



Photo by Ted Kirk

Cornhusker linebacker Jim Wightman was clearly labeled for the game against Indiana University Saturday. For more photos and a story on the game, turn to page 10.

Pershing looks for name bands

By Bryant Brooks

Suffering from the largest financial loss in its history, Pershing Auditorium is looking for good bands to attract the crowds needed to offset the loss, said Pershing manager Ike Hoig.

Pershing came out \$82,000 in the red this year. The average loss in previous years was about \$10,000, Hoig said.

The auditorium has had trouble attracting bands. The only concert scheduled so far this fall, Heart, cancelled last Wednesday. Hoig said he was told the group has arranged another date in California.

Rock concerts are the only real money-making events at Pershing, according to Hoig.

The 8,500 capacity crowds at Pershing are enough to insure a profit for the building and a good band is enough to ensure a crowd, Hoig said. Pershing receives \$900 or 10 per cent of the take from a concert, whichever is largest.

But it is difficult to convince a band to come to Lincoln when they could receive several times the pay performing before larger crowds elsewhere. Hoig said increased overhead makes a Lincoln date difficult for many bands, noting that some have paid as much as \$1200 per performance to their stage hands.

But things should pick up as the weather cools and bands that are playing in outdoor arenas start looking for warmer accommodations, Hoig said. Nevertheless, with Omaha Civic Auditorium's 12,000 person capacity, competition will be tough, he said.

However, Hoig said competition from the new UNL Sports Complex is not expected to be a big financial factor.

Sports Complex manager Jim Ross agreed, saying there are scheduling conflicts between the buildings.

"There is an agreement that any events that can be held there at (Pershing) should be," Ross said. "We can

handle the ones that are too big."

Hoig is keeping Oct. 8 and 9 open for a St. Louis, Mo. agent who would not say what band he might book. This does not ensure concerts for those dates, however. Hoig said agents sometimes book an auditorium and then do not use it so there will be no competition on a night they schedule a performance at a nearby place.

"It's a pretty tough business," Hoig said. "It's hard for people with scruples to understand it."

Hoig did say serving beer at concerts would help finances. He said he has looked at various buildings throughout the country that have adopted a policy of serving beer at rock concerts.

"It looks pretty favorable," he said. "It cuts down on bottles brought in from outside."

Hoig added that he thought it would cut down on marijuana use at concerts because "beer doesn't go good with grass."

Gierhan chosen to replace Bader

Ronald Gierhan has been chosen as UNL acting vice chancellor for student affairs pending approval of the NU Board of Regents, UNL Chancellor Roy Young announced last week at a divisional staff meeting.

Gierhan, currently assistant to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Ken Bader, will fill the vice chancellor's spot when Bader leaves Oct. 1 to become president of the American Soybean Association. Gierhan, 37, began his career at NU 10 years ago as an adviser in the financial aids office.

Petition fights reduction in Fire Dept. manpower

By Rusty Cunningham

Lincoln firemen aren't happy with the city's proposed cut of ten positions from Lincoln Fire Dept., and, according to a top union official, neither are at least 9,367 Lincolmites.

Hobie Boswell, president of Local 644 of the International Association of Firefighters, said a petition along with "substantial statements from national publications" will be presented to the City Council and Mayor Helen Boosalis at the council meeting today.

"The mayor wanted a sufficient amount of names before she would reconsider, and we think 10,000 is a sufficient amount," Boswell said. "We hope to have 11,000 by Monday (today) to present in front of the council."

Boswell said statements from organizations like the International City Managers Association would be read today, but the big presentation will be the petition.

The petition, which states that the signers oppose any reduction in Fire Dept. man power, had 9,367 signatures Saturday.

Cut involves 'floaters'

Boswell said there now are 257 men on the force, but there is a low attrition rate and many men have seniority.

"The cut would involve what we call floaters," he said. "There are 15 floaters included in the 257, which means there are five per shift. They fill in for vacationing firemen, and those who call in sick."

Boswell said the cut in floaters would have a "large impact on fire protection in Lincoln."

"A couple of years ago, we had a case when we were short-handed, and it caused a lot of problems," he said. "Three units were called out of a blaze, and every unit has four men per rig in Lincoln. Every unit had only three men that night and one girl died and three firemen were hospitalized. It not only hurts us, it hurts the people of the city."

Boswell said the last time the department was evaluated by the Insurance Services Organization, it was cited for a deficiency in manpower.

Need four men

"They said we needed at least five men per unit, and should have six to reach their standard," Boswell said. "We don't need five or six men, but we do need four. We'll be running with three men a lot of the time, and it's not inconceivable that we'll have only two sometimes."

Boswell added that Lincolmites should not be fooled by the number of men the city will cut.

"Originally, the council wanted to cut 12, and then they said 10," he said. "The mayor responded by stating she would only lay off five, but that would mean a total loss of 10 positions because two men are retiring, two have resigned and one was fired."

Boswell said he was not sure if the petition would help.

"As union president, I have to remain optimistic," he said. "A city cutback would be a definite hazard to the

citizens and the fire fighters. We still want the best interests of the citizens."



Photo by Steve Boerner

The city's proposed cut of ten positions from the Lincoln Fire Dept. could affect fire protection in Lincoln. Department officials hope to have a petition of 10,000 signatures opposing the cut to present to the City Council Monday.

Breckenridge swaps jobs in June

Adam Breckenridge, who is stepping down as UNL vice chancellor for academic affairs, said he has been considering the move since December 1975.

Breckenridge announced Friday that he will leave the position in June 1977, to research and teach in the UNL Political Science Dept.

UNL Chancellor Roy Young said, "I encouraged him to stay for an extra year, but he wanted to get a few years of teaching and research in before he retired."

Calling him "very efficient" with "a natural approach to administration," Young said Breckenridge knows as much about the university as anyone.

Breckenridge, whose term as vice chancellor was to expire in 1978, said he felt the chancellor could benefit from filling the vice chancellorship a year earlier, providing a stronger continuity to Young's administrative staff.

Breckenridge said he has done political research and occasional teaching during his 30 years at the university, but has not been as active in it as he would like to be.

After joining the university staff in 1946, he became Political Science Dept. chairman in 1953 and was named dean of faculties in 1955. Breckenridge became vice chancellor for academic affairs in 1962 and was named vice chancellor for international programs in 1966.

In 1968, he returned to teaching and research in the Political Science Dept. He served as acting director of libraries in 1973-74, until he was named acting vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Breckenridge was appointed to a three-year term as vice chancellor for academic affairs in July 1975, and then was named interim chancellor following the resignation of James Zumbege.