

Cowboys ride high for campus rodeo

by Kent Seacrest

One can switch on the television anytime and watch cowboys and cowgirls like Hopalong Cassidy, Matt Dillon and Calamity Jane do their thing. But to see a live cowboy or cowgirl nowadays is a rarity—unless you go to a rodeo.

This weekend a live rodeo with live cowboys and cowgirls will be held at the State Fair Grounds Coliseum in connection with the East Union's Western Days.

The University of Nebraska National Intercollegiate Association Rodeo is expected to draw 150 contestants representing seven states in the Great Plains region.

The rodeo is scheduled for Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 1 and 8 p.m. Student tickets cost \$1.75 in advance or \$2 at the door.

"Our rodeo is considered one of the best rodeos in the Great Plains region," said Eldon Lux, president of the UNL Rodeo Club. "The men and women will be competing hard for points to qualify themselves and their teams for the National Championships which will be held in Bozeman, Mont., in June."

Present point standings show the UNL Rodeo Club second in the seven-state Great Plains region.

The cowboys will be competing for points in bareback riding, saddle bronc, bull riding, calf roping, ribbon roping and steer wrestling. The cowgirls' events will include barrel racing, breakaway roping and goat tying.

The UNL Rodeo Club will be represented in the rodeo by 27 students who consider themselves real cowboys and cowgirls.

"I'm a cowboy and I'm proud of it," Ray Keller said. "Competing in a rodeo is a dangerous sport. I guess you can compare it to the dangers of race

car driving. You can die from it."

Cowgirl Rhonda Christensen will be one of the women competing this weekend. "A rodeo is a lot of fun for everybody," Christensen said. "Our team is the only co-ed team at the University. We don't have women's lib problems like most people would expect. The women are treated and respected equally with the men."

Besides being the only co-ed University team, the Rodeo Club is also the only professional team. Contestants will not only be competing for the satisfaction of winning, but also for prize money.

"A cowboy or a cowgirl today is just like anybody else," Keller said. "Our thing is just a little different than most people. Cowboys and rodeos are unique."



Sharpe shuffles lineup in cellar dweller battle

The weak-hitting Nebraska baseball team will stress defense when it meets Missouri in a three-game series at Columbia Friday and Saturday, in a battle of Big Eight cellar dwellers.

"We're going in with the idea of trying to put the best defensive team on the field," Husker Coach Tony Sharpe said. "Runs seem to be hard to come by. No one's helping us there so we're going to our best defensive team."

The Huskers, in compiling an over-all record of 5-11 (1-5 in Big Eight play), have batted .225 as a team and averaged 2.5 runs per game.

Sharpe said he will insert senior Terry Seymour in the starting rotation replacing Glen Gilmore who moves to

left field. Sophomore Ryan Kurosaki will start Friday's first game at Columbia and Seymour will start the nightcap of the doubleheader. Freshman Dennis O'Doherty, who did an outstanding job in his first start against Kansas last week, will start Saturday's game.

In two other changes, the club's leading hitter, Bob Munson (.392), will move from right field to first base where he replaces Peter Bethell (.156) and Joe Baker (.160) moves from left to right field.

Sharpe was disappointed in the Huskers' fielding in the first game of the Kansas series when the Huskers committed six errors, leading to three unearned runs, and lost 3-2.

Looking ahead to Missouri, Sharpe said, "Missouri seems to be having pitching problems—they've been getting a lot of runs but giving up a lot more. It looks like our pitching against their hitting.

"With our lineup changes, we hope we can play good defense and then get some good hitting. It seems like only one guy can drive in any runs and that's Maury Damkroger. He's had nine hits and driven in 11 runs."

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