

High School Tournaments

# Post-Season Tournaments Have Become Big Business

**By DAVE WOHLFARTH**

How would you like to make \$50,000 in three weeks? That's a mighty sizeable return for such a short-term period, yet that's the amount of money the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) pocketed from last year's post-season high school basketball tournaments. The NSAA expected to clear a similar profit this year, according to C. C. Thompson, executive secretary of the NSAA.

The \$50,000 income represents only one phase of the big business of the Nebraska prep district, regional and state cage tournaments. Consider these figures. Last year, an estimated 180,000 Nebraskans attended 444 district, play-off and state tournament games. The NSAA reported that the total receipts from all these cage festivals were approximately \$170,000, including \$59,000 from the state tournament alone.

State tournament receipts don't represent pure profit because, just as in a large corporation, there are plenty of costs to pay. Thompson calculated the total costs for the state tournament last year at about \$19,000, leaving the NSAA approximately a \$40,000 portion from this annual "March madness."

Those figures represent big business in anybody's book. **444 Tournaments**

This phenomenon of big business, prep basketball style, includes the total number of 444 tournaments games now played in the post-season scramble for the roundball titles. There is a total of 416 games prior to the state cage championship and 28 more in the four classes during this week's final hectic firing for the state crowns.

The most games a team can play en route to a state championship is eight. This occurs in Classes C and D when a team must win three district games and two play-off tilts even to qualify for the state tourney. Maximum play under the present eight-team state tournament setup is three games. It's a long, hard grind with three weeks of almost solid basketball for

a team to cop a State Class C or D championship trophy.

TOTAL NUMBER OF GAMES		District	Regional	State T.
Class A	8 districts—3 games each	24	0	7 31
Class B	7 districts—7 games each	49	0	7 63
Class C	10 districts—7 games each	70	112 8 play-offs—1-8	7 127
Class D	12 districts—6 games each	72	192 8 play-offs—3-24	7 223
<b>Total for All Classes</b>		<b>315</b>		<b>32 28 444</b>

The total number of admissions for the whole series of these tournaments—starting at the district level and progressing through the regional to the state—was about 180,000 for 1962, Thompson estimated.

Of this total number, 65,000 fans went through the turnstiles at the state tourney alone. This figure includes the 37,000 rooters who saw the Class A games at the University of Nebraska Coliseum; the 16,000 who watched Class B teams battle it out at Pershing Auditorium; and the 6,000 apiece at both the Class C and D tourney locations—the Public Schools Activities Building (PSAB) and Southeast High School.

The remaining 115,000 head count came from the 64 district and 16 play-off tournaments in the state. This is an average of 1,400 fans for each tourney, or 300 people for each session. Thompson, after this average district and play-off attendance was determined, termed the 180,000 total figure "a conservative estimate."

The NSAA executive said that last year's estimate represents the largest attendance in the 53-year history of the prep carnivals. He attributed the increase in attendance to three reasons:

1. Increased interest.
2. The economic conditions today are such that people can afford to go to the tourney games.
3. There are better high school gymnasium facilities, providing larger seating capacities and increased comfort for the fans.

"The attendance at the state tournament is dependent to a great extent, but not entirely, on the weather," Thompson added.

The total gate receipts from all the tournaments last year was \$170,998.61. This figure is almost identical to the \$170,

682.21 total in 1961 but was the biggest gate receipt total since the tournament process was originated in 1911, according to Thompson.

TOTAL GATE RECEIPTS		1962 SUMMARY
Class A Districts	24	\$ 24,766.83
Class B Districts	49	26,124.94
Class C Districts	70	21,933.74
Class D Districts	72	26,149.08
Class C Play-offs	112	4,381.10
Class D Play-offs	192	11,995.24
State Tournament		58,517.38
<b>Total Gate Receipts</b>		<b>\$170,998.61</b>

"This figure (\$170,998.61) was larger than we anticipated," he said, pointing out that there seemed to be a large amount of interest last year because of the teams that were participating.

### In the Black

The tourneys have always been financially in the black "to the best of my knowledge," said Thompson, who has served as the NSAA's executive secretary since 1955.

How did 1962's gate receipts compare with past years? In 1936, for example, the total receipts from all district, play-off and state sessions were approximately \$11,000.

The rate of increase is not as great as it seems (\$170,000 compared to \$11,000), however, Thompson warned. "The cost of admission per individual has doubled in that length of time. People who used to travel at 52 cents a piece, now don't bat an eyelash at \$1."

Taking the doubling factor into consideration, a readjusted 1936 figure at today's prices might show a \$22,000 intake, still far below last year's \$170,000 total.

The \$59,000 receipts from the state tourney more than offset the \$19,000 costs which the NSAA paid to run off the three-day fireworks. Thompson said the state tourney costs include: \$300 for eight trophies; \$100 for five basketballs; \$11,500 for team refunds—which covers team traveling, lodging and food expenses; \$2,000 for officials, including 16 referees and numerous scorers and timers; \$3,050 for other personnel, including custodians, ticket sellers, ticket takers and ramp guards; \$1,000 for rent for the playing sites other than the Coliseum, which is rent-free; and miscellaneous, \$600, including printing costs.

The NSAA draws only a small percentage of money from the district and regional tourneys as most of the re-



**MASS CHEERING CONFUSION**—The Herman cheering section vigorously supports their team amid the thousands of high school tournament supporters.

ceipts go to the competing schools. Likewise, the NSAA office handles very few of the costs involved in running these sessions.

### Organization's Expenses

Specifically, the organization does pay for the district trophies, which cost \$32 for each tourney in the 64 districts or about a \$2,000 expense, Thompson said. He also estimated the cost of officials for the districts at about \$13,000 and balls at \$1,300, but these are paid for by the schools in the districts. Likewise, the team refunds are awarded by the district or regional officials in charge.

If a district or playoff tourney results in a financial gain, then the teams get their expenses paid and divide what's left, he said. There is a definite schedule of division followed and the host school is allowed an added share to pay the rent costs.

"We take enough money from the districts to pay for the trophies, and after all expenses are paid, we share in the bonus. We drew about \$10,000 from the 64 districts and 16 play-offs last year," explained the man charged with the responsibility of directing the prep tourney process.

Last year the NSAA cleared \$10,000 from the district and regional tourneys and about \$40,000 from the state meet. Therefore, the NSAA netted approximately \$50,000 from these three weeks of post-season high school basketball contests.

Where does this money go? The money goes to pay the NSAA's operational expenses and also finances the organization's other athletics and activities. In addition to these uses, the remaining money is put into a building fund, Thompson said.

"A few years ago we decided to attempt to build up a 'nest egg' so that we could operate at least one year without a cent of income," he commented.

### Nest Egg Stands

Today, the NSAA's original \$40,000 goal has been topped and its "nest egg" fund now stands at \$70,000.

"This year we're actually trying not to take as much," Thompson said. He explained that it was a good idea for the NSAA to show a loss due to the abundance of adverse criticism the group receives for making too much money. "But, it's not spent foolishly," he cautioned. Actually, the prep cage

tourneys are the only money-makers for the NSAA, an organization which oversees interschool competition in all athletics and practically all other activities.

With the exception of football, the NSAA operates state championships in baseball, golf, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, wrestling, cross-country, track and basketball.

The biggest loser, speaking in dollar and cents terms, is the district and state track tourneys, which cost the NSAA \$10,000 to operate in 1962.

### Only Basketball Profit

There is no profit derived from any of the sports besides basketball, so the income from the cage sport pays for the rest of the competitive events. The NSAA must also pay for its overhead, salaries, office expenses and supplies to schools from the basketball funds, Thompson said.

A sidelight feature which also illustrates the big business of the tournaments is the concessions. The schools handle their own concessions at the district and play-off tourneys and the concession rights in the state tournament go to the four respective playing sites.

Everything from aspirin to crackerjacks is sold at the Coliseum sessions by University of Nebraska athletes, who earned a total of \$1,839.08 for selling 75,000 items last year, according to L. F. (Pop) Klein, NU concessions director.

The rest of the sales commission—\$11,575.85 in 1962—went toward Husker grant-in-aid funds, Klein said.

Last year's state tourney was the biggest for concession sales in the Coliseum. It also showed the largest gate receipts total and greatest profit to the NSAA.

The post-season prep tournaments as a whole had bigger total gate receipts, were seen by more people, and earned a greater income than ever before.

This represents a business which is on the upswing—it's attracting more people and making a bigger profit yearly. Thompson anticipates just as big, if not a bigger, tournament showing this year, indicating that the three weeks of cage carnivals are a big business with a rosy outlook for its stockholders—Nebraska's high schools, which are the members of the NSAA.

# Voters Haven't Requested Change

(continued from page 1)

In his book, *One House for Two*, and as late as one year ago when the School of Journalism published its depth report on the unicameral, Breckenridge supported the present system.

To illustrate his present position, Breckenridge referred to a speech which he delivered to the Mississippi Valley Deans on May 6.

In that talk, he said, "I have about concluded, after observing the Nebraska Legislature for nearly seventeen years, that to have a stronger state government than we now have, one which is more vigorous, one which can provide settling of issues at a more accelerated rate and on a stronger basis, we should have party government in the legislature, and until we do we will move along at a much slower pace than the people have a right to expect."

**Decision Delay**  
Breckenridge added that some public issues have had a long delay in being decided because of this non-partisan status.

Among the many senators who oppose a change is Sen. Terry Carpenter. Carpenter said recently that if Nebraska would elect a governor who was a leader, the interest in a partisan legislature would die down.

Hugo Srb, longtime Clerk of the Legislature, and a member of the old bicameral, maintains that a partisan unicameral would "put too much power in the hands of two small a number." Srb said that for this reason, he

would favor a return to two houses if the partisan system is introduced.

"There is nothing partisan about the things that are important to the state, such as schools and highways," Srb said. A two-party legislature would lead to less cooperation, more political patronage, and a large turnover in state and legislative employees, he added.

Foster stated last week that partisanship exists, and that it was responsible for the Government and Military Affairs Committee killing L.B. 12 only a few hours after voting to send it to the floor.

One of the beneficial effects of a change, according to Foster, would be to force the budget bill out of committee earlier in the session. The need for the two parties to take a stand on the spending measure would force this action, he said.

### Legislative Puppet

"The way it is now, there has been set up a powerful committee of eight members, and the Legislature acts as a puppet," Foster said. He said that under a party system, the senators on the committee would have to keep the members of their party informed, and much of the present secrecy would be done away with.

Foster proposed a rules change which would have forced the Budget Committee

to release the budget earlier in the session, but the measure was killed by the Rules Committee.

Regent Val Peterson has publicly given support to a partisan legislature on grounds that Nebraska's government would function much more effectively.

Other supporters of the partisan system are Democratic National Committeeman Bernard Boyle and State Chairman Russell Hanson, along with Republican National Committeeman John Ross and State Chairman Robert Denney.

The 33 senators who voted for L.B. 52 have, by the wording of the resolution, expressed their opinion that "the election of Legislators on a partisan basis would be the first step in the destruction of the Unicameral Legislature and would cause a return of the two house system."

The resolution says that the present system "has worked very well in pin-pointing the responsibility directly to the individual member in each Legislative District;" and that "there have been no requests by the rank and file of the voters of Nebraska to change from a non-partisan Legislature."

### During the Summer—

# Burns, Exhaustion Biggest Dangers

By ANN SHUMAN

Sunburn and heat exhaustion—those are the two summer sun dangers, said Dr. Lyle H. Nelson of the University Student Health Center.

Anyone who is water skiing should be especially careful, he said not to expose themselves to the sun for more than a few hours.

Most of the time sunburn can be seen with your eyes and watering of the eyes accompanies the burn, Dr. Nelson said.

Burn can be prevented by applying suntan oil, and a light burn can be helped by applying a non-greasy gland type ointment.

But, he cautioned, sometimes second degree burns can occur and regular hospital care is needed.

A change in the body salt causes heat exhaustion, he explained. Salt intake should increase during the summer, especially if one works outside.

The early symptoms of heat exhaustion are dizziness, exhaustion, heavy sweating and a heavy heartbeat. This

will lead to passing out, he said.

If one can recognize the symptoms, he should go to the nearest shade and sit down.

To avoid heat exhaustion in the first place, he said, sleep when it is hot and work when it is cool, such as in the early morning or late evening.

Heat exhaustion cases are less frequent than sunburn cases here on campus, he said, as students are not usually working hard in the sun.

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### Dr. Nye To Discuss Music Problems

Nothing disturbs a music teacher more than when her star boy tenor changes practically overnight into a baritone.

This is one of the hazards that Dr. Robert E. Nye, professor of music education at the School of Music of the University of Oregon, will discuss at a three-day symposium tomorrow, Thursday and Friday (July 10, 11, 12) in the Nebraska Union.

Sponsored by the University's music department, Dr. Nye will direct his discussions to the various problems in Junior High music, such as changing voices, program ideas, evaluation of song books, adolescent behaviour in music classes, and the like.

Author of a number of college textbooks, Dr. Nye will lecture tomorrow in Room 232 at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. each of the three days.

One of his books, "Music in the Elementary School," is widely used throughout the U.S. He is currently on the editorial board of the "Journal of Research in Music Education," and for the past six years has been a member of the Music Education Research Council.

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