

Interest in women's sports influences budget increase

An immense interest has developed in expansion of women's athletics within the last year, an interest caused mostly by Title IX of the education amendments of 1972.

The measure was designed to outlaw sex discrimination in school-sponsored competitive athletics. Repercussions now are being felt at UNL.

This summer UNL Chancellor James Zumberge approved a \$60,000 budget for women's athletics for the current year, an increase of nearly 400 per cent from last year's \$15,300. Last spring Midge Phillips, chairwoman of the UNL Women's Physical Education Dept., said she couldn't foresee athletic scholarships for women for quite some time. However, about 40 partial scholarships are included in this year's budget.

dennis onnen press box review

Although the advances might seem enormous to some people, Gail Whitaker, UNL director of women's intercollegiate athletics, said she isn't completely satisfied yet.

"I don't think that you could realistically look for more," she said, "but I can't be content because the program is expanding."

She said that increased funding is needed before women's athletics are equal with the men's programs.

A commission on which Whitaker served recommended the \$60,000 budget in its report to Zumberge June 1. It also recommended an increase in \$132,000 for next year, and there are indications that the total might go even higher.

Whitaker said about half of this year's budget will support the seven women's sports which existed last year. The money will pay for such things as food, lodging, equipment, officials and transportation. Last year team members frequently had to pay for food and lodging themselves.

According to Whitaker, the other half of the budget will go for new functions such as scholarships, a trainer and a commission to search for a full-time assistant athletic UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney now heads both the men's and women's programs. The money also might establish a track and field team and post-season events.

One thing that won't be covered is new uniforms for all the teams.

"That's something that's going to take years," Whitaker said.

Search for I-back

With the movement of Tony Davis from I-back to full back this season, Coach Tom Osborne and his football staff have been looking for a replacement for the "Tecumseh Tornado".

Their search may have ended this week with the placement of Dave Gillespie in the Number one I-back spot.

Gillespie, a sophomore from Saratoga, California, was a standout on last year's freshman team as starting I-back.

He entered fall practice as the number three man, behind lettermen John O'Leary and Jeff Moran, but after a review of last week's scrimmage films, Osborne moved Gillespie to the top of the list.

Gillespie attributes his success to his aggressiveness and overall tougher play.

Backfield coach Mike Corgan has been instrumental in developing Gillespie into a varsity caliber player.

"He's been the person that has instilled most of the aggressiveness in me," Gillespie said. "His toughness just makes you what you are."

Gillespie has high praise for Nebraska's offensive and defensive linemen. He calls the offensive line "the best in the country" and says the "defense is always good".

Lining up at the I-back spot, he has learned to read the defense more carefully, he said, and going against the Nebraska Black Shirts is something he doesn't relish.

Because he is a first-year varsity player, Gillespie is subjected to the usual kidding that the veterans dish out. "They make you stand up and sing stuff like 'Gloria', and they really go wild," he said. "I don't sing very well at all, so they didn't like what I did."

Gillespie said he is not overconfident of his first team status. "I've got to keep playing as hard as I can. The I-back spot is pretty open right now."

"I don't plan to let up on my drive for first string," he said.

sports shorts

UNL hosted the Olympic developmental camp this summer attended by 10 of the best sophomore col-

legiate gymnasts in the nation and seven of the best prep gymnasts.

The meet was sponsored by the United States Olympic Committee and the United States Gymnastic Foundation (USGF) and featured Musi Watanabe and Frank Cumisky. Watanabe is recognized as the top gymnastic coach in the nation and Cumisky is a technical director of the USGF, a three time olympic competitor and a recognized international figure in the sport.

Francis Allen, Husker gymnastic coach, said most of his athletes got a chance to observe, and four Husker squad members participated in the camp.

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