

Arts & Entertainment



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Frank Sinatra performs Thursday in the Devaney Sports Center.



Buddy Rich

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Ol' Blue Eyes croons classics at Devaney

By Jeff Goodwin

Frank Sinatra performed at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Thursday night and proved that, gray hair notwithstanding, he still has the ability to captivate a crowd.

This was fortunate for the audience of 11,000 as the other two performances — by the Buddy Rich Orchestra and comedian Tom Dreesen — were less than satisfying.

The problem with the Rich Orchestra, which opened the show, was not their playing, which was excellent, but rather the brevity of their performance. The band performed only four songs before the show broke for intermission.

Review

Dreesen's performance, which followed the intermission, was definitely the low-point of the night. His jokes were old, stale, racist and sexist. And, even worse, they weren't funny. Dreesen would be a lot better off playing the Holiday Inn in Anchorage, Ala.

Then the MAN came on. Ol' Blue Eyes. Mia Farrow's ex. The leader of the Rat Pack. And so on and so on.

It was apparent that Sinatra had the mostly middle and older aged crowd in his pocket. As he swung into "I've Got the World on a String," a man in front of me clenched his fist and said, more to himself than anyone else, "Yeah, tell 'em Frankie."

Sinatra followed that with a string of favorites including such classics as, "I Got You Under my Skin" and "Come Rain or Come Shine."

About halfway through his performance, Sinatra went into a five minute monologue on what numskulls the Democratic presidential candidates are ("Their theme song is 'Send in the Clowns'") and what a terrific guy Ronald Reagan is.

Continued on Page 11