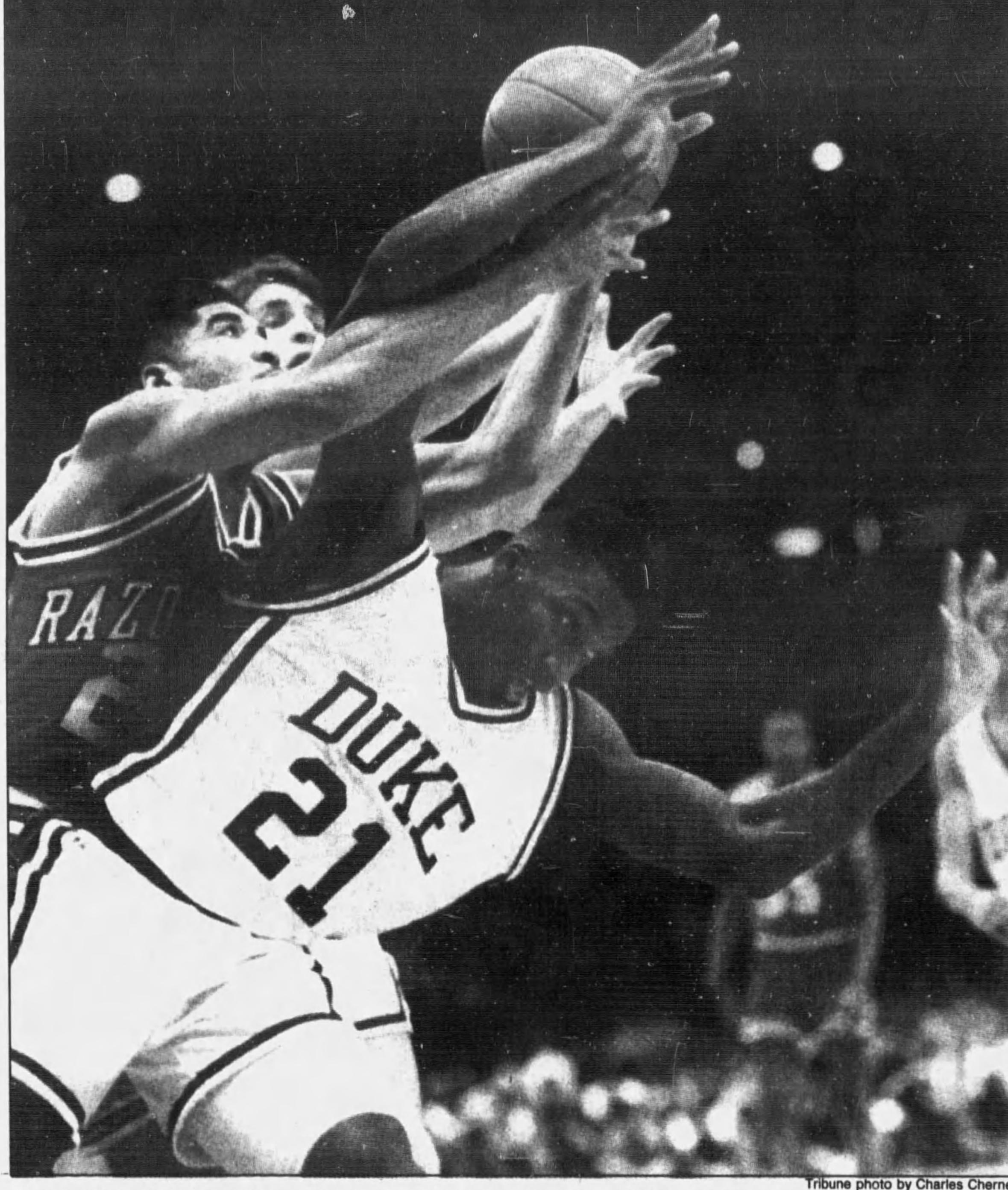
Arkansas, the proponent of that style, aims to wear its opponents down, but in their national semifinal with Duke Saturday, it was the Razorbacks who withered. Blue Devils, after all, know all about heat, and they used that familiarity for a convincing 97-83 victory and a spot in Monday's NCAA tournament final opposite Nevada-Las Vegas.

They reached that spot by beating the Razorbacks at their own game, by absorbing all the pressure the Razorbacks could apply and then throwing it back at them. They reached that spot by remaining upright during a furious six-minute Razorback run early in the second half, and by leaving the biggest of the Razorbacks rubberlegged at game's end.

The pictures then, in this game's last few minutes, told the story. There were the Razorbacks down 89-81 with 3:42 remaining, and they were too wasted to press. There were the Razorbacks down 6 with 2:16 remaining, and allowing Duke's Phil Henderson to drive unbothered for a layup.

Finally, there was Razorback coach Nolan Richardson-his team down 8 with 1:38 remaining—pulling pooped stars Todd Day (27 points) and Lee Mayberry (12 points) and waving the flag of surrender. "We were huffing and puffing and blowing at the end," he admitted later. "Normally, we

don't do that." The Duke stars, in contrast, were many and smiling. There was Henderson, who scored a gamehigh 28, held Mayberry to 6 of 18 from the field while still coming from the field and took on an exfreshman Bobby Hurley proved shaky against the press. "He," Richardson said, "stepped his game up a level with his passing



Tribune photo by Charles Cherney

Duke's Robert Brickey bends under the load of turday's NCAA semifinal. Brickey contributed 17 points to the Blue Devils' 97-83 victory. an Arkansas player and a teammate during Sa-

and handling of the press."

There was forward Robert Brickey, who grabbed 11 rebounds and scored 17 on 8-of-10 shooting back from the serious knee injury panded ballhandling role when he suffered Jan. 6. And there were Christian Laettner and Alaa Abdelnaby, the Blue Devils' inside forces who just dominated their Razorback counterparts.

Abdelnaby's line was 20 points and 5 rebounds in 27 minutes. Laettner's line was 19 points and 14 rebounds in 32 minutes. Duke's line was 55 points on layups or foul shots it received attempting layups. But for Arkansas starting center Mario Credit it was 5 points, 3 rebounds and 5 fouls in 19 minutes, and for his backup Oliver Miller it was 3 points, 6 rebounds and 5 fouls in 20 minutes.

"I thought our condition held up," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski would later say. "We think we're in pretty good condition, and it showed today."

The Blue Devils showed early Saturday they could break the Arkansas press, and at the same time, the Razorbacks showed just

See Duke, pg. 8

#### Rebels trip Georgia Tech

By Skip Myslenski Chicago Tribune

DENVER—For the first 20 minutes on Saturday night, the Georgia Tech trio of Dennis Scott, Kenny Anderson and Brian Oliver lived up to their nickname. Lethal Weapon 3, everyone knows that is what it is, and they shot their Yellow Jackets to a 53-46 halftime lead over Nevada-Las Vegas in their national semifinal

But through the second 20 minutes on Saturday night, an underrated Rebels' defense clogged the 3's muzzles, transformed them into harmless cap pistols and earned its team a 90-81 victory and a spot opposite Duke in Monday's title game.

"I don't know why, but we didn't play with our normal intensity in the first half," Rebels coach Jerry Tarkanian would say later. "I know the game meant a

lot to our kids."

"I was really pleased the way we played in the first half," Tech coach Bobby Cremins would say. "We came ready to play. We didn't back down. We showed Vegas we weren't afraid. Then, in the first five minutes of the second half, we lost our composure, Vegas got in our jocks and we got rattled a little bit."

The two halves of this game were just that stark; stark enough to be called two games in one, and this affair all pivoted on the opening nine minutes of the second half. Until then, it had been business as expected for the Tech trio, whose play and numbers over the first 20 minutes were spectacular.

With Vegas leading early, 21-12, Scott-with two threes and a layup—and Anderson—with an 18-footer and a layup—keyed a

See UNLV, pg. 8

#### Hurley makes a pit stop, revs up Duke to triumph

DENVER—With only five basketball minutes gone of what Arkansas boasts is "40 minutes of hell," Duke freshman point guard Bobby Hurley barely stopped to ask permission of Mike Krzyzewski to leave the arena.

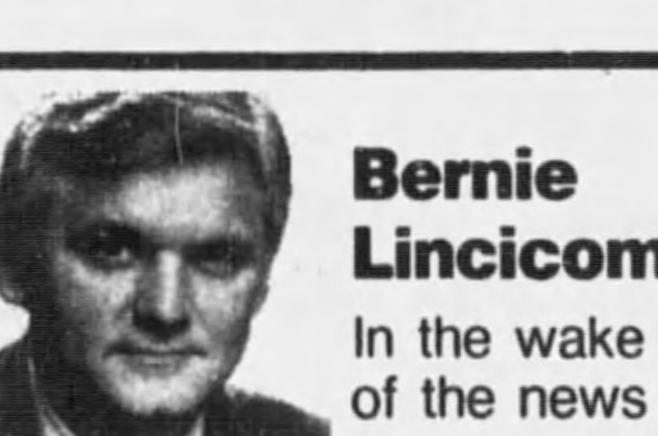
"I've got to go, Coach," Hurley And so Hurley did, disappear-

ing into the secret corridors of college basketball's most glorious afternoon. Why?

"He had, uh, can I say this?" Krzyzewski asked. "Diarrhea. Is there another word for it?"

Assured that there were several words but that this one was the most appropriate, Krzyzewski stood by his diagnosis and Hurley returned to direct Duke to the verge of still another national basketball championship.

"Not nerves," explained Hurley, anxious to explain that not Arkansas, not the moment, not the pressure of past Duke failures was responsible.



Bernie Lincicome In the wake

"Flu," Hurley said.

Any excuse is understandable. More experienced and more dynamic leaders than Hurley have found intestinal distress in the Final Four for Duke.

Maybe the problem has always been that they waited too long for relief.

This is the seventh Duke team to reach the last weekend of the season. This is the third Duke team in a row. None has won the last game.

"We do not belabor the bad things," said center Alaa Abdel-

The great irony of beating a better team than itself, by beating See Lincicome, pg. 8

#### PREPS PLUS



Tribune photo by Ed Wagner Joliet West's Lakesha Draine runs to victory in the 200 meters at the Stagg track meet. Prep coverage, Pages 19-22.

#### INSIDE

Complete baseball coverage The Rites of Spring, Jerome Holtzman and the latest on the Cubs and Sox. Pages 4-6.

Nicklaus leads senior tourney Jack Nicklaus, making his senior debut, fires a 67 in the second round. Page 12.

Jim Beam to Summer Squall Summer Squall's victory stamps him as a Kentucky Derby favorite. Page 17.

Spurs 107, Bucks 100 Nuggets 118, Knicks 115

Rockets 106, Wolves 98 Hornets 115, Kings 103

NHL

Leafs 6, Hawks 4 Devils 5, Red Wings 1 Whalers 3, Nordiques 2 Sabres 3, Penguins 2

Islanders 6, Flyers 2

Capitals 2, Rangers 1 Canucks 6, Kings 3 Bruins 2, Canadiens 2 N. Stars 6, Blues 3 Roundups, Page 15



Tribune photo by John Kuntz Ivan Lendl (above) falls, Michael Chang wins in the Volvo. Plus, a look at NU's Todd Martin. Rage 3.

#### Hawks work way to top under Keenan's prodding

The Blackhawks may be the first division winner in National Hockey League history to have traded their No. 1 goalie less than a month before wrapping up the championship.

Can you imagine the Boston Bruins Maple Leafs top Hawks doing the same with Reggie Lemelin or Andy Moog and still being considered a Stanley Cup contender? There is no way to picture Calgary going to the top of the Smythe Division weeks after peddling Mike Vernon.

But leave it to an organization that for years has been known as doddering and eccentric to find a unique way to baffle and confound its critics. Explaining the Hawks' success is sometimes as simple as discussing quantum physics.

But acquiring just their third Norris title in 10 years so soon after trading Alain Chevrier to Pittsburgh March 6 gives you one crucial insight into this emerging team: Coach Mike Keenan has created a monster that may be a living.

breathing force in the NHL for a while. A master of mind control through the time-honored process of butt kicking,

On the Blackhawks

Mike Kiley

Toronto wins 6-4, which means the Hawks will face Minnesota in their firstround Stanley Cup series. Page 15.

Keenan has erected a machine in two seasons in Chicago that can operate smoothly and effectively on interchangeable parts.

Denis Savard is an important cog and often makes the machine more frightening than most, but Keenan must also think Savard is a replaceable part because earlier this season he was asking Winnipeg about the possibility of trading him for Dale Hawerchuk.

When goalie Greg Millen was mobbed and hugged after the clinching victory Thursday night against Toronto, your

See Kiley, p2 14

## Northwestern scores high in low-profile sports

By Neil Milbert and Ed Sherman

A lot of coaches in the Big 10 probably would love to trade places with their counterparts at Northwestern:

The women's basketball coach at Illi-

The wrestling coach at Purdue.

The field hockey coach at Ohio State. In these and several other nonrevenue sports, Northwestern is either excelling or managing to stay competitive in the Big 10.

Academic standards for athletes engaged in the 15 programs are higher than they are for football and basketball players. At the same time, rival universities aren't making innumerable exceptions to convert high school sports stars with questionable classroom credentials and low Scholastic Aptitude Test scores into "student-athletes."

Undeniably, there's a side door in the admissions offices of many Division colleges that football and men's basketball players can slip through.

Except at Northwestern. And, not by coincidence, the Wildcats find themselves locked in last place in both highprofile sports.

Unfortunately for Northwestern, the nonrevenue sports get virtually no TV time and seldom are played up in print.

But from Athletic Director Bruce Corrie's point of view, they constitute a strong argument for keeping NU in the Big 10. "Why deny those athletes the right to be in one of the premier athletic conferences in the country?" asks

Corrie. "We have an obligation to them, too."

The portfolio of achievements compiled by athletes in the other sports during the past decade is impressive.

This school year several programs have achieved milestones.

The wrestling team finished fourth in the NCAA tournament. Jack Griffin was the national champion in the 118pound class, Brad Traviolia was second at 167, and two other wrestlers finished fourth, 190-pound Matt Case and 177pound Mike Funk.

The women's basketball team shared the Big 10 title with Purdue and was ranked 13th nationally in the final Associated Press poll.

Sophomore Todd Martin is the nation's top-ranked college tennis player. The women's field hockey team was third in the NCAA tournament.

The women's swimming team was 10th in the NCAA tournament. In most of these nonrevenue sports,

the accomplishment trend has been set, particularly in women's sports, which have been conducted under Big 10 auspices since 1980. Traditions are being

The softball team has never been worse than third in the Big 10, has won five conference titles and has made three appearances in the college world

Women's basketball coach Don Perrelli's starting lineup this year had two former Chicago suburban prep stars-

Michele Savage of Immaculate Heart of Mary and Nancy Kennelly of Maine West-teaming with outstanding athletes from New Jersey, Minnesota and Oregon. Next year's blue-chip recruits include Nancy's sister, Moira, and Patricia Babcock, who excelled in Indi-

ana at Culver Girls Academy. In baseball, NU has been part of the increasing trend in which colleges have become a major supplier of big-league talent. Last season three former Northwestern players made the majors: pitcher Marty Clary with Atlanta, outfielder Mike Huff with Los Angeles and catcher Joe Girardi with the Cubs.

A fourth NU product, pitcher Grady Hall, will be trying to make the Chicago scene this summer with the White Sox, who made him their first draft pick in 1988. Last year Hall was among 13 former Wildcats playing minor league

In golf, Northwestern's Jim Benepe took the Big 10 title in 1986 and won the Western Open in 1988 after going on the pro tour.

All of the successes in nonrevenue men's sports are significant in another sense. They show that there are athletes who can combine the demands imposed by constant practice and lots of travel with a relatively rigorous classroom load. In this respect, the wrestlers and baseball players are no different than their counterparts on the football field and basketball court.

"We don't recruit any borderline people," says wrestling coach Tim Cysewski. "The first thing we look at is

academics.

"Of our 25 wrestlers, about half are on full scholarship. The other half are on partial athletic scholarships or scholarships for their academic achieve-

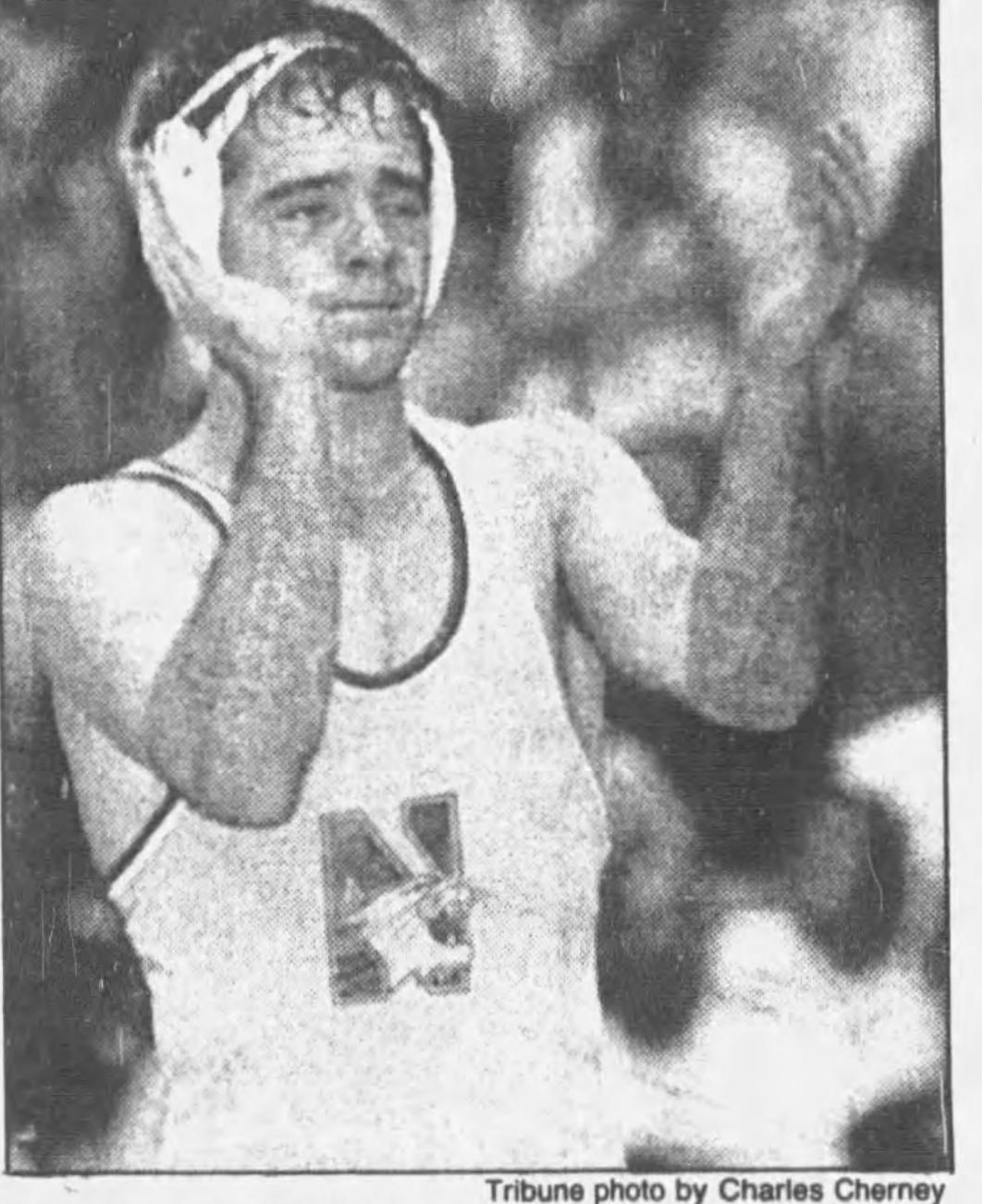
"As a team we have right around a 3.0 average [out of a possible 4.0]. When the grades came out for a lot of these kids, the excitement was just like when we finished fourth in the NCAA tournament.

"We have three starters on the All-Big 10 academic team: Mike Case has a 3.5 average, Neil Kolberg has a 3.36, and Mike Cheatham has a 3.2. Mike Funk is getting his degree in biomedical engineering. I told him, 'Clone about four of you and send them back to me at Northwestern.' "

Cysewski is a 1977 graduate of Iowa and a former assistant coach at the school where Dan Gable has built a Big 10 wrestling dynasty. Before becoming head coach this season, Cysewski spent eight years as a Northwestern assistant.

"Undoubtedly, it's tougher to recruit a kid here than at Iowa," he says. "We have to do our homework more, and we don't have much margin for error. We've butted heads with Iowa. Everybody wants a smart kid. I've found virtually all of the kids who do decide to come here are self-starters. They aren't intimidated by what's expected of them in the classroom.

"They want to do well in everything they do."



"I dreamed of winning the NCAAs," says NU's

## NCAA title not end of the line

Torn perhaps between modesty and honesty, Jack Griffin hesitated a second. Then he settled for the latter and answered the question.

Division I 118-pound wrestling title? "A lot of hard work," said the 5-foot-4-inch Northwestern senior from Stagg High School in

Palos Hills. "And a lot of heart."

The word "intensity," so overused in sports,

Listen, for example, to the way Griffin described the final moments before the start of his

"No one's your friend out there. Oh, no one wants another to be hurt. And after a match, you can be friendly. But in the Big 10 and the NCAA, when I reached that platform, I was

One might suspect that Griffin, whose normal weight is 142, has had enough of riding bikes to make weigh-ins and of riding emotional rollercoasters. He has been wrestling competitively since he was a 5th grader. His high school record was 137-16. His record at NU was 156-21-

But wrestling clamps a long-lasting grip upon its practitioners. Griffin knows there will be another Olympics in 1992, that he's ranked No. 4 at his weight among all college and post-collegiate wrestlers and that he scored a decisive 12-4 victory over a wrestler ranked ahead of

"Now I dream of wrestling in the Olympics. I'd like to find a position as a grad assistant. I could go to school and train toward 1992." Whether he makes the Olympics or not, Grif-

fin was the kingpin of a Wildcat team that finished fourth in the nation in last weekend's NCAA meet in College Park, Md. "We talked about that when we went out with

our parents and friends after the matches," he said. "I think it's phenomenal that we finished fourth with a five-man team. The three teams ahead of us and those a few places below us all had 8 or 10."

But Griffin was the Wildcats' star. Individual NCAA titles are rare at NU in any sport. Grif-(1960) and Mark Massery (1973).

Kraft, Massery and Griffin are three of only nine NU athletes to win individual NCAA titles

In track, William Moore won the pole vault in 1946-47 and Jim Golliday won three sprint titles in 1952 and '55. In swimming, Bob Amundsen won the 50-yard freestyle in 1942, Bill Heusner won the 1,500 freestyle in 1948 and '49 and Al Kuhn won the 100 freestyle in 1956. Fencer Edward McNamara won the NCAA foil event in 1941.

NCAA women's doubles title in tennis in 1987, and NU athletes won several NCAA individual titles in both swimming and track in the 1920s and '30s.

Griffin looks ahead to future Wildcat success in wrestling, even though he is leaving coach Tim Cysewski's program.

"We're not a flash-in-the-pan," Griffin said. private school that costs so much to attend." Griffin said he became used to practicing

three and four hours a day in morning and afternoon workouts. "The only downer definitely was getting down to weight," he said. Griffin takes a dim view of what passes for

from the pros' book to liven up the college

Jack Griffin, who accomplished that goal. "Now I dream of wrestling in the Olympics."

# for NU's Griffin

By Bill Jauss

Why did he think he had won the NCAA

Winning the title last weekend also required, Griffin might have added, lots of the frenzied emotion a warrior feels when he faces combat.

properly describes a zealot, such as Griffin, who has fasted and stayed up riding a bike the night before a weigh-in to shed 8 to 10 pounds to reach his weight.

NCAA title match against Arizona State's Zeke Jones, the favorite and one of only two wrestlers to beat Griffin in 42 matches this season. "Against Zeke, my adrenalin was rushing,"

Griffin said. "I was riled up, almost in a frenzy. A different kind of anger. An emotion almost like hate.

Griffin looks ahead to graduate school, to earning a master's degree in business administration and to entering what he calls "the real world" of business.

"I dreamed of winning the NCAAs," he said.

NU also received fine performances from Brad Traviolia, who finished second at 167 to Arizona State star Dan St. John; Mike Funk, who was fourth at 177; and Matt Case, who was fourth at 190.

fin is NU's fifth national wrestling champion, and its first in 17 years. He follows Ralph Lupson (1928), Jack Riley (1931, '32), Art Kraft

in the last 50 years.

Katrina Adams and Diane Donnelly won the

"We've been a Top 20 team and were in the Top 10 when we finished eighth last year. We've shown we can win by bringing bright kids into a

pro wrestling, but he'd still borrow one page

"We've been called the last 'pure sport,' and the oldest sport," said Griffin. "But the way it is now, it can be boring to watch. I think we'd attract more fans and have more popularity if we made rules changes to have more freestyle

action.

Continued from page 1

sional sports [football and basketball]." Those, however, are the two sports that shape the public's perception of athletics at Northwestern. Although Weber and other administrators maintain the school is committed to staying in the Big 10, the perennial question remains: Will the Wildcats ever be more than the league's doormat?

When asked how he answers critics who say a rebuilding job can't be done, Corrie bravely begins, "Well, they said man couldn't walk on the moon . . .

Turning around the Wildcats' basketball and football fortunes would seem to be as unfeasible today as a moonwalk did in the early 1960s. Northwestern has yet to figure out a formula that will enable it to overcome its two biggest obstacles: high academic standards and the lack of a winning tradition.

Former head basketball coach Tex Winter, now an assistant with the Bulls, summed up his experience at Northwestern: "You're not the cause [of

losing] as a coach, you're the victim." For evidence, Winter presents his 44-87 record during his tenure from 1974 through 1978. "When I came to Northwestern, I was the fourth active winningest coach," he said. "When I left [for Long Beach State], I was the

Academically, Northwestern clearly doesn't operate on a level playing field with other schools in the Big 10. "The pros are set up to equalize the level of competition," Weber said. "Intercollegiate sports are set up to reinforce the

differences." Adds Stanford Athletic Director Andy Geiger: "Northwestern and Stanford are at a disadvantage because they are trying to be true to their own academic standards. If everyone else was true to their own standards, Northwestern and Stanford would be more competitive."

Simply put, Northwestern chooses not to enroll a high percentage of marginal student-athletes who routinely get waved in at other Big 10 schools. Once in school, there are no places to hide these athletes at Northwestern. Because it is a small private school, it can't offer the diverse, and in many cases less demanding, curriculums found at the state institutions in the Big 10.

"We won't set up any phony education courses," said Weber, who is well aware that other schools do. "We won't give credit for billiards."

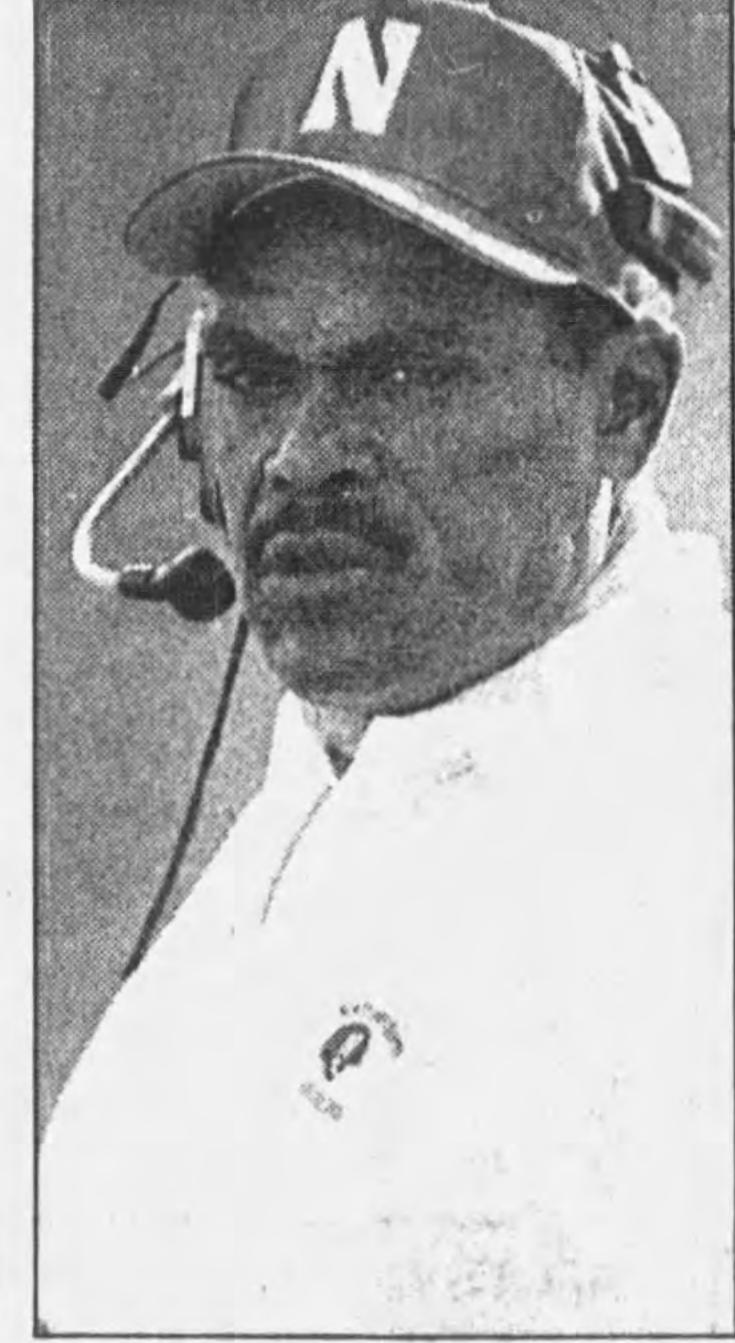
(Iowa came under criticism last year during the trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom when testimony revealed that running back Ronnie Harmon took courses in such subjects as billiards and watercoloring to remain eligible.)

And because it has tougher academic standards, Northwestern has to fish for prospects in a far shallower talent pool. Foster says only 20 to 25 percent of the top 100 basketball recruits in the country would be able to get into Northwestern. Because of its admissions criteria, the Wildcats rarely recruit in the Chicago Public League.

Northwestern never has accepted a Proposition 48 student-athlete: a prospect who fails to meet NCAA minimum requirements covering either his score on college entrance exams or his high school grade-point average. Schools such as Illinois admit those students, and though Michigan doesn't anymore, it continued the practice long enough to enroll Rumeal Robinson and Terry Mills, two Proposition 48 student-athletes who helped lead the Wolverines to the national basketball title in 1989.

Just making the NCAA grade, good enough for entrance to most sports-oriented schools, doesn't guarantee admission to Northwestern, where the student body averaged a score of 1,260 (out of 1,600) on the Scholastic Aptitude Test and where the majority of entering freshmen come from the top 5

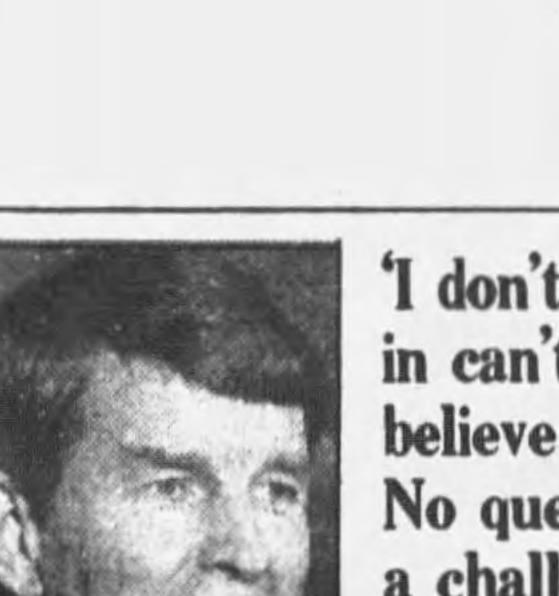
percent of their high school classes. "My last year at Northwestern, three

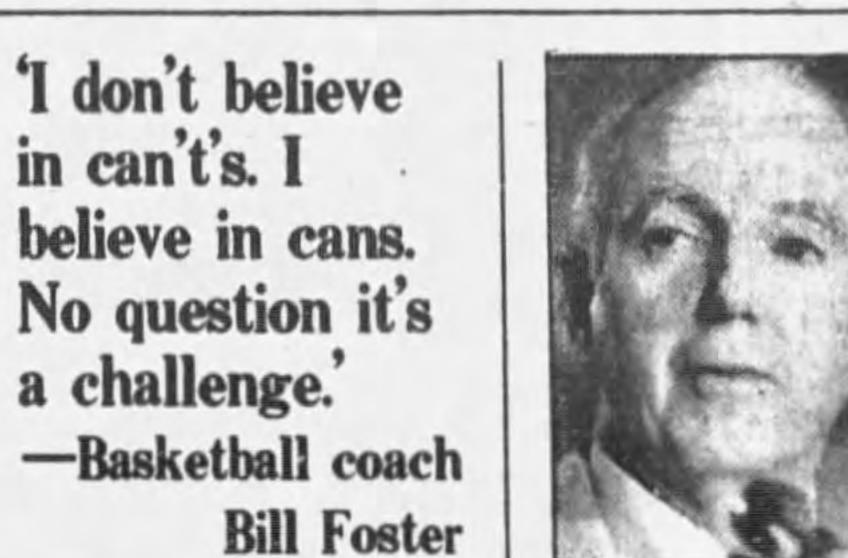


'Maybe I'm a dreamer, maybe I'm a fool, maybe I'm nuts, but I think we can get it done here.'

Northwestern. But I finally had to say my reputation as a coach was going down the tubes. When all is said and done, you're judged by wins and losses.' Former coach **Tex Winter** 

I loved







[NCAA chief] Dick Shultz told us: "Hang in there. You're doing things the right way." AD Bruce Corrie

-Football coach Francis Peay of the five kids starting on each of the other nine conference teams couldn't

ball coach Larry Glass, who departed in 1969 and is a high school teacher in Leland, Mich. Weber says Northwestern is flexible in its admissions procedures regarding athletes. He noted that the football and

have gotten into school at North-

western," said former Wildcat basket-

basketball teams have their share of players who are "just on the sunny side of Prop 48." Yet in the eyes of some former Northwestern coaches, the school needs to be even more flexible if the football

and basketball programs expect to be competitive. "During the time I was there, they were unbending," said Winter. "They

didn't give much leeway, if any." Former basketball assistant Jeff Bzdelik, an NU assistant under Rich Falk until 1986, remembers he wanted to recruit prep standouts Everette Stephens of Evanston and Melvin McCants of Mt. Carmel. Bzdelik says the admissions office reviewed each player's transcript and declined to accept them.

Both enjoyed fine careers at Purdue. "These two kids weren't Prop 48s," said Bzdelik, who is an assistant coach with the Washington Bullets in the National Basketball Association. "They were good students who were highly motivated, had drive and came from good family backgrounds. Yet we

couldn't even recruit them." Asked about Northwestern's flexibility regarding admission of athletes, Bzdelik said: "One day yes, and anothday no. They're never really consistent. They might go three or four years of saying no before they give you a yes. It's a lot of window dressing. It's frustrating for a coach."

Two former athletic department employees, who asked that their names not be used, made the same claim.

The admissions office is flexible, but within reason, says Carol Lunkenheimer, director of undergraduate admissions. She says the school uses several factors in determining a recruit's status. For an athlete who doesn't measure up to Northwestern's norm for incoming students, the admissions office will consider the quality of his high school and whether he tried to challenge himself in the classroom by pursuing honors courses. Essays filed with applications also merit serious consideration.

"If an athlete has a desire and makes an effort to challenge himself, it would mean a lot to us," Lunkenheimer said. 'In most cases, I'll bet if we pulled out the curriculum athletes who received good high school grades but didn't get into Northwestern], you'd

see there was a lack of effort to challenge oneself."

From his point of view, Peay says he

can live with the current academic standards. "I might be cavalier, but it's never been a problem for me," he said. "Once you understand the standards, you go from there."

Foster agrees. "Our student-athletes get challenged in the daytime in classroom, and then get challenged at night on the court," he said. "We want a guy coming in who is capable of meeting those challenges. We don't hide the fact that it takes a special person."

Are there enough of those special

Foster sighed. "I hope so," he said. Therein lies another serious problem for NU. Even if the student-athlete qualifies academically, persuading him to come to Northwestern still is a difficult task. The top student-athletes want an education, but they also want to win. Duke has won. Stanford has won. Northwestern hasn't. It's a huge deterrent when it comes time to get a pros-

pect's signature on that letter of intent. "A lack of tradition is a big problem," said former assistant Jim Brewer, now a scout with the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves. "We can't name-drop like other schools."

"When there's so much losing, it sort

of breeds on itself," Winter said. "It's very unfortunate." Two recent Northwestern recruiting losses illustrate the point. In 1985. Northwestern was very aggressive in its pursuit of Carbondale guard Stephen Bardo. The son of a university professor, Bardo would have been a perfect

school strong consideration, but only to a point. "I came from a program where I wasn't used to losing," said Bardo, who picked Illinois. "They haven't been successful. It's something I looked at."

catch for Northwestern. He gave the

This year, Northwestern thought it had a good shot at Marty Clark, an All-State selection from St. Joseph of Westchester. The Wildcats were high on Clark's list—until Duke and Notre Dame came calling. Clark chose Duke.

"If Marty didn't have those other schools in the picture, he might have gone to Northwestern," said St. Joseph coach Gene Pingatore. "Kids look for academics, but they are also looking at the basketball program. Northwestern has to overcome the fact that they are not a winner. I hate to say that, but it's a big factor."

The lack of tradition and the stringent academic standards have pushed the Wildcats out of the running for most of the nation's top recruits. The problemwis, Northwestern has to compete against Big 10 schools whose

traditions and less rigorous admission standards enable them to land those The Wildcats' losing record this sea-

son was a factor in Rex Walters' recent

decision to leave the school. The soph-

omore told Corrie that he wanted to

play in the NCAA tournament, and he

prize prospects.

didn't see it happening at North-"Northwestern is playing against first-round draft picks every night," Bzdelik said. "Northwestern is playing with third- and fourth-round picks. Logic tells you that they're not going

Not having a chance to win isn't fair to the athletes, Bzdelik added.

"Northwestern exploits athletes in a different way," he said. "You can't enjoy athletics if you're always losing. When you go 2-16, 2-16, 2-16, that's not fun. For the student to enjoy the athletic experience, he must have a

chance to win." Corrie counters that incoming athletes are well aware of the situation

at Northwestern. "I don't think anyone comes in here with blinders on," Corrie said. "We're talking to intelligent young people who we think can succeed. We're trying to

present a positive realism." However, the reality for Northwestern football and basketball isn't very positive. Facilities have been upgraded, and the school is enjoying wider radio and television exposure, important factors in attracting the attention of high school prospects. Stronger efforts are being made to retain assistant coaches. In Foster and Peay, the Wildcats have two well-respected college coaches.

Yet the Wildcats must continue to swim against the tide in the Big 10, where in most instances the academic standards for football and basketball players are different from those at Northwestern.

Asked why he would want to remain

in a conference where the academic

standards of other schools are beneath

Northwestern's, Weber said an institu-

tion sometimes has to make compromises to compete at this level of competition. "It's hard to be a purist in everything you do," he said. Weber, though, remains optimistic that Northwestern can overcome its problems. "We're going to do it right.

It's hard for a purist to survive. A man

of principle can." As always, Northwestern clings to its standards—and its hopes. After all, there are precedents. Duke is in the Final Four again, and man did walk on

the moon. Monday: Can NU find a solution?