

# 'The Ladies' chill for halftime shows

By Susie Reitz

Breathing clouds of vapor into the chilly morning air, the Ladies in Red stand at attention holding their flag poles aloft trying to concentrate on the marching band music and staying in step.

The Ladies, the new University of Nebraska flag corps, are on the AstroTurf early every morning practicing their halftime show.

"Sometimes we practice at 7:15 or 7:30

a.m. before the band comes out at 8," said Quentin Bennett, graduate assistant in charge of the flag corps.

Bennett, a first year law student, played trumpet in the marching band and "fell into" the assistantship last spring when, marching band director Robert Fought started making plans for a flag corps. Fought took over as director this year, replacing Jack Snider, UNL director of bands.

"I helped with (flag corps) tryouts last spring and when they were looking for someone to organize the corps, Dr. Fought talked to me," Bennett said.

Bennett said he attended a clinic in Kansas to learn basic flag maneuvers. The clinic was directed by the Kansas University flag corps director.

"I learned the basic turns, flag movements, marching techniques," Bennett said. Weekly halftime shows are planned by Fought and flag corp routines are designed by Bennett.

Five straight home games this year created some hardships, Bennett said, trying to work up different routines.

"We didn't have much time between shows to prepare," he said. "We'd be out early Monday morning working on the show and would have to have it worked up for the game."

"We've had more time for this program (Colorado)," Bennett said, "and we're planning a lighter, comical show this week."

Practices are probably harder on flag women than on the band for the first couple of days, corps member Kathy Anderson said, since corps members do not have any music to follow.

According to flag corps member Nila Moore, the pre- and post-game shows don't vary much in formations from week to week. All corps members march in the post-game show.

"There's not a lot of difference, until someone is sick," she said. "The half-time shows are what vary and different girls are in each week."

"This being the first year it's mainly been building," Bennett said. "We try to give all the girls a chance to march because we know everyone's learning."

Of the 19 squad members only two are seniors, Bennett said.

The 16 who march at halftime are selected from week to week based on practice attendance, illness and general ability, Bennett said.

The flag corps has squad leaders to coordinate actions, Bennett said. Squad leaders are Noela VanAndel and Suzanne Millet assistant squad leaders are Reane Hietbrink and Nancy Lawlor.



Photo by Ely Marsh

In its first year, the UNL women's flag corps have been named the Ladies in Red.

## FIRST DOWN

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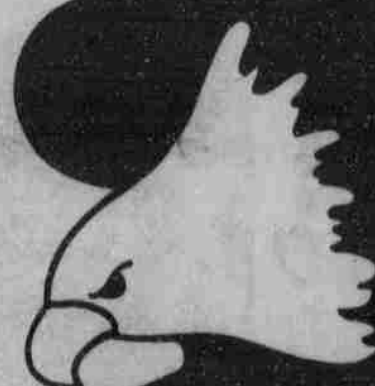


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