

UMR's ROESLER NEEDS COMMUNITY'S HELP TO PLAY

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Ralph Roesler, of Rolla, has a chance to fulfill a dream. However, to do so he is in need of the community's help.

Roesler, a UMR student, has been chosen to be the starting goalie for the United States water polo team in this Summer's World Games for the Deaf, which will be held the first two weeks of July at Los Angeles, Calif.

To compete in the World Games for the Deaf, Roesler needs financial help. Around \$2,000 is needed to make the trip. So far, he has \$635. The money is needed to cover travel costs and training costs, as the team will train in Colorado for three weeks in June.

UMR swimming coach Bob Pease will be the coach of the United States water polo team in the Olympic Games and he obviously wants his top netminder-Roesler.

Legally deaf since birth, Roesler is an excellent lip-reader and usually uses extremely sensitive hearing aids. A grad student in petroleum engineering at UMR, Roesler has completed on the UMR water polo club in the past four seasons. "He might be the best goalie we've had," Pease said of Roesler. "He's a good, good goalie, a very aggressive player."

Pease feels Roesler's aggressiveness in the game is one of his keys. Asked if he's aggressive to the point of being dirty, Roesler just smiles. "I try to get my team going, I guess, by my aggressiveness," Roesler said. "I do the best I can. Try to give 100 percent all the time."

While during his career at UMR, in water polo as well as in the classroom, Roesler says his hearing problem hasn't hampered his performance.

"When I take off my hearing aids, I can hear almost nothing," he said. "But most of the time it is not a problem."

Playing in the World Games for the Deaf will highlight Roesler's athletic career. He gave thoughts of trying out for the regular United States Olympic water polo team in 1980 and 1984 but "got sidetracked."

But without the money, he won't go.

"There is some possibility I may not go," he said.

"If I can't raise the money, I won't go."

Roesler, who also has a brother and two sisters who are deaf, said the sooner he finds out if he can raise the money the better because of the training schedule.

"I'm not in real good shape right now," he said. "It takes a lot of time, effort and mental preparation. And because I haven't gotten the money, and may not go, I haven't gotten into it-try to avoid a letdown. Within the next two weeks, I'll start training to get in decent shape. But you've got to keep at it all the time."

A goalie generally wears a scuba-diving weight belt, that weighs 20 to 25 pounds, to try and keep in top shape. Along with other drills."

There will be nine teams in the World Games for the Deaf Water Polo Tournament this year, including defending champion Hungary, the Soviet Union, Italy and West Germany. Italy and West Germany finished second and third respectively in the last games, four years ago.

"Hungary is the favorite for the gold and it's hard to tell how we'll do," Roesler said. "(The United States) just lost out on the bronze medal last time."

Getting a chance to play for Pease will also be a pleasure, according to Roesler.

"I'll be able to get advice from him in training the next few months," Roesler said of Pease. "He's been coaching me the past five years and he's an outstanding coach. It'll make a difference for the Olympic Team."