

Rodeo group saddles up for a bronc-busting weekend

By Jim Kay

Saddle up!

The University of Nebraska Rodeo Association (UNRA) will be hosting its 13th annual intercollegiate rodeo today and Saturday.

An estimated 300 contestants from 22 colleges in the seven-state Great Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) will be entered in the rodeo. Production cost for the rodeo is \$20,000.

Walt Garrison, a rodeo professional and former running back for the Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League, will be in Lincoln this weekend to promote the event.

Garrison is the director of special events for the U.S.

Tobacco Co. He travels the country to NIRA sponsored events to promote them.

Because rodeo is a sport not recognized by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), it receives no financial support for member schools. U.S. Tobacco is providing \$100,000 in rodeo scholarships to winning schools at the national finals.

"We're now in our third year of providing athletic, educational scholarships," Garrison said. "Rodeo is a sport just like football or basketball and I believe these cowboys and cowgirls should be recognized as athletes. They should get the same opportunities as other athletes.

Garrison joined the NIRA one year after leaving Oklahoma State University. He went on to become a profes-

sional during his time with the Cowboys and said he actually competed more at that time than he does now.

"I've been traveling for about two-and-a-half years now," he said, "and I get to about 22 rodeos a year. There are 10 regions in the NIRA and I'll visit maybe two rodeos in each region. And I get to know the kids pretty well."

Garrison said he was not familiar with UNL's rodeo team but that NIRA as a whole has doubled in the last five years.

UNL equipped

"They have their own practice stock and practice grounds and good equipment here," Garrison said. "And they have per diem money to travel on, which is a good thing."

He added the UNL club was one of the largest he had seen.

"75 to 80 people is a good size club," Garrison said. "Texas Tech has 300 which is probably the largest, but that's a rodeo-oriented area."

Mike Unterseher, president of UNRA, said that UNL this year had one of its finest teams in the club's 17-year existence.

"The six guys on the men's team are ranked second in the Great Plains Region," Unterseher said. "Mick Knott, Steve Huckfeldt and Andy Applegarth are the top three in bulldogging in the region. And Mick is currently fifth in the region in all-around competition."

The other members of the men's team are senior Maynard Conroy, senior Tony Eppert and Unterseher, a junior.

Women's team

He added the three girl's team of sophomore Karen Chenault, senior Vicki Kennedy and junior Cheryl White were among the best in the region in the barrel race.

"The barrel race is their only event really," Unterseher said. "Karen is first in the region and seventh in the nation. And Vicki and Cheryl are both in the top ten in the region."

South Dakota State University is the event's defending champion in the men's division and the University of Wisconsin at River Falls is the defending women's champs.

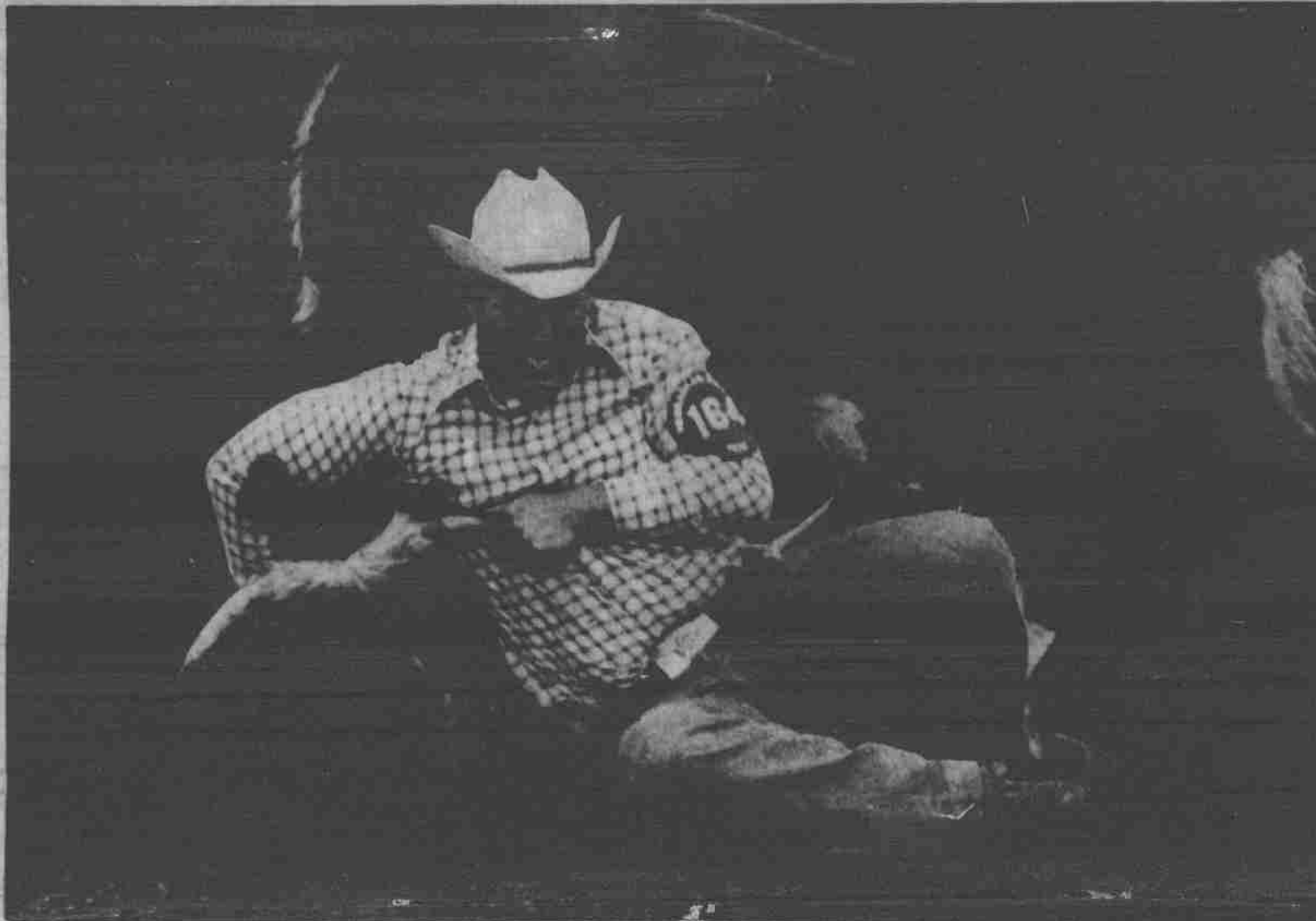
There will be 10 events in the rodeo which begins at 7:45 tonight with the opening ceremonies. The six men's events include bareback bronc riding, calf roping, Saddle bronc riding, team roping, steer wrestling and bull riding. The three ladies' events are barrel racing, break-away roping and goat tying.

The tenth event will be a feature called the wildcow ride. Teams of four persons from local radio stations, television stations and UNL fraternities will attempt to catch, saddle and ride a wild cow in a timed event.

Teams participating in the rodeo from the Great Plains Region include Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Two of the 22 teams will advance to the NIRA finals in Bozeman, Mont. in June.

Saturday's competition begins at 1:30 p.m. with the finals starting at 7:45 p.m. at the Nebraska State Fair Grounds Coliseum.

sports



Daily Nebraskan photo

A cowboy competes in the steer wrestling event at the Burwell Rodeo. Fans will have a chance to see some of the best college performers at the tenth annual intercollegiate rodeo today and Saturday.

Baseball forecast is carbon copy of last year's playoffs

By Jim Hunt

With the start of the major league baseball season Wednesday I thought it was time to put my poison pen to my favorite teams for the 1977 season.

I think baseball fans will see the same four teams, the New York Yankees, Kansas City Royals, Cincinnati Reds and the Philadelphia Phillies, make the playoffs again this year.

In the American League East the Yankees are by far the best team, and by all rights they should be. Any team that pumps as much money into buying a championship team like the Yanks have, deserve to win the World Series.

The Boston Red Sox should finish second in the American League East and a distant second at that. With Fred Lynn and Jim Rice the Red Sox have the hitting to

Detroit was expecting big things out of Mark "The Bird" Fidrych, but "The Bird" will be sidelined for two months with a knee injury so don't expect big things out of the Tigers.

The Brewers should be their usual bad again this year, and you can't expect much out of an expansion team like the Blue Jays.

In the American League West I see the Royals on top again, but the California Angels should give the Royals a run for the money.

The Royal's weak point will be their pitching staff again this year. The failure of Steve Busby to come back from his injury last year puts a lot of pressure on Dennis Leonard and Paul Splittorff. However, the bats of George Brett and Hal McRae should be enough to offset any pitching weaknesses.

The California Angels is another one of those teams that tried to buy a championship. With the addition of Joe Rudi and Bobby Grich to the pitching of Frank Tanana and Nolan Ryan the Angels will definitely give the Royals trouble.

The Texas Rangers should finish third. The addition of Bert Campaneris at shortstop will help fill a position the Rangers have needed help with for a long time.

Twins fourth
Minnesota is my pick for the fourth slot. The Twins have the hitting but still need some pitching help and an owner that realizes it is the 1970s.

The Twins will be followed by the Chicago White Sox, Oakland A's and the Seattle Mariners.

Cincinnati will make it three in a row in the National League West again this season. The Reds have more team balance again this year than any other team in baseball and will prove it over the 162-game schedule.

Los Angeles has a new manager in Tommy Lasorda, but the same result. A second place finish will be the end result for the Dodgers.

The Dodgers will get off to another fantastic start before making another swan dive into second place. Tough luck, Dodger fans.

An improving San Diego club will finish third in the National West. With a pitcher like Cy Young award winner Randy Jones the Padres are on the move.

The Atlanta Braves are my pick for fourth with the Houston Astros finishing fifth.

Not even the presence of Bill Madlock and the pitching of John "The Count" Montefusco will be able to keep the San Francisco Giants out of the cellar.

Greg Luzinski and Steve Carlton should combine talents to lead the Philadelphia

Phillies to their second consecutive National League East title.

The Phillies, who almost lost a big lead last year, will have to watch out for the Pirates once again this year. A healthy Willie Stargell, along with Al Oliver, will keep the Pirates close to the top in the east.

The New York Mets are my choice for third place and they should be followed by St. Louis Cardinals with Lou Brock trying to break Ty Cobb's record for career stolen bases. Brock needs only 27 steals to become the record holder.

Once again this year it will take more guts than brains to be a Chicago Cub fan. The Cubs, who traded away Matlock, are destined for fifth again this year.

The Montreal Expos probably will be the cellar dwellers again this season but we have to keep the Canadian teams together.

Three-day trip no vacation

UNL tennis coach Jim Porter is traveling to Colorado for a three-day weekend beginning today but it isn't a vacation.

Porter and his team will play four matches in three days against Colorado schools beginning at 2 today with a match against the Air Force Academy (AFA) team in Colorado Springs. Saturday the Huskers will play matches against Colorado College in the morning and Southern Colorado College in the afternoon. They wind up play against the University of Colorado (CU) in Boulder on Sunday morning.

Porter said the concentrated number of matches would not be a hindrance to his team.

"We've been doing this kind of thing all season," he said. "It's becoming common to concentrate matches on weekends. You can get in a lot more matches and its more

economical too. We'll be going to this type of thing more in the future."

Porter added that AFA "always has a strong team and Colorado is one of the most improved teams in the Big 8 Conference. "I also heard that Southern Colorado is strong."

The Huskers are off to one of their best starts in recent years with a 10-6 record. Porter said with some consistency the team could improve more.

"We've been improving steadily and generally playing well," Porter said. "We've been erratic and inconsistent at times but we'll soon be playing up to our capabilities."

He added that the play of sophomores Phil Woog and Dan Sloboth was one of the major reasons for the improvement.

"The play of these two has been outstanding so far this year," Porter said.

rebounds

contend for the title, but the big question mark is their pitching staff.

Luis Tiant and Fergie Jenkins are not getting any younger. However, if Bill Campbell, a refugee from the Twins, does a good job in the bull pen, it will really help the Sox's pitching.

The Baltimore Orioles are my pick for third place. If Lee May and Al Bumbry perform well the Orioles will do well.

If the Orioles falter the Cleveland Indians should be right behind them. With Rico Carty and Wayne Garland, the Indians could surprise a few people.

No surprise

The rest of the American League East should be no surprise with Detroit, Milwaukee and Toronto.