

# the N crowd

by George Kaufman

## A Minor Thing

What makes a minor sport minor?

This is a question that has been kicking around for a long time and perhaps should be discussed since a lot of dust and tears are annually raised over its lamentable answer.

As venerable a writer as the Daily Nebraskan's own Mick Lowe recently explored the issue of why a sport like football draws rabid, foaming mobs of 65,000 and wrestling is lucky to get the student manager to show up.

Unfortunately for his readers, Mick never did answer his own question of why and instead wound up voicing the perennial cry of apathy and the pleading "Why won't you people please go out and support our sweating wrestlers."

Perhaps, even more unfortunately, there is no answer to the question that can be pointed at and burnt at the stake as the culprit.

## It's Own Making

But I can't help but think that prime among the many reasons that a sport becomes a "minor" one is that it makes itself a major or minor sport.

Big Red fans don't like to admit it, but it is a fact that football was not king at Nebraska from the early fifties until the Devaney era. The seats in the old stadium were not fought and haggled over like so many tickets to heaven each fall; nor did anyone have midsummer dreams of where the Bowl game would be this season. Fans and players alike seem to have been rather indifferent about the whole thing.

But Bob Devaney arrived, was told by those above that NU now wanted back into the football profits, and developed a program here which has made Nebraska and Bob Devaney nationally known.

The fact that this was done at the expense of most of the other sports here is generally not mentioned. Or else the response is that profits from football help all the sports.

## Football Breeds

This is, of course, not true. Profits from football help football. Witness the expansion of Memorial Stadium — not well-planned and carefully-financed expansion, but frantic expansion beared to glean the new-found willingness to purchase a seat while the fanatic willingness lasts.

Witness the new press box at Memorial Stadium. Not just a press box, but a "luxury" press box with special accommodations for well-heeled patrons of the team who were willing to gamble a great deal of money that Husker football games will be worth watching in ten years.

Do we have a new track, which was virtually ruined as a spectator accommodation by the stadium expansion? No. Do we have a new coliseum or fieldhouse to replace the pathetically inadequate barn built during the dark ages? No.

So once a course has been decided upon, tradition seems to set in and we are stuck with a "major" sport which is placed above all else and to which growth in other sports is sacrificed.

Kansas decided a while ago to be a track and basketball power, and they are. Oklahoma and Oklahoma State decided to be powers in wrestling and both have been for as long as most can remember.

## Oklahoma Frustrating

Oklahoma seems to have the frustrating ability to be quite fluid in its emphasis and carry on the most balanced sports program in the Big Eight and perhaps in the nation with the exception of such sports-crazy schools as UCLA and Southern Cal.

Another factor is naturally the appeal a sport has for the fans — its aesthetic appeal, if you will. But the question again arises: Why do the Oklahoma schools and Iowa State draw basketball crowds for wrestling and wrestling crowds for basketball?

It is obvious to those few who have attended both that a Nebraska basketball game offers much more of a pageant than does a Nebraska wrestling meet. In the basketball game, there is the pre-game warmup, the bands, the cheerleaders and the halftime entertainment. In the wrestling meet, the participants sort of drag out onto the floor and go at it without much ado. Occasionally a fan will cough or something, but this is rare.

## Man-To-Man

But to sports purists, a wrestling match offers just as much excitement as does a basketball game, concerned only with man-to-man confrontation as opposed to a team contest.

Gymnastics is probably the most aesthetically pleasing and "pure" sport, yet has to be classified as a minor sport mainly because of the attendance.

Going by that criteria, baseball here would have to be called minor, but most people do not consider it so when the phrase "minor" sport is mentioned.

Then there are sports which deserve to be considered minor, such as golf, cross country and tennis. They are not designed to be spectator sports, except perhaps when the very top men in the sport are performing.

Golf and tennis are both extremely popular recreational sports in America, but not popular as a college sport.

So, put these factors all together, stir in a little imagination, add your own opinions and take the entire thing with a grain of salt.

## Let Me Know

Better yet, go see a minor sport for yourself in the next few weeks, decide why it isn't popular and drop me a line. And remember — Always Be Prepared To Go To The Rail.

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Hamburger.



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**Chubbyville**  
the "BURGER CENTER" of Lincoln

JUST MINUTES AWAY

## —Against Houston Cougars—

# Baseballers win, tie

As of today, the Nebraska baseball team has nothing but good news to report from their stay in Houston.

The Huskers followed an 11-inning 2-2 tie Monday night with a 3-0 victory Tuesday afternoon to take a 1-0-1 lead in the six-game series and bring smiles to Cornhusker fans back in chilly Nebraska.

The Cougars were national runners-up last year in the College World Series in Omaha.

The Huskers rapped junior righty Jim Sparkman for all three runs Tuesday afternoon before he was relieved by Ron Stasny, also a right-handed junior, who carried the highest ERA of the returning Cougar hurlers at 13.50 in two games.

In the second inning, Tom Tidball drew a walk, Mike Churchich was safe on an error and a Tidball was then brought across on a single by Adrian Fiala.

In the third, fellow football player Dana Stephenson reached base on an error and was advanced on a ground out. He was then tallied by Ron Johnette who singled.

In the fifth, Monday's pitcher Al Furby started things again with a walk, Johnette again helped with a single and scored on another Stephenson one-baser.

Keith Winter was credited with the win and was relieved in the eighth by senior veteran Charlie Green.

In Monday afternoon's contest, which was called at then end of 11 because of darkness, the Huskers had to fight back

twice after being down as Phil Rose, Cougar right fielder, singled in center fielder Trey Williams, in the first frame.

Mike Churchich then put the Huskers back in the game in the third as he collected an RBI. But Wayne Westphall drove in Houston All-American outfielder Tom Paciorek in the fourth for a 2-1 lead.

Nebraska deadlocked the issue again in the eighth as Alex Walter reached first on an error, stole second and went to third on a bad throw. He then came across to score on a sacrifice by Johnette.

Nebraska is now 1-0-1 while Houston, having gotten in some play in that Southern Sun, stands 4-6-1.

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# Dents win intramural handball

The Dents were the winners of the intramural handball championships capturing the team trophy as well as the singles and doubles championships.

Gary Toogood captured the singles medal and teamed with Gary McMullen to grab the doubles medals too.

Six flight winners received certificates. They were Toogood, Dents; McMullen, Dents; Greg Kemist, Sigma Phi Epsilon; Tom Malovoz, Sigma Phi Epsilon; Mike Rierden, Phi Delta Theta and Bill Strateman, Phi Delta Theta.

Flight winners in the doubles were Toogood and McMullen, Dents; Kemist and Malovoz, Sigma Phi Epsilon; Rierden and Bob Griego, Phi Delta Theta; Dick Baldwin and Strateman, Phi Delta Theta; Jim Deitemeyer and Terry Hancock, Beta Theta Pi and Steve Roberts and Ken Ferrarini, Phi Delta Theta.

The 137 individuals from the 25 teams participated in a total of 117 matches.

Team	Points	Forfeits
Dents	180	0
Phi Delta Theta	164	0
Sigma Phi Epsilon	149	0
Sigma Chi	77	1
Beta Theta Pi	68	0
Phi Kappa Phi	45	0
Law School	34	0
Phi Gamma Delta	33	2
Delta Tau Delta	33	1
Glenn House	30	0
Harper II	29	1
Alpha Tau Omega	20	2
Theta Xi	11	4
Delta Upsilon	10	0
Governor's House	10	0
Other Teams competing	Forfeits	3
Sig. Alpha Epsilon		
Harper VI		
Abel IX		
Abel VII		
Navy ROTC		

## Gridded 'serious'

Nebraska football player Keith Hayward remains in critical condition at Lincoln Hospital with serious injuries received in a Sunday morning auto accident.

He has been unconscious since the wreck, in which he was a passenger in a car which struck a tree.

# Kansas faces St. Peters in NIT semifinal contest

Big Eight runner-up Kansas fought its way into the semifinals of the National Invitational Tournament in New York Monday after playing catch-up with a cold-shooting Villanova team for a 55-49 quarterfinals triumph.

They will face fast-breaking St. Peters College, who Monday night dismantled top-seeded Duke, 100-71, to win an advance.

The Jayhawks were trailing, 31-25, at halftime and were having their troubles with a speedy Villanova zone de-

fense. But they threw out a top weapon of their own after intermission well known to their Big Eight opponents — a tall, tight zone wall.

It did its job as KU jumped out to a 36-31 lead and hung on the rest of the way.

Jo Jo White broke the Villanova defense with his slick ball handling and Roger Bohnenstiel topped the balanced scoring with 15 points. Big Dave Nash took care of rebounding problems at his post position and collected 13 points. White wound up with 10.

# Intramural sports include even horseshoes

Those interested in intramural swimming, wrestling and horseshoes are warned by the Intramurals Department that the deadline for entering is approaching.

## Horseshoes

The 1968 horseshoes competition will be for doubles team, playing in a single elimination tourney. Each organization may enter six doubles teams, each match consisting of a best of three games.

Any eligible under University rules may enter. Matches will be played just east of the Coliseum, next to the Military Sciences Building.

Official intramurals medals will be awarded to all champions and a trophy will go to the winning team.

There is no entry fee for horseshoes, and entries are due at 102 Physical Education Building not later than Thursday, March 28, 5 p.m.

Shoes will be available at the Men's P.E. building equipment cage.

The fraternity and all-University defending champion is Phi Delta Theta, Ag Men from Ag College, Gus II from Sellick, Custer House from Cather, Able IV from Abel and the Aggies from Independents. Vaughn Helberg and Gary Glendy are defending doubles champs.

## Wrestling

Organizations may enter as

## NU Foundation receives bequests

The University of Nebraska Foundation has received bequests totaling \$109,600 from three Californians for an endowed scholarship fund to benefit University students studying languages.

The bequests came from three sisters, Grace, Laura, and Nona Bridge, who are graduates of the University. The income from their bequests will support the "Grace I. Bridge Scholarships" according to Harry R. Haynie, Foundation president.

## CAMPUS UNDERGROUND

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