



Athletic support

It's easy to criticize something when it's on the top of the heap. And when it's No. 1 you're criticizing, it's doubly easy.

So, true to form, the *Daily Nebraskan* has not infrequently been a critic of the Athletic Department. Doing so, however, we tend to ignore the positive side of the institution which definitely does exist and thrive.

In the years since Husker football first began to be truly competitive, a good deal of change has come about on campus, most of it for the better. The Athletic Department has been more the cause of this than one might guess.

Take, for example, the increased funds poured into the University by alumni and others who have developed a good relationship with UNL because of its football program. It is impossible to say how much the pride in a No. 1 team has improved financial standing of the University through the University Foundation.

For students especially, the Athletic Department has meant tremendous gain. In terms of athletic

scholarships alone, 275 students each year benefit from full or partial scholarships for athletics. Of these, 165 are football scholarships most of which are full scholarships including tuition, fees, room and board, books and a \$15 per month allowance.

Obviously, a large number of these students would not have had a chance to enter higher education without the financial aid given by the Athletic Department.

In addition, one can't ignore innumerable small scholarships and grants given to UNL students by alumni who never much thought of their *alma mater* until Big Red hit the top.

This ignores the possibility of nonfinancial benefits in good will which can't be measured. No one can say how much this has helped the University in developing new programs and keeping those helpful to the University in power.

It seems clear that UNL would be much worse off in many ways if Big Red were dead.

And the one person most to thank for the rise of Big Red athletics will coach his last home game on Thanksgiving Day. The entire University may owe Bob Devaney a note of thanks, after all.

Fan-dango

In surprising contrast to recent Husker football games at Colorado and Iowa State, Big Red fans were amazingly subdued and generally well-behaved during Saturday's match with Kansas State.

Admittedly, it was fairly apparent from the start who would shellac who. Even so, one might expect that in their boredom some drunk and obnoxious fans might turn to the all too available piles of snow for a bit of vicious recreation.

Iowa State and Colorado fans, you will remember, were severely chastized for blood-thirsty snowball fights directed at each other in the stands and the players and band members on the field.

Not so however. Snowballing was held to a minimum and even the over-imbibed managed to pay a little attention to an overall non-game.

What all this indicates, is hard to tell. But it just may prove however, that Husker hysteria may not be as hysterical as we'd like to think. Big Red reason may actually exist.

Jim Gray



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