

## Fuel crisis may change auto racing

One sport I have never been particularly fond of is automobile racing. The clear danger of serious or fatal injuries not only to participants, but to spectators as well, always has been too great for me to appreciate the sport.

If the current energy crisis continues, auto racing will feel the pinch. To its credit, the National Assoc. for Stock Car Auto Racing has begun a study to curtail its 194 scheduled racing contests for this year. In addition, the United States Auto Club's Indianapolis car circuit has taken steps to reduce the amount of fuel for each car.

The month of May also brings the traditional Indianapolis 500 race. It isn't the 28 gallons of fuel consumed by each contestant that worries me, but rather the amount of fuel burned by the 300,000 fans going to the race and home again.

Following last year's shabbily run 500, it became apparent that some revamping of the track and race itself was sorely needed. When practice begins May 6 for the 58th annual 500, drivers will notice some sweeping changes.

## bob hill over the hill

They include higher retaining walls, removal of exposed spectator seats and widening and lengthening of the pit area and entrance.

Probably the most significant change is a new pit entrance which starts in the top of the fourth turn, instead of in the main straightway.

The new entrance will make it possible to add another 856 feet to the existing 1,400 feet of pit area. It will give each crew 35% more working space in the cramped pits. In addition, the new entrance also will allow the pace car to pull off the track at least 1/2 mile sooner.

Gone is the old fourth turn wall where Swede Savage crashed, resulting in fatal injuries, last year.

To prevent fuel and debris from hitting spectators, the outside retaining wall has been raised to 32 inches, more than a foot higher than it was.

The pit lane, where a crewman was run over and killed by a fire truck last year, has been widened five feet and the inside main straightaway wall has been raised to 32 inches.

Certainly these improvements were a long time in coming. It is unfortunate that a tragedy is required to move men into action.

## Baylor coach awed by Husker's depth

By Steve Taylor

UNL's football team is going through final preparations for the spring game Saturday. The Huskers will have a light workout Friday before the intrasquad clash that is expected to draw 20,000 to Memorial Stadium.

Monday's practice drew only a handful of spectators, but one of them was an interested Texan. Dale Shealy, the offensive backfield coach at Baylor University in Waco, was in Lincoln to get a firsthand look at the Husker football program.

Shealy was impressed with the "fine facilities" and "great looking athletes." He said the main difference between Baylor and UNL were the athletes themselves.

"We just can't stack up to Nebraska, personnel wise," he commented. "Here, you have seven quarterbacks and probably just as many split ends. At Baylor, we have about half that."

Shealy may also have noticed the abundance of coaches at the Husker workout. Besides the regular coaching staff, there are five players now in the professional ranks who have returned to help with coaching chores this spring. One of these former Husker stars is Bob Thornton, who is headed for the Houston Texans of the World Football League.

Thornton's primary reason for his coaching stint is to gain experience for a possible coaching job once he is finished with football.

"That's what I'm going to school for," he said. "If I had my choice, I'd like to start off at the junior college level." He added that a successful professional career would greatly enhance his job prospects.

Another former Husker now serving as a part-time coach is Oakland Raider Monte Johnson. He says he has no trouble with players who don't feel they should be taking advice from a coach only a few years older than themselves.

"The players know I can help," Johnson said. "They know that I've had experience and that I've picked up a few things from the Raiders."

Besides Thornton and Johnson, three other current professionals are helping out the Husker coaching staff. Rich Glover, Willie Harper and Jim McFarland all can be seen blowing whistles and demonstrating technique during spring practices.

The spring game this Saturday might give a few answers to a coaching staff deluged with tight battles for starting spots.

Some of the more interesting battles that have shaped up this spring are: Ron Pruitt and Dean Gissler at left tackle, Ritch Bahe and Don Westbrook at wingback and Al Eveland and Mike Coyle for placekicking.

## sports shorts

All-Big 8 guard Jerry Fort will represent UNL on a 12-man Big 8 team scheduled to tour Yugoslavia early this summer. The team will have workouts in Denver before departing May 28 for Yugoslavia. Eight games will be played on the 3-week tour.

22-inning marathon between UNL and Colorado University is the longest baseball game in conference history. The contest lasted nearly five hours.

The UNL women's softball team defeated Midland College, 3-0, Tuesday to close its regular season with a 7-5 record.

The Recreation Dept. is sponsoring a river raft trip down the Gate Canyon River in Colorado June 2-5 in collaboration with Colorado University. Cost is \$30 for transportation, food while on the river, equipment and leadership and trip insurance. Limited space is available. For more information, contact the Recreation Dept., 472-3488.

The Big 8 service bureau has reported that Friday's

## Friends of Bluegrass

• BLUEGRASS CRUSADE •

• John Walker • Tim Murphy • \$1.00

• Pete Blakeslee •



BENEFIT CONCERT FOR U.M.H.E. / COMMONPLACE  
ALSO! Special appearance by bluegrass musician  
ROGER "BOSS WEEB" WELSCH+

Sunday  
May 5  
8:00 PM  
Union  
ballroom

a.s.u.n. approved

## OPEN BOWLING SPECIAL

AT THE NEBRASKA UNION LANES

3 games for ONE DOLLAR (\$1)  
every night but Fri. & Sat.

NOW thru MAY 10th

OPEN BOWLING HOURS: From 3:30 - 10:30 weekdays  
Saturday - 9 a.m. to midnight  
Sunday - 1 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**DAILY NEBRASKAN NEEDS FIVE STRONG MEN (or women) to deliver papers in the fall to campus bldgs. New system. Your choice of four city routes or the east campus. Need car. Need muscle. Earn \$2.50-\$7.00 per issue for 1/2 to 1 1/2 hours work. For more info. contact "Jerri" at 472-2590. Do it soon or you may miss out!**