

Devaney proceeds on plans for new fieldhouse

by JIM JOHNSTON
Sports Editor

Bob Devaney is a patient man. The football coach who spent 14 years in the high school ranks before getting a college job had patience enough to build Nebraska into a national champion after two 6-4 seasons in 1967 and '68.

And now Devaney, who won a victory in the Legislature Tuesday, is patiently wading through all the possibilities before confirming plans on Nebraska's new fieldhouse.

"PLANS ARE VERY, very general now," said Devaney. "There's a lot to be done before we start digging or laying bricks."

But the Nebraska athletic department, the University and the state fairboard have tentative plans on the fieldhouse. The 1969 Legislature appropriated \$60,000 to study the possibilities of a fieldhouse at NU.

"We've reviewed the work that the architects have done," said Devaney. "It will mainly be a facility for indoor sports and public use with seating between 15-17,000 for basketball."

INCLUDED IN the structure will be a basketball court, wrestling area, meeting rooms, exercise and weight lifting rooms, handball courts and an eight-lane swimming pool with seating capacity for 1,000 spectators.

Devaney, who has visited several athletic structures around the nation, was indefinite as to when the facility would be

ready for use. He indicated, however, that it would be at least two or three years.

"We cannot project any starting date at this time," said Devaney. "We have to get together with the state fairboard people and determine what can be done without the money sitting in the bank."

DEVANEY WAS referring to the stipulation that the first \$695,000 from the new cigarette tax goes to the Beatrice State Home for new recreational facilities.

One problem being worked on is the possibility of having an indoor track in the new fieldhouse.

"It's difficult to provide for an indoor track in a basketball arena," said Devaney. "There are various ways, but they all seem very difficult. We're also debating between a portable floor and an artificial surface."

Missouri, which is moving into a new fieldhouse next year, will have an indoor track. But that school has provided a separate building for the facility.

"WE CAN'T JUST sprawl out on the fairgrounds anywhere we want to," said Devaney.

The term fieldhouse is not actually appropriate for the new facility. A fieldhouse includes indoor practice areas for outdoor sports such as football and baseball. But such an area will not be included in Nebraska's structure.

Plans also call for a portable stage to provide an indoor, air-conditioned facility to

host shows including the state fair show. According to Devaney, the building will be equipped for any kind of show including ice shows.

"THIS SHOULD help the University and the whole state of Nebraska," Devaney pointed out. "It will be of value to the athletic department in recruiting and also add a lot of state to the whole state."

Devaney and the University are also studying the possibility for separate locker room areas for intramurals and faculty.

Huskers open three-game series

Nebraska's baseball team goes after its fifth conference win this spring Friday in the opener of its double header with Oklahoma State in Lincoln. With a sweep of the three game series, the Huskers would emerge with a 7-5 conference record.

Huskers head coach Tony Sharpe made a variety of line-up changes during the week in preparation for the series including moving Steve Achelpohl from second base over to third.

Bob Munson will start at first base and Gene Stohs, who's been out with an arm injury, will get into his second game this spring starting in left field. Stohs was one of the Huskers top hitters and pitchers last season.

Jim Smith at shortstop and Sam Sharpe at second base round out the infield while Randy Spiels will be the catcher. Frank Vactor is slated to start in center field and Tom Novak, who also played on the freshman basketball

team, will start his first game in right field.

Pat Elgert, with a 2.45 ERA second only to Ryan Kurosaki's 1.59, will start at pitcher in the first game for the Huskers. Kurosaki is scheduled to start the second game while Saturday's starter is a toss up, according to Sharpe.

Elgert is also the Huskers top hitter with a .390 batting average. He leads the team in hits, runs scored and triples, is tied for first in doubles, and is second in home runs and runs batted in.

NU thinclads shuffle off to Buffalos

Nebraska's track team will find out just how good Colorado is Saturday when they travel to Boulder for a dual meet with the surprising Buffalos.

Colorado shocked the conference when they finished second to Kansas in the Big Eight Indoor Meet in March. But CU's point total there was boosted by Marcus Walker's two hurdle victories. Walker is currently injured and won't be running this weekend.

Colorado's strongest event against Nebraska should be the sprints with Cliff Branch and George Daniels. Branch ran 5.9 for 60 yards indoors while Daniels owns a 6.0 clocking.

One of the afternoon's top competitive races could be the 440 yard dash where Daniels faces Husker threat Garth Case. Daniels won the Big Eight 440 indoors this winter and Case is the defending outdoor champion in the event.

Weightlifting tryouts Sunday

Students interested in trying out for the University of Nebraska weightlifting team are urged to attend the initial meeting Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Coliseum weight room.

Any fulltime Nebraska student is eligible. Weight divisions include 123 through 242 and super heavyweight. The first meet will be May 15.



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