

# Swofford leaves athletic post for business offer



Daily Nebraskan photo

Aleen Swofford, UNL women's athletic director.

By Rob Barney and Jim Hunt

Aleen Swofford, UNL women's athletic director for the past two years will resign her position effective Tuesday to enter private business.

Husker athletic director Bob Devaney announced the resignation Friday afternoon.

Swofford, who came to UNL in the summer of 1975, will become a partner in Sports Resorts, a racquetball and handball business.

"A business opportunity like this only comes along once, but you never know," Swofford said. "I had to take the opportunity."

Devaney said he asked Swofford to stay until the end of the year, but Swofford said the business offer would not wait.

Decide now

"I had to make the decision now," she said. "My business partners said I had the money (to invest) and the expertise for the job and I had to decide right now, so we could get things going by October."

"It's a six month development and investment period to get things going, and it was now or pass," Swofford said.

Devaney said he did not ask for Swofford's resignation. He expressed satisfaction with the job she has done as athletic director.

Swofford said Husker women's sports have become competitive nationally while she has been at UNL.

"I think we have the best women's program in the Big 8," Swofford said. "I also think we have one of the

better budgets in the country, but we still have a long ways to go."

Women's programs in the early 1970s each received \$25 in funding, Swofford said. In 1974 the women's budget was increased to \$60,000 and again was raised in 1975 to \$132,000.

The women's budget for the current year is \$215,000. Swofford also was instrumental in obtaining women's basketball coach George Nicodemus from now defunct John F. Kennedy (JFK) College in Wahoo.

Nationally competitive

"University of Nebraska sports is now competitive nationally with primarily Nebraska people," Nicodemus said Saturday.

"Whatever is here was her drive that did it," he said. "Budget-wise it has been quite an improvement over what was here when she came."

Nicodemus, who served as athletic director at JFK, expressed interest in the UNL job when asked about it.

"I have the experience," Nicodemus said. "It's another matter if they would want a man for the position or not." However, Nicodemus said he also wanted to continue to coach basketball.

Time consuming

"People don't realize how much time the (athletic director's) job consumes," he said. "When I was at JFK, I would sometimes be at the office at five in the morning. That was the only time you could get anything done."

Devaney said Jay Davis, women's sports information director, will assume Swofford's position for the remainder of the school year.

Davis, who came with Swofford two years ago from Texas, also expressed interest in the job as athletic director.

"I'm going to apply for the position," Davis said. "My eventual goal when I came here was to become the women's athletic director."

Swofford announced her intentions to resign at a staff meeting a week and half ago, Nicodemus said.

Swofford said she would have no say in the selection of the new women's athletic director.

## daily nebraskan

monday, february 28, 1977 vol. 100 no. 83 lincoln, nebraska

### City, county officials try back door consolidation

By Mary Jo Pitzl

With one door to LB36 closed by the Nebraska Legislature last week, city and county officials now are approaching the bill through the back door in a second attempt to consolidate Lancaster County and Lincoln governments.

LB36 called for the formation of a committee to design a plan to merge county and city services. It was killed last week in the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee.

At a Friday morning breakfast, representatives of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners and the Lincoln City Council met with Lincoln mayor Helen Boosalis and state senators Wally Barnett of Lincoln and Jerome Warner of Waverly to discuss the future of a county-city government merger.

Barnett introduced the bill, drafted by the County-City Implementation Commission (CCIC). CCIC is responsible for initiating action to consolidate duplicate services provided by the county and the city. Warner opposed LB36.

The Friday morning meeting resulted in a plan to continue work on a county-city merger. A voluntary group was made responsible to ensure a committee be appointed to design a charter for the merger.

The charter committee would be similar to CCIC. Formation of the new charter committee is the "opportunity to put the initiative of this (the merger) back in nonprofessional hands," said city councilman Bob Jeambey.

Besides Jeambey, other members of the voluntary group include city council members Sue Bailey and Max Denney and county commissioners Bob Colin, Jan Gauger and Bruce Hamilton.

Bailey said the voluntary group will be responsible for deciding how to appoint members to the charter committee. The committee will look at the consolidation issue in detail, Bailey said.

The long-term goal of the voluntary group and the committee it forms is to get the county-city merger proposal in a form the Legislature can pass, Bailey said.

LB36 would have required Legislative approval before work could begin on the merger.

The proposal approved at the Friday morning meeting would take the opposite approach and require a charter for the merger to be designed before receiving legislative review.

Colin said he hopes this back door approach to county-city government will reverse the "cart before the horse" situation posed by LB36.

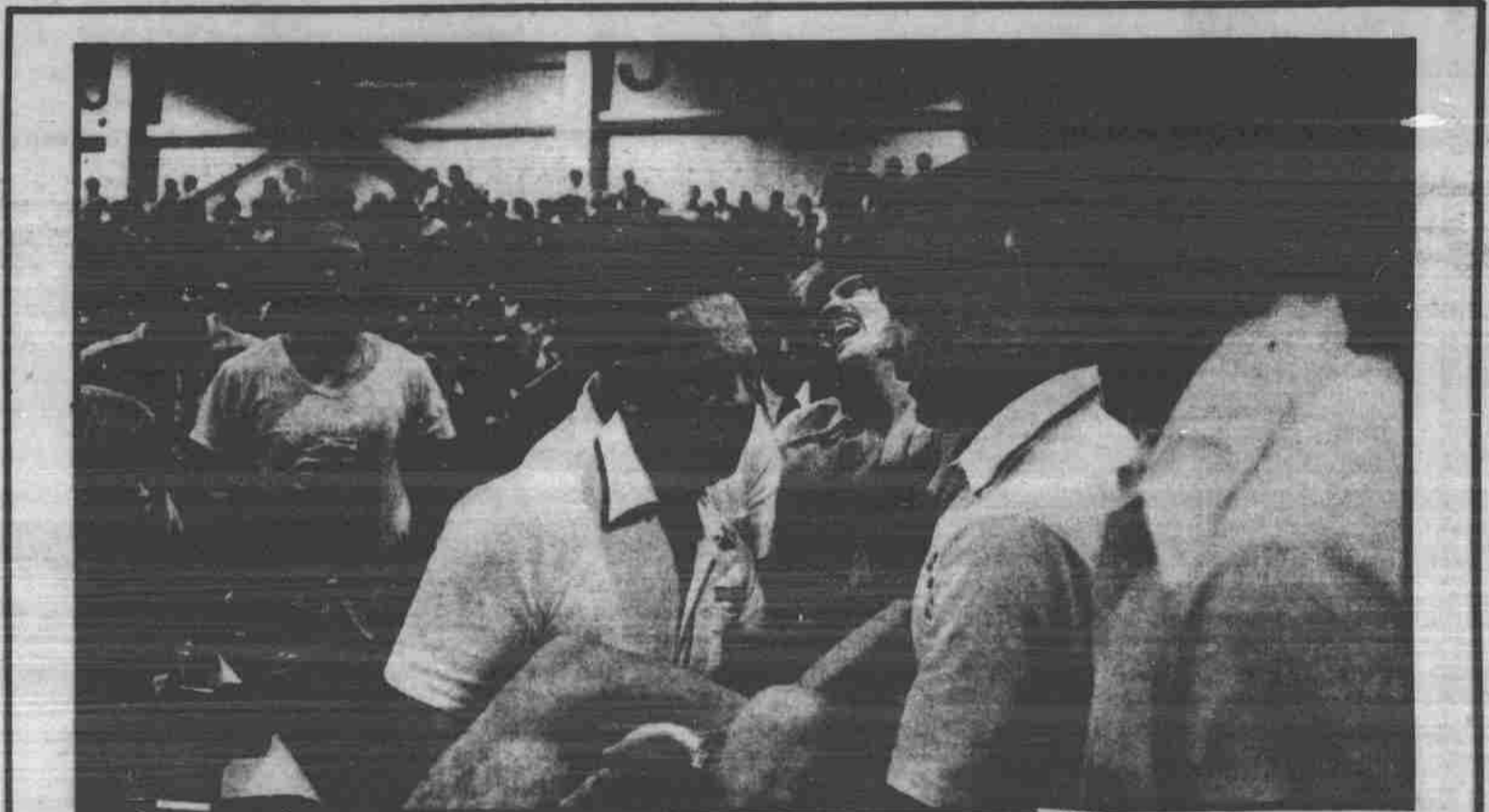


Photo by Ted Rink

Glenn Harter is carried from the track after being pushed to the ground and spraining his ankle Saturday in the 1,000-yard run at the Big 8 Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships. See related story on Page 10.

### Convict held after leap from Union

A Nebraska Penal Complex escapee was captured Friday morning by police after jumping from a second story window of the Nebraska Union.

Jesse Rouse, who escaped Tuesday, was caught after a UNL student reported to police that Rouse was hiding in the Union.

### ASUN candidate list held for verification

Release of the names of candidates in the 1977 ASUN election has been delayed until their applications can be verified by the UNL administration office, ASUN Election Commissioner Karen Tejcka said Sunday.

The filing deadline for ASUN Senate and executive positions and college advisory board candidates was last Friday at 4 p.m.

Tejcka said the administration has to confirm that the candidates are full-time students and are enrolled in the college they say they wish to represent.

The ASUN Election Commission met Sunday night to review the names, she said, and they will be sent to the administration office this morning.

However, Tejcka said she did not know when the names would be released.

ASUN election rules state that candidates may begin campaigning today. Posters may be hung on campus bulletin boards but no classrooms may be used for campaigning. Candidates may also campaign off campus.

Police said the unidentified student recognized Rouse and knew he was an escaped convict.

Rouse, 23, of Oshkosh, is serving 16 to 20 years in the penitentiary for the second degree murder of a police officer in Garden County, said Officer Thomas Mason of the penitentiary.

UNL Campus Police Officer Bob Douty said, Campus Police were dispatched to the Union and began searching for Rouse.

Douty said he found Rouse in Union 243. Douty was accompanied by Frank-Kuhn, Union operations manager.

When Douty opened the door, he said, he noticed the drapes moving. He said he found Rouse hiding behind the curtain with a knife.

"I surprised him almost as much as he surprised me," Douty said. "Then he bailed out the window."

Rouse, who broke his ankle in the fall, was offered assistance by a student, Douty said. Douty ordered the student away from Rouse, he said.

Rouse, wielding a knife, held off officers for 15 to 20 minutes, Douty said.

"Rouse told police officers to go ahead and shoot him or he would stab himself," Douty said.

Roger LaPage, Lincoln assistant police chief managed to get the knife away from Rouse, police reported.

Rouse was treated at Lincoln General Hospital for his broken ankle. Prison authorities said he is in good condition.

Rouse, who has been in the penitentiary since 1971, will remain at Lincoln General under 24-hour supervision until his doctors release him, police said.

## monday

News: Gov. J. James Exon says the regents are cheerleaders for the university . . . p. 5  
 Entertainment: A Ballerina in Pennsylvania company is "inebriated" by her art . . . p. 8  
 Sports: Frank Sands is named coach of NU crew . . . p. 10