

Finishing touches complete complex

By Jim Kay

Within a month, everything at the new \$14 million NU Sports Complex on the state fairgrounds should be running at full capacity—finally.

That was the conservative estimate given by Jim Ross, Sports Complex manager. Ross said there are a few "little" things that still need to be completed.

"The scoreboard in the basketball arena is being put up and that will be completed in two weeks," Ross said. "The wrestling practice area is all done except for the mats which go on the walls and we're doing that ourselves. That will be finished within the month."

Ross said the swimming area already might have been finished except for a minor problem.

"We had some problems with the tile on the deck around the swimming area," Ross said. "It had to be taken up and replaced. But it, too, should be ready within the next month."

Track seats installed

Ross said the seats for the new indoor track facility will begin to be installed next week and should be in place in two to three weeks.

Head track coach Frank Sevigne said the new indoor track would help his program in the long run.

"It will help our program overall," Sevigne said, "but it will help our recruiting program very little with the NCAA recruiting limitations. It makes the whole situation a little ridiculous after spending \$14 million to build a beautiful facility like that."

Still, Sevigne said he looks forward to the opportunity to compete in the new track area.

"We'll have all home meets this season, so this will help our budget by staying at home. I think we'll see some income from the track season. Whatever comes in is gravy and people will want to come here to run against us. It's one of the better complexes in the United States."

Ross echoed Sevigne's feelings.

"Overall, there is none better," Ross said of the complex. "There might be others with larger capacities or better individual swimming and track facilities."

No use decision

Ross said that thus far, there has been no decision as to who may use the new facilities.

He stressed that it would be difficult for

the complex to remain self-supporting if the facilities always are open to UNL faculty and students.

"It would cost us to keep these areas open and to operate them with nothing in return," Ross said. "The indoor tennis area will probably be the most widely used facility. We would probably have to charge a small fee for the use of the courts."

"Another alternative would be to charge the City Recreation Dept., which uses several facilities and buildings on this campus."

Ross added that he didn't want to shut faculty and students out.

"The final decision is not mine," Ross said. "We don't want to keep anybody out, but it would be hard to let them in without getting anything in return."

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Photo by Ted Kirk

Defensive tackle Dan Brock (94) puts the stop on Indiana's Dave Abrams (8) during the Huskers 45-13 win over the Hoosiers.



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