

Big 8 All-Sports standings mediocre; nationally recognized crew raffles hog

A review of the Big 8 All-Sports standings will suggest that last season wasn't exactly a banner year for UNL athletic teams.

The football team tinished seventh in the nation but most of the other squads had to struggle to remain mediocre. A few of the teams didn't even reach that modest goal, promoting critics to call for an upgrading of some of the university's more minor sports.

Not widely known is the fact that one of these minor-sport squads finished higher in the national rankings than the football team. And they did it without a penny of support from the athletic department.

steve taylor taylored sports

The University Rowing Club has a new coach this year and a unanimous desire to lift their sport from obscurity.

Twenty three-year-old Ron Rusthoven is preparing to guide a crew which placed fifth in the national championships last year in Syracuse, New York. That finish established them as a genuine rowing power, much to the surprise of Eastern crew enthusiasts.

Oct. 15, 10, 17 Oct. 29, 30, 31

Nov. 12.13.14

Nov. 19.20.21

"At the beginning of the meet, everybody was sort of snickering at Nebraska," Rusthoven (who was then a crew member) recalls.

Prior to a 1971 race in Massachusetts. the Boston Globe ran a story saying the Nebraska entry might be rowing with cornstalks. But now the East Coast schools recognize the Nebraskans as a force to be reckoned with. This year's co-captain Matt Kush finds all this a bit ironic.

"They are taking us seriously every-where but Nebraska," he moans. "We want people to be aware that we are a real sport at Nebraska. We're not a Ping-Pong Club.'

Nonetheless the rowing team is getting exactly the same amount of financial aid as the Ping-Pong clubnothing.

The estimated \$13,000 needed each year comes right out of the crew members' pockets. To alleviate some of the burden the team is conducting a raffle with first prize being half a hog.

"Only two members of the varsity of last year are gone," Rusthoven reports. With eight returning lettermen, the prospects look bright.

Meanwhile, the only way the team will get financial support is if crew becomes an official Big 8 sport.

So be generous if someone approaches you to buy a chance at a hog.

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Japan France

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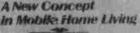
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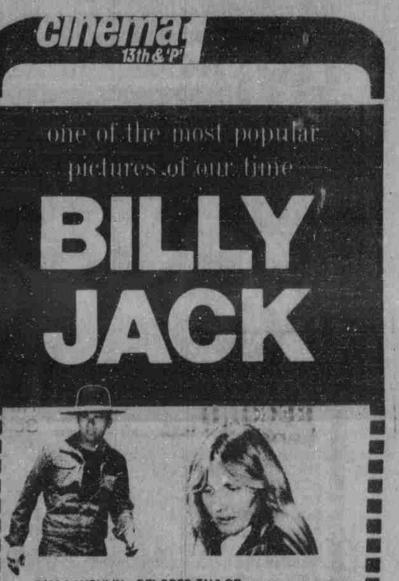
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