

# HOMECOMING 1961



## the DAILY NEBRASKAN

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### What? 1912 Homecoming Mixer Features Band Concert, Fireworks

By Sue Hovik

Alums who will return to dear old NU for Homecoming this year will find that many of their time-honored traditions have fallen by the way over the years and that some new traditions have been added.

Since the first homecoming in 1912, University officials, the Corn Cobs, and Tassels have changed many events to make each Homecoming the biggest and best.

Homecoming chairmen of house displays would be rather surprised and happy if they saw the cost that was previously allowed for decorations. These maximum limits have gone from \$25, to \$40, \$50, \$125, \$150 and \$250. During World War II the price was set at \$7.

For the music-minded and party-going students, there have been parties and dances for Homecoming in the Union ballroom, Coliseum, and now Pershing auditorium. Tickets could be obtained for prices which varied over the years from 50 cents in 1938, \$1.50 in 1945 to the present \$3.50 per couple.

During the latter part of the 1930's, dance goers received tickets at a special rate if they bought them from Tassels or Corn Cobs instead of waiting until they got to the dance.

In 1915 the Homecoming mixer held in Grant Memorial consisted of the dance, fireworks, and a band concert. In 1918, the University Players put on the "Pied Piper of Hamelin" for Homecoming enthusiasts.

The Kansas Jayhawks were also the football opponents in 1921 and Cornhusker fans carried out the theme by carrying a cardboard Jayhawk onto the field, slicing him in two with an ax wielded by a Cornhusker naturally, putting him in a coffin, and carrying him off the field to the "Funeral March."

Memorial Stadium was dedicated at the 1923 Homecoming ceremonies and that year also initiated the beginning of homecoming displays.

In 1930 University students held a torchlight parade and an enormous bonfire which was 40 feet across the bottom and 50 feet high. Business firms contributed the material plus 50 gallons of crude oil to keep the fire burning. News pictures were taken and sent over the United States.

Alums who were students at Nebraska in 1937 will find many differences from their Homecoming. Nebraska was in the Big Six conference at that time. The cornerstone of the Student Union was laid at the ceremonies of the day. Although there wasn't a Homecoming queen, the Kosmet Klub show in the morning added to the festivities.

1938 didn't see a Homecoming queen either, but one of the main attractions was the drawing at the dance for a football autographed by the football squad and coach.

Questionable

The houses were asked to keep away from "questionable displays" by the Innocents who had revived the display idea in 1934. In the afternoon they held a free matinee dance, and the evening was filled with the dance and carnival concessions and booths.

The pep rally the night before the game was tagged the "pre-ambule to victory" in 1940. Students voted on eleven candidates at the dance. The sophomores and freshmen held their traditional tug-of-war. If the freshmen won, they could discard their beanies for good. If they lost, they wore them until the first snowfall.

Alums came on special trains from Denver and Missouri for the 1941 Homecoming. They saw a bonfire made up of seven truck loads of boxes and papers and danced at the post-game dance matinees which was especially for them and visitors.

Due to the war in 1942, the Innocents sponsored a scrap contest for the trophies. They also allowed a \$5 banner to be made on the theme of the war effort or the game. The amount of scrap and originality of the banner won the prize. Innocents urged the students to kill two birds, Axis and Indiana, with scrap instead of the proverbial stone. The government ordered no bonfires, but fireworks were provided in their place.

\$7 Display Limit

In 1943 house decorations, with a \$7 limit, were placed under the control of the War Council because there was only one Innocent. The restrictions on decorations were that members must do all the work themselves and must use material at hand. Second place prizes were in the form of \$5 in war stamps which were given to the student foundation. University stu-

dents didn't know if they would have cheerleaders for the game or not because they weren't chosen until a week before the game. Only 135 civilian tickets were available for the dance.

Students in 1945 revived the card section and pep and enthusiasm returned to the campus. They held a parade, rally, dance, tug-of-war, the burning of the Jayhawk, and between-class rallies in several buildings. The band formed the pins of the winners of the previous year's house decorations at the half-time show.

1946 was typical of many years in that Tassels chose the Homecoming queen candidates. A limit of \$15 was also placed on floats for that year.

The Tassels and Corn Cobs in 1948 thought up some peppy and enthusiastic slogans for creating spirit. Pompons were given to all who sat in the card section. "Slam the Uclans" was printed on car bumpers, and "Burma Shave" type signs were put all over the campus in groups of four.

The Carillon Tower was dedicated at the Homecoming ceremonies of 1949 and students had enough spirit to warrant two pep rallies.

In 1952, sororities and fraternities donated the money allotted for Homecoming to the polo fund.

Yes, times have changed, but we are now in the middle of a bigger and better Homecoming which may be used 30 years from now as an example of how times have changed.

### NU Homecoming Wins Recalled

By Dave Wohlfarth

In the minds of 35,000 Nebraska football fans as they troop to Memorial Stadium tomorrow will be a little thing, a memory. This memory reminds the Husker fans that it could happen again . . .

The scene is set. Homecoming, with all its gala activities, has hit the campus again, and Nebraska will be heavy underdogs in their gridiron clash with Kansas tomorrow, but to the Scarlet fans this may be a good omen.

The NU faithful recall just two short years ago when, Nebraska shocked the football world with a 25-21 homecoming upset of Oklahoma. The loss ended the Sooners' conference win string at 74 and was the first stumbling block in the collapse of the great Sooner football dynasty, the domination of the (then) Big Seven Conference.

That Saturday in late October of 1959 will live forever in the memories of the fans and players and is certainly one of the great Nebraska victories in its football history.

Heroes

Many recall the game heroes—there were many and some who played a vital role in the win are now playing their last year for the Huskers—and the rally the next day when Chancellor Clifford Hardin called off Monday classes.

Nebraska is in a similar situation this fall. The Huskers, who have won only two games thus far, will take on their most frequent Homecoming rival, Kansas. In the last 24 years, Kansas has won four of nine meetings at Scarlet Homecomings. One game was tied.

Nebraska fans also recall the heart-stopping basketball victories against the highly-favored Jayhawks which Coach Jerry Bush's cage teams have produced in the last four years. This upset-itus has not spread into football games with the Kansans, however, as Nebraska has lost four straight to the Jayhawks.

The Huskers have not sprung their annual big upset of the year yet this fall and this could be the occasion. The Cornhuskers under the guidance of Coach Bill Jennings, have produced some national shockers in the last four years. Nebraska has upset Penn State, Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Oklahoma (twice), Texas and Army.

10 of 24

Nebraska has won ten of its last 24 Homecomings with one game being tied in the period of 1937-1960.

The first Homecoming win on record was a 1919 win over Kansas. Nebraska's coach was Henry Schulte, who piloted his team to the Missouri Valley Championship. The game was played at the State Fair Grounds.

In 1924 the Husker-Jayhawk game was rated a toss-up. In this game, the first Homecoming contest to be played in the then newly constructed Memorial Stadium, Nebraska scored twice in the final quarter to win 13-6.

The longest Cornhusker Homecoming winning streak was from 1929 to 1937 with wins over Kansas (four times) and Kansas State (four times).

The biggest Homecoming margin was recorded in 1941 when the Huskers beat Missouri 38-0. Nebraska scored its greatest number of points in the 1950 tilt when Bobby Reynolds scored 23 points to lead the Scarlet to a 42-34 win over Oregon State.

Nebraska's longest losing Homecoming streak was a four year drouth from 1945 to 1949. The Huskers dropped their '57 and '58 games by decisive scores and were whitewashed by Missouri last year 28-0.

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