

Letter chides discrimination in women's sports

In my column last week, Madge Phillips, chairman of the UNL Women's Physical Education Dept., expressed some of her feelings on Title IX of the education amendments of 1972 and some recent Department of Health, Education and Welfare guidelines. The purpose of these measures is to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sex in school-sponsored competitive athletics.

Despite the guidelines, Phillips said she doesn't foresee a drastic change in the status of women's athletics at UNL. Seven athletes, one from each of the women's intercollegiate teams, have written in protest of her views. The letter follows:

Dear Editor,

The article in last Friday's *Daily Nebraskan* does not give a realistic picture of the concern by student-athletes for "equal opportunity" in the area of women's athletics.

The Guidelines of Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972 state that a school which operates a competitive athletic program (1) shall do so without discrimination on basis of sex and shall provide equal opportunity to participate therein, and (2) shall not discriminate therein on the basis of sex in provision of equipment or supplies, scheduling of games and practice times, travel or diem allowance, award of athletic scholarships, opportunity to receive coaching and instruction, provision of locker rooms and medical facilities and services, publicity or otherwise.

Madge Phillips stated in the Friday article that "The main thrust (in Title IX) is for equal opportunity, which is not necessarily equal funding." If we are to study the guidelines set up by this law, we would find that UNL is nowhere near accomplishing or attempting to provide equal opportunity. Following are parallels of the law and the UNL program, showing just a few of the inequities.

1. Scheduling of games so that the level of competition provides the individual the opportunity to achieve excellence in her own performance and that of her team is curtailed by restrictions on the number of games a team may play in a season by the state governing organization, the Nebraska Women's Intercollegiate Sports Council.

2. Provision of equipment is also discriminatory with the most obvious example being the sharing of one set of warm-up suits (a grand total of 17) by the seven intercollegiate women's teams.

3. The travel allowance at UNL gives the student athlete no money for food on away trips. This problem was clearly stated by Pat Osborn, the UNL women's softball pitcher, in the April 10 issue of the

a student athlete can spend practicing and the amount a coach can supervise practice to 12 hours a week (which includes practice time, game time, travel time, time spent during meals on an away trip and overnight travel time).

So, if a team was to travel 600 miles round trip for a game (which would take about 11 hours), spend about two to three hours in actual game time, plus an additional three hours for miscellaneous items, the team legally would not be allowed to practice with its coach the following week. Sounds ridiculous, does it not?

Displaying her negativism toward scholarships for women, Phillips stated that the money could be better spent on expansion of current sports or establishment of new teams such as fencing, archery, track and field and golf. She stated that by doing that, we would open up opportunities for more women to participate. She also said, "We could operate three sports on \$1,000 instead of spending it on scholarships." Who has ever heard of operating three men's teams on \$1,000?

Is this equal opportunity? We view it as resistance to progress in women's athletics.

In closing, we would like to emphasize our views on scholarships as an avenue to providing equal opportunity for women. We believe that scholarships would allow a student to compete who now is unable to participate because of her financial need to work. They also would free many of the student athletes who work and compete to spend more time with their school work and provide the opportunity to work toward achievement of excellence in athletics, an important facet of the total education of an individual.

A Cast of Seven Student Athletes

dennis onnen press box review

Daily Nebraskan, when she said, "Whenever we travel, we have to pay everything ourselves."

4. A restriction is placed upon the teams for traveling (a 300-mile radius of Lincoln) by the Women's Physical Education Dept. How can a team obtain a high level of competition within a radius of 300 miles of Lincoln if the team's nearest competition of any quality is in Brookings, S.D., as is the case with the women's field hockey team?

5. Coinciding with scheduling of games is the section which includes opportunity to receive coaching and instruction. Contrary to the Title IX guidelines, the Women's Intercollegiate Sports Policy Committee places limitations on the amount of time

Depth major qualm of Osborne

By Larry Stunkel

Depth seems to be a major concern of UNL football Coach Tom Osborne as the Huskers passed the midpoint of their spring drills Wednesday with a scrimmage.

"We're doing pretty well, but I'm not all that excited," Osborne said. "We haven't had any serious injuries, and we're still sorting out players at different positions. At this point, I'd call our progress normal."

Players with whom Osborne expressed satisfaction so far this spring were center Rik Bonness, split ends Dave Shamblin and Bobby Thomas, defensive tackle Ron Pruitt and quarterback Dave Humm. Osborne also cited his offensive line and linebackers in general for their play.

The defensive secondary, which at the start of spring camp was an area of concern, also has progressed according to Osborne. Wonder Monds, Ardell Johnson and Mark Heydorff have been solid performers thus far, and Chuck Jones, Dave Butterfield and Jim Burrow have turned in some good practices.

Tony Davis seems set at the fullback position after making the shift from his I-back spot where he started last fall.

"Right now, we'd hesitate to move him back to I-back," commented Osborne. "We have

experience at I-back with Jeff Moran and John O'Leary. Tony gives us the experience we need at fullback."

But Osborne said he is concerned with finding a solid backup at fullback as well as other positions.

One position where this is especially true is middle guard where injuries to No. 1 Willie Thornton and backup John Lee have strengthened sophomore Jeff Pullen's bid for the No. 1 spot. "Pullen has been our biggest surprise this spring. He made some good plays today," said Osborne.

Other players injured Wednesday were wingback Ritch Bahe, Heydorff and Davis.

Osborne ran his players through what he called a script scrimmage, where instead of running plays with the intent of scoring, the offense runs certain plays against certain defensive formations.

Most of the time, the plays are staged so their success depends on the execution of offense. The rest of the time some are supposed to be stopped cold, while others are set so the offense should make a gain.

This provides more uniformity in the workout so the coaches can get a look at how each player performs in each situation and can pinpoint individual problems.

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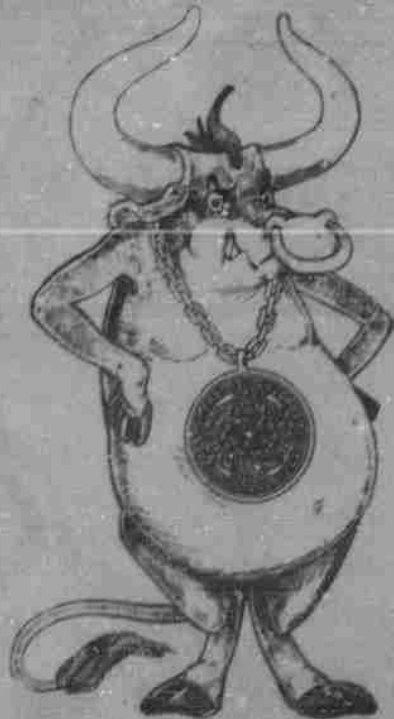
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