

Ballroom will be scene of fisticuffs as UNL hosts first smoker tonight

By Jim Hunt

Today UNL will host its first boxing smoker ever, said Randy Nelsen, UNL Boxing Club coach.

The fights will be held in the Nebraska Union Ballroom, and will start at 8 p.m. Cost is \$1.50. Nelsen said 200 spectators are needed for the club to financially break even on the smoker.

Clubs participating in the smoker will be the 1140 Club of Omaha, Stan's Lounge, House of Shears, Burlington Northern, Smiling Faces from Council Bluffs, Sho-Rei Kan, UNL and another team coached by Nelsen.

Each fight will be governed by Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) rules and will consist of three two-minute rounds, he said. Fights will be called after three knockdowns in a round or on the judges' decision. Boxers will use ten-ounce gloves.

There are 11 weight divisions in amateur boxing, including the 106-, 112-, 119-, 125-, 132-, 139-, 147-, 156-, 165- and 178-lb. divisions. Anyone over 178 pounds will box in the heavyweight division.

Every boxer who wins a match in the smoker will receive a trophy, Nelsen said.

UNL's club is new on campus this year. A boxing club was started last year but folded after a few months, Nelsen said.

The club practices from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday in the Coliseum.

Nelsen said many safety precautions are taken for the fighters. The boxers use head gear, mouth pieces and 16-ounce gloves in practice to protect themselves.

"Most people in our club are new (to boxing), Nelsen said. "We have about 17 boxers signed up but only about six that are ready to box right now."

Nelsen said the club needs people in the lighter weight divisions.

"If a kid wants to compete, boxing gives him that chance," Nelsen said. "It's another release for kids who might not be able to play college football or basketball. It matches him against someone with equal ability."

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Photo by Ted Kirk

Although the Husker varsity football team lost to Missouri Saturday, the Husker freshman team beat Mizou's junior varsity 33-14 Friday. UNL linebackers Kim Baker (53) and Dan LaFever (58) close in on a Missouri ball-carrier during the win, which was the 14th consecutive victory for UNL freshmen teams. The frosh's last loss was in 1973 to the Missouri Tigers. The freshmen's next game is Friday in Lawrence, Kan., against the University of Kansas' junior varsity.

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