



LOOK! It's Doctor Gannon of "Medical Center"! Naaaaaah. It's Dr. Kenneth Rose (1.) and assistant Nick Martinez testing John O'Connell in the Physical Fitness Lab.

Fitness laboratory holds open house

A treadmill, bicycle ergometer, and oxygen computer may seem like strange additions to Memorial Stadium but they're there as part of the new physical fitness laboratory to be dedicated Friday.

The new lab, located under the east stadium and coordinated by the University Health Service, is one of 10 to 15 physical fitness research labs in the country, said Dr. Kenneth Rose, director of the facility. It is designed to study physical fitness and test individual capacities for exercise.

Dedication ceremonies will begin with a luncheon followed by an open house at the lab from 2-5 p.m.

Speaker at the luncheon will be Dr. Kenneth Cooper. Cooper is the author of the book "The New Aerobics" and was in charge of developing the Air Force physical fitness program.

Dr. Cooper, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force will also speak at a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the Love Library Auditorium.

The idea for the lab began in 1960, Dr. Rose said. Funds for the lab came from the University Athletic department and Health Service, the National Institute of Health, the

Nebraska Heart Association and the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

"College students are notoriously bad physical specimens," Dr. Rose said. "The lab will help demonstrate the need for physical fitness by gathering facts on student physical conditions."

During several football games this year one of the Nebraska players will be tested by the use of a small FM broadcasting device imbedded in his shoulder pad. The transmitter will broadcast the player's electrocardiogram reading into the lab.

"This will enable us to study fitness under actual exercise conditions, something other fitness labs cannot do," Dr. Rose commented.

Another problem that will concern researchers in the lab is coronary heart disease, he said. He added that the late Dr. R. L. Holman, a pathologist from the University of Louisiana, advanced the theory that heart disease due to poor physical fitness begins at age two and becomes irreversible after age 20. Lab researchers will attempt to prove this theory right or wrong.

"The question of whether or not epileptics should participate in sports will also be investigated by the lab," Dr. Rose said.

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