

Sports

Incoming Freshmen Can Participate In Any Of Nine Slated Frosh Sports

Incoming Nebraska freshmen have the opportunity to participate in the University's full slate of nine frosh sports. Although freshmen are not eligible to participate in varsity athletics because of a Big Seven conference ruling, each of the freshman sports provide coaching and competition in addition to training for upperclass participation.

The four major sports—football, basketball, track, and baseball—maintain separate squads which compete against each other and the varsity. The five minor sports stress individual performance with the result that the freshmen work out with the upperclassmen except in conference competition.

Football is the only sport in which the freshmen may compete with other frosh teams in the conference. The Husker yearlings were all victorious this year. Both the Iowa State and Kansas State first year footballers fell to the Cornhuskers frosh.

Freshmen cagers see action in inter-squad games prior to each Nebraska home game during the winter. They play on the varsity court, and this enables them to become accustomed to college standards in length of playing time, size of court, and rules.

First year track competitors see action throughout the entire year. In the fall the freshmen thinclads train and compete with the varsity members in the cross country run. Freshmen track is run on a postal meet basis with other schools. Indoor track facilities permit the continuance of preparation, and in the spring work is resumed outdoors. Competition is held with the varsity periodically.

Baseball also forms freshmen

Football Head Required As Elliott Resigns

After a brief one year reign as head football coach here at the University of Nebraska, Pete Elliott announced his resignation. The announcement came as a result of some hush-hush dealings with two other Pacific Coast Conference teams at the NCAA coaches meeting in St. Louis this last winter.

The two Pacific teams involved were Washington University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Elliott was reportedly offered \$17,500 and a long term contract to coach at the Washington school. Just as it seemed that Pete would turn down the offer and remain here in Huskerland, California made him another offer, which he accepted.

Elliott's decision to leave Nebraska was one that disappointed many of his numerous fans. No other coach in post-war history of Nebraska football had so ingratiated himself with the statewide alumni body. It was this friendship that started a new recruiting program that has already started to bear fruit.

Elliott's 1956 squad played the toughest schedule that the Huskers have encountered in many years. Despite losses to Orange Bowl champ Colorado, Cotton Bowl winner Baylor, Gator Bowl participant Pittsburgh, and the best in the nation, Oklahoma, the Elliottmen finished the season with a very respectable four won-six lost record for the campaign.

teams. This enables the high school ballplayer to become acquainted with the higher level of competition that is found in college ball. The baseball team starts practice before the weather actually permits by making use of its equipment in the field house.

The minor sports, golf and tennis, use freshmen in both spring and fall. This enables them to gain more experience than if they practiced only during the spring when the sport is in season. Swimming, wrestlings, and gymnastics are active during the winter months.

The only requirement for par-

ticipating in the freshmen athletic program is passing the physical examination. After an interval of tryouts, any necessary cuts are made. All coaches try to cut as few men as possible in order to develop any possible talent.

Freshmen athletes receive many of the advantages of their varsity counterparts. This includes athletic scholarships, the use of all training and athletic facilities, and the right to sell concessions at University athletic events.

At the end of the year, promising freshmen are awarded a freshmen numeral, which is the same as a letter in the varsity level.

Intramural Sports For Every Student

Although it is not possible for everyone to participate in athletics at the varsity level, the University of Nebraska has attempted to set up an intramural sports program to satisfy the athletic desires of every student. Every major sport has been included in the program, and a wide choice in the minor sports enable the student to participate in either group or individual athletics.

The intramural program is strictly voluntary. All activities are competitive and non-compulsory. The intramural organization has the activity from football to ping-pong to fulfill the student's desires.

Every student at the University of Nebraska, barring varsity competitors, is eligible to participate in the program unless he fails to abide by the rules.

The intramural program is organized in three major divisions. This includes the fraternity division the Selleck Hall division, and the Independent division. The fraternity division consists of all the students affiliated with a social fraternity and all students living in co-op houses. The Selleck Hall division includes those students living in the Selleck Quadrangle. The Independent Division is for all other students. This includes pro-

fessional and honorary fraternities, professional colleges, departmental and denominational groups, and ROTC teams.

Although some students may be in more than one of the categories, he may not participate for more than one team in any given sport. The details and registration are handled by the individual intramural managers.

Awards and trophies are given to the division champions, and they meet to determine the "All University" champ. This winner receives special notice and additional awards. All star teams are chosen from the competitors in each major sport. This enables a particularly outstanding athlete to receive the individual attention his play has merited.

Intramural competition begins soon after school begins. Football is the first sport on the athletic agenda, and, for the remainder of the fall, the "A" and "B" teams take part in a double-elimination tournament. Other fall sports are water basketball, bowling, rifle matches, tennis, golf and the cross country run.

This is followed in the winter by basketball, volleyball, badminton, and ping-pong. Baseball and track feature the spring athletic schedule.

Jennings Head Football Coach

Bill Jennings, the man who stepped out of coaching retirement to become the Nebraska backfield coach under Pete Elliott a year ago, is the 24th head football coach in the school's history. Immediately following the announcement that Elliott had accepted the head mentor's post at California, Athletic Director Bill Orwig confirmed the fact that Jennings was the man who would guide the Husker's football fortunes this fall.

Jennings' promotion is probably one of the most widely heralded appointments in the history of Cornhusker football. From the top of the administration to the players themselves, there has been nothing but praise for the new head coach. Chancellor Clifford Hardin said:

"I have every confidence in the ability and character of Coach Jennings. This change, I feel, is being made without serious damage or loss of time to our football program, and, in this instance, that is the important thing."

The players themselves feel the same way. Don Kampe, a guard from Red Oak, Iowa, said of Jennings, "I can't think of a better man to replace Pete. He knows the personnel."

Jennings had this to say about his appointment as head coach, "I am happy to have this opportunity to coach at the University of Nebraska. Our somewhat brief experience with the school administration and the people of Ne-

braska has convinced me that the job can be done. The support of both the school and the residents of the state has been really fine."

When asked about the type of offense the Cornhuskers would use this fall, Jennings commented, "We will stick to the basic split-T and try to become as sound fundamentally as possible."

Jennings mentioned that the frills would come after the fundamentals were acquired. He is a firm believer in fundamentals, so the boys will undoubtedly be in top shape to make the fancy aspects of the split-T work.

The 38 year-old Jennings, who was hired for 12 thousand dollars



Bill Jennings

Courtesy Lincoln Star

per year, will bring a great deal of experience and know-how to his position as head coach. He played end on his Norman, Oklahoma, high school football team, and went on to become a star at the University of Oklahoma where he played end and wingback for the Sooners in 1938-'39-'40. In 1940 he was selected to play in the traditional East-West Shrine game in which he was a stand-out performer.

NU Sports Season To Be Successful

By DICK BASOCO

There is a time in every athletic program when it is ripe for review. This is such a time at the University of Nebraska. Never before have so many varsity sports shown so much possibility of returning the Cornhuskers to their former national standing.

The man responsible for much of the brightness in the Husker athletic future is Athletic Director Bill Orwig. He has drawn together a group of personable, efficient, and competent men who have formed a strong coaching staff. Orwig has helped the public relations too, which is fundamentally important from the player-procurement angle. If the Cornhusker squads of the future are successful, many a hat should be tipped in the direction of Bill Orwig.

Football, king of Huskerland's athletic interests, is definitely on the upward trend. This upward movement was started by Bill Glassford and continued by Pete Elliott. Elliott's surprise resignation has brought his backfield coach, Bill Jennings, to the head coach's job. Through no fault of his own, Jennings might face a problem because of this situation this fall. Because of the Glassford-Elliott-Jennings succession to the gridiron top spot, the seniors have played under three different coaches in as many years. This is bound to have an effect on the players. No two coaches have the same style, and the repeated re-adaptation of the players made necessary by the changes could lead to a certain amount of disorganization. Jennings will certainly not have a loyalty problem on his hands though. There is no question of his ability, and many players have expressed the opinion that, if Elliott had to go, Nebraska could not have made a better choice than Jennings. It is very likely that Nebraska football fortunes may progress more rapidly under Jennings than they would have under his predecessor because he has a wealth of experience, something Elliott was a little short of although he made up for it through sheer ability.

Basketball, under the watchful eye of coach Jerry Bush, took a turn for the better last winter. This upward trend will undoubtedly continue. Although Rex "The Horse" Eckwall will be sorely missed, a host of veterans and bright sophomore prospects will be on hand to pound the hardwoods for the Scarlet and Cream.

Tony Sharpe's baseball team is always a conference crown contender. Sharpe, however, will have a job on his hands in the spring, for many a valuable senior on last year's ball club will be missed. As is true throughout the entire athletic program, replacements are plentiful and talented. The pitching staff is a good one, and this could solve one of Sharpe's headaches of the past. The Huskers, never known to be poor hitters, have Gene Torzon to head a list of good sluggers. Look for the Cornhuskers to be at the top of the list when the spring sport is over.

Track, long a weak spot at Nebraska, could turn out to be the Husker's forte this year. Frank Sevine has done a remarkable job in the short time he has been here. Not only has he brought more Nebraska prep thinclads to Lincoln, but he has succeeded in bringing some of the outstanding athletes from all over the country to Huskerland. Keith Gardner, who ran in the 1956 Olympics for his native country Jamaica, is the headline attraction. If Benny Dillard, who injured his leg last fall in football, can get into shape, Nebraska has a dangerous one-two potential in the sprints.

Minor sports, tennis, golf, wrestling, and swimming, are all improving. Wrestling alone is at the bottom of the Big Seven, but the Nebraska grunt and groan artists are out for revenge. Experience, the vital factor in wrestling, was lacking in the past, but a number of one and two year veterans will be on hand to aid Nebraska's bid for the Big Seven title.

All in all, this should be Nebraska's year to shine in athletics.



FOOTBALL is an important sport at the University.