

PHOTO BY DAN LADELY

Nebraska defensive end Dennis Gutzman (89) attempts to bat down a Ray Groth pass during the Husker season opener against Wyoming. No batted passes will occur this weekend as Nebraska has a week off before meeting the Big Eight's leading offensive team, the Kansas Jayhawks next Saturday at Lincoln.

With basketball, softball . . .

As intramural program grows, playing space presents problem

Editor's Note —This is the second in a five-part series on the University's intramural department.

by Mark Gordon
Sports Editor

Intramural basketball and softball are faced with the same ill that plagues the entire University intramural program — a lack of playing space.

Basketball, with more teams than any other activity, and softball, with nearly 100 teams, both need more room quickly or the program will suffer serious curtailments. University intramural director Joel Meier, said.

BASKETBALL has seen a rapid jump in teams as just four years ago, 127 teams participated while last year 189 squads were entered. This winter Meier estimates between 170 and 180 teams will be entered in the program.

He said if the basketball program is to be continued in its present form, four additional courts must be obtained within the near future.

Teams currently are entered in leagues of eight or nine teams for a round robin schedule. Then the top four teams in each league are matched against each other in a double elimination tournament for the All-University championship.

Meier said most teams are now able to play eight or nine games during the extended regular season and at least two extra games if they rank in the top four league positions.

is getting away from us." "We needed four more courts five years ago," Meier said. "We have so many teams in basketball that we can't offer any other activities during the basketball season."

He said a limited volleyball tournament is held after basketball season and a small badminton tourney is staged in the spring. But during the basketball season the Men's Physical Education Building is only open from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. daily for recreational and free-play.

"**WE'RE PLAYING** on every available court Monday through Friday," the intramural director said, "so the only times teams can really practice is on Saturdays and Sundays."

With space at a premium, games must be scheduled as late as 9:30 p.m. during week days, which Meier said is too late to begin intramural games.

The department currently has six courts available for daily use — two each at the Men's Physical Education Building and at the Coliseum, and one court at both the East Campus Union and University High School.

High School.

The Men's P.E. Building and the University High School gymnasium are both available for intramural games from 5 to 10:30 nightly. The Coliseum is open from 6 until 10:30 p.m., and the East Campus Union gymnasium can be used three days a week from 5 until 10:30 p.m.

"This year with the University High gym open a little longer, we will have additional time to put in one game more a night there," Meier said. "But we still have to look to the future for expansion."

Softball has already been hampered with a cutback in games since the four East campus diamonds are pressed to the ultimate limit, he said.

LAST SEASON the intramural department was forced to schedule softball as a single elimination tourney rather than a double elimination process which had been used previously for years.

"We completely outgrew the program last year; and even with the single elimina-

tion, we were barely able to complete the season before the semester ended," he said.

Since the softball program is probably shorter on playing fields than any other intramural activity, Meier said eight lighted fields would adequately allow the softball program to be expanded into a football type setup.

"Then we could play in leagues like football does with seven or eight teams," he said.

He added that fast-pitch softball could probably also be scheduled if additional fields with lights could be installed. He said it is anticipated that three lighted

softball fields will be installed on the recreational area behind Abel Hall on Vine Street in the near future.

"**WE WOULD** have never been able to offer softball or football if it hadn't been for the increased light we had the past two years with the extra daylight hours," he added.

He said when several locations are scheduled to hold games, a supervisor must be hired to attend all games. The department lacks both the revenue and the manpower to provide a supervisor at several locations.

Next—The intramural program's strong points

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University students to participate in tennis clinic to benefit Biafra

The University Committee to Keep Biafrans Alive will receive a boost from a tennis clinic and exhibition next Tuesday, Oct. 8.

Rudolph Nah Roberts, coach and captain of the Liberian Davis Cup team, will conduct the event which is open to all University students and faculty.

He said the exhibition and clinic is being held to raise money to buy food for starving Biafrans who are dying from starvation at an estimated 8,000 persons daily.

The events will be held at the University tennis courts between the Coliseum and Men's Physical Education building at 3:30 p.m.

The program, held in con-

junction with the University campaign drive to keep Biafrans alive, will help beginners as well as polished veteran tennis players, Roberts said.

'Big Ten' pigskin lead changes

The Kansas Jayhawks and the Southern California Trojans can claim the early "Big Ten lead" after defeating two Big Ten members in football.

Kansas blasted Illinois at Champaign 47-7, and then opened at Lawrence by defeating Indiana 38-20. The Jayhawks play New Mexico at home this Saturday.

The Trojans opened with a come-from-behind 29-20 victory over Minnesota and then downed Northwestern at Evanston 24-7.

A special exhibition match will feature Roberts against William Roehrs, top-ranked player on the University tennis squad.

"But unless we get some more courts, we won't be able to offer this kind of program for many more years," he said. "The number of teams

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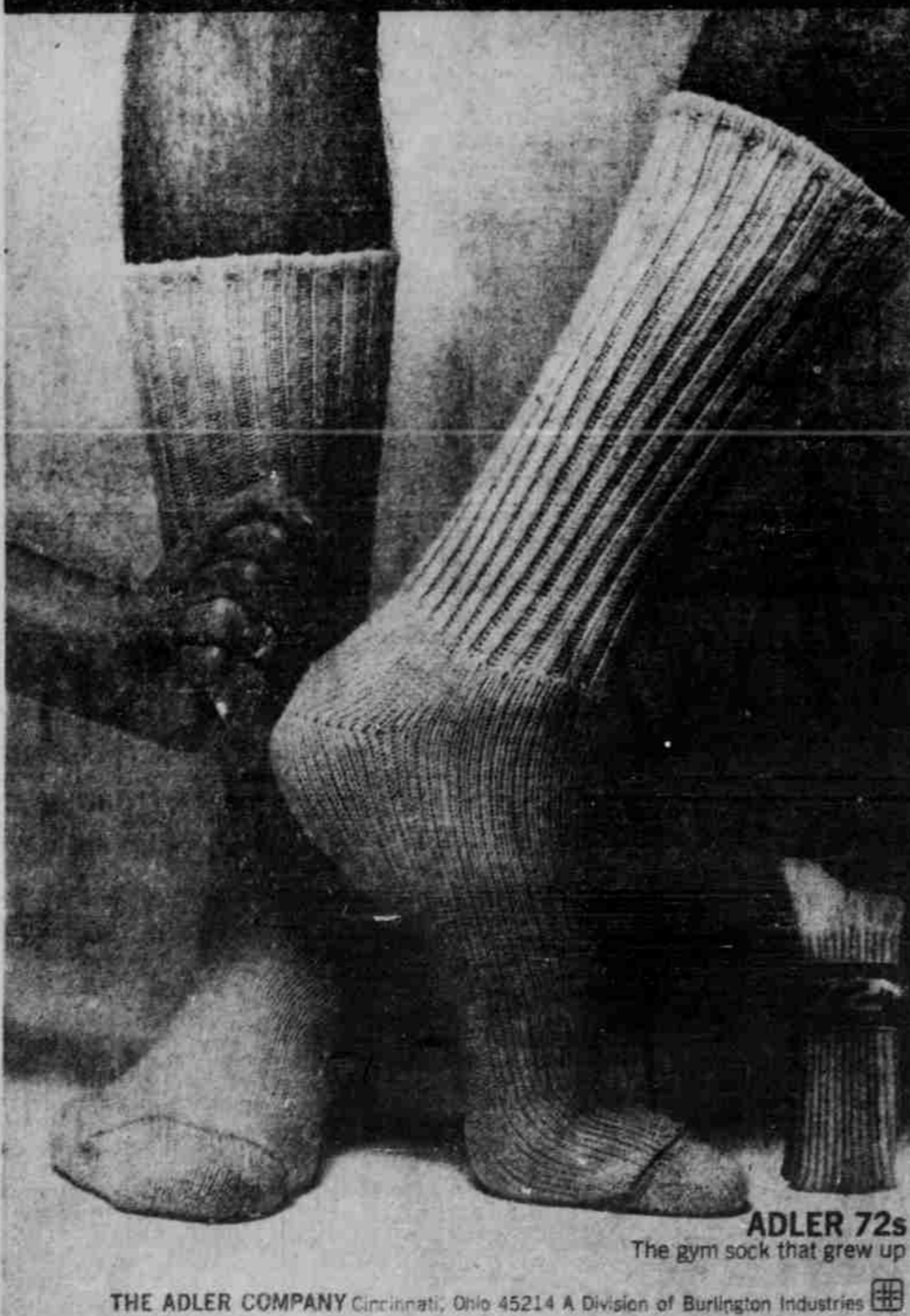
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State: 'Interlude', 1:00, 3:03, 5:06, 7:09, 9:12.

Joyce: 'Never A Dull Moment', 7:15, 9:15.

Stuart: 'Bonnie & Clyde', 1:00, 3:00, 4:55, 7:00, 9:00.

Nebraska: 'Petals', 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:03, 9:10.

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