

Budget increase will buy uniforms for women athletes

By Bruce Scott

The UNL women's athletic teams will be better dressed and better trained this fall thanks to an increase of \$50,000 in their budget, said Aleen Swofford, UNL women's athletic director.

The women's budget for 1976-77 will be \$215,000, which compares with a budget of \$2,500 in 1972-73.

More money means the university can now hire a trainer who will work part time, Swofford said. The larger budget will allow women athletes to travel to athletic contests at reasonable hours, Swofford said.

"Before, the girls often had to travel all night since they couldn't afford motel rooms," she said. "Now they will have the money they need. We always told the girls 'if you qualify for nationals we'll get you there', but sometimes it was hard."

Six of the nine women's athletic teams sponsored by UNL competed in national competition this school year.

Last year the girls raised over \$20,000 for themselves, this year they will have to raise \$13,000 of the \$215,000 budget, Swofford said.

The new money also will buy new uniforms and better equipment for the women's sports' teams.

Swofford said UNL is spending more money on women's athletics in an attempt to comply, by 1978, with the U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare's Title IX. Title IX stipulates that women athletes must have equal opportunities with male athletes.

"This doesn't mean just money and scholarships," Swofford said, "but improved medical care, travel schedules, coaches' salaries and practice times."

Swofford doesn't agree with critics who say that women's athletics should take a back seat because they do not pay for themselves.

"Women's athletics are part of the intercollegiate system, and part of the university's educational system," she said. "We're just like any department at the university, so the university should foot the bill."

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