

# Prokop dream a fairy tale

By Larry Stunkel

Those who enjoy fairy tales may be interested in an article by Bill Steinauer of the Omaha Sun in which NU Regent Robert Prokop speculated Memorial Stadium may be enlarged to 101,400 seats, making it the nation's second largest.

If you are one who has ever tried to get a general admission ticket to a Husker game, Prokop's words are good news. But before one's hopes get too high, let's examine the pros and cons put forth.

Prokop is assessing the need for 25,000 additional seats. The Husker ticket office turns down 10,000 orders each year and numerous others probably want tickets but don't bother to ask.

The additional seats could be added, according to Prokop, by tearing down the east stadium balcony and adding 23,500 seats. According to Prokop, the top seat would be closer to the field than the top row in the North Stadium.

Additional seats could be gained by

stretching the press box on the west stadium to each goal line, Prokop speculates.

Prokop took the proposal to the NU Physical Plant, the article said, and came up with a \$10 million estimate.

Again, Prokop is accurate in that the east and west stadiums are the only areas where expansion could possibly take place.

Prokop wonders if the Athletic Dept. can handle the cost.

One can bet the Legislature isn't about to finance such a project. If they are, they first can raise the quality of our education at UNL by giving our professors and teachers a needed pay increase.

Speaking of the Legislature, there is still the unanswered question whether funds for operation of the new sports complex will be appropriated. Financing the new field house will rank higher on Athletic Director Bob Devaney's priorities list than stadium expansion.

But the far-sighted Prokop has a solution for this too. He proposes that UNL ask the Big 8 for permission not to pay the conference revenue subsidy, the estimated \$800,000 to \$900,000 the expanded stadium would bring.

Such a proposal is more a dream than a solution. The Big 8 vote probably would be 7-1 against the motion, since the plan is unfair to other schools who had to pay the revenue subsidy on their recently expanded stadiums.

Finally, Prokop raises the question whether the construction could be completed between football seasons. If not, UNL could lose the revenue from 2,500 tickets. To answer that question, consider the progress made on the already late sports complex.

The ticket problem will remain, unless legislative and regent investigation into NU ticket policy uncovers something monumental, which with respect to ticket manager Jim Pittenger, is very unlikely.

## sports shorts

The UNL football team's 48-man traveling squad was released Thursday.

Offensive players making the trip will be Monte Anthony, Rik Bonness, Rich Costanzo, Mike Coyle, Curtis Craig, Tom Davis, Tony Davis, Dodie Donnell, Vince Ferragamo, Randy Garcia, Dave Gillespie, Tom Heiser, Gary Higgs, Steve Moins, Brad Jenkins, Greg Jorgensen, Randy Lessman, Bob Lingenfelter, Terry Luck, Chuck Malito, Larry Mushinski, Johy O'Leary, Dan Schmidt, Bobby Thomas, Tom Thomas and Stan Waldemore.

On defense, Dan Brock, Jim Burrow, Dave Butterfield, Tom Ceccia, Percy Eichelberger, Mike Gultz, Dean Gissler, Jeff Hansen, Chuck Jones, John Lee, Bob Martin, Wonder Monds, Ray Phillips, Cleve Pille, Jeff Pullen, Tony Samuel, Kent Smith, Kurt Stacey, Larry Valasek, Jerry Wied and Jim Wightman will make the trip.

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