



Photo by Ted Kirk

It looks as though someone has barely escaped Excedrin Headache No. 31 at a motocross event near Denton, Neb.

Cabell sees long-time goal

By Jim Kay

Former Nebraska defensive back Jake Cabell is on the verge of achieving a long-time goal. Cabell, a 1976 graduate was recently hired as a Husker assistant coach for the upcoming season.

"Ever since I've been in sports, I've wanted to get into coaching," Cabell said. "You might say it's been my first love. I figured if I didn't play pro ball, I'd want to coach."

Cabell played at North Carolina Central University for one year before transferring to Ferrum Junior College in Virginia for one year. He played at UNL his last two years, lettering at cornerback.

Cabell will coach defensive backs on the freshmen team this year.

"With freshmen, you primarily work on fundamentals," Cabell said. "The idea is to not give them a lot at one time because they're confused enough as it is."

He said fundamentals are stressed because not all freshmen have experience as defensive backs.

"Players who don't make it elsewhere want to try to play defensive back," Cabell said. "Coaches who convert players into

defensive backs try to mold them into the position if he hasn't played there before.

"The main thing I would stress is working on technique, things like backpedaling and staying low. I think once a player gets the feel of the techniques, he'll be a good player."

Cabell said he considered himself lucky to be able to land a job with the Nebraska coaching staff.

"This is the place to learn," he said. "It's in the Big 8 and is a top notch school. It's good practical experience and I'm glad to get the chance to coach here."

Cabell, who received his B.A. degree in education from UNL and is now at work on his masters degree in graduate school, said he wants to continue coaching on the collegiate level.

"I'd like to coach college ball," he said. "I'll learn the system here and get that down and then hopefully go on to coach on the collegiate level after my M.A."

Cabell is one of four part-time assistant coaches with the UNL program. The others are former Husker players Bob Thornton and Brad Jenkins and former McCook high school coach, Milt Tenopir.

sports shorts

An organizational meeting for intramural team managers will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Nebraska Union small auditorium. Fees, eligibility and other topics will be discussed.

All UNL women athletes are required to attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the south stadium lounge. Scholarship athletes must attend a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, also in the south stadium lounge. Athletes who cannot attend should contact the women's athletic director's office.

Head basketball coach Marcia Walker said any women interested in trying out for the team must complete fall conditioning. The first session is 3:30 Wednesday at Mable Lee Hall, room 313.

Women's swim coach Ray Huppert said swim team tryouts will be Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. in the NU Sports Complex.

Mike Arthur, weight room supervisor for the UNL Sports Complex, placed second in the 132 pound class at the national Weightlifting Championship. Arthur almost qualified for the World Championships in Australia. However, only first-place finishers in each class may attend. At nationals, Arthur had lifts of 430 pounds in the squat, 259 pounds in the bench press and 545 pounds in the deadlift.

All athletes in any sport this year must report to the University Health Center 6 p.m. Thursday. Athletic trainer Jayne Snyder suggests athletes bring a robe or swim suit for the physical. Physical reports from individual physicians will not be accepted.

Students wishing to express their opinions on the proposed Memorial Stadium expansion may contact UNL committee members Mary Fejfar of Lincoln or Scott Cook of Sidney.

Scoreboard, tickets go up

New AstroTurf and an animated scoreboard over the north end zone of Memorial Stadium will greet Husker Football fans this fall and increase ticket costs on non-conference games.

The new rug and scoreboard cost about \$520,000. Husker football fans will foot half of the bill.

A one dollar surcharge will be attached to tickets for non-conference games to help pay for the \$300,000 turf.

The Monsanto Co. of St. Louis installed the new turf.

The scoreboard will be paid by advertising on the scoreboard. Three firms have agreed to advertise: Gateway Realty, First Federal Savings and Loan of Lincoln and Mutual of Omaha.

American Sign and Indicator Co. of Washington designed the new scoreboard.

Head Trainer George Sullivan said AstroTurf "is the only thing for us."

"On the old turf, you would get cuts from spikes and there was more infection," he said.

"We don't have much real estate here

either. Some schools have five or six practice fields, but we don't. We can work on the AstroTurf for bowl games and can scrape off the snow and practice on it if we have to. We couldn't do that before."

Sullivan said new AstroTurf was badly needed.

"When the old turf got wet you would slip trying to cut. The pad underneath was so hard that when you landed on it, you would either get jarred or bruised," he said.

Despite AstroTurf being the "only thing" for UNL, Sullivan said the carpet does cause some problems.

"The shoe designed for AstroTurf is more tacky and the foot doesn't skid like on the old grass field," he said. "It causes some tender toes. But with some padding the players are able to play."

Sullivan said one severe injury occurred last spring. Middle guard Jeff Pullen missed most of spring practice because of a tender toe.

The first AstroTurf was installed at UNL in 1970. Huskers won the national championship that year.



June Davis



George Nicodemus Daily Nebraskan photo

Nicodemus fights for job

By Rob Barney

The past few months have been long ones for George Nicodemus. He does not have a job, he is fighting for his old one and he wonders how it all happened.

Nicodemus' troubles began May 23, two days after June Davis was appointed Women's Athletic Director. She dismissed Nicodemus of his basketball and softball coaching duties.

During his two years at UNL, Nicodemus' basketball teams compiled 23-9 and 21-16 records. His softball team qualified for the regional tournament in May.

Nicodemus is not taking his resignation lying down. He has hired Lincoln attorney James DeMars to help him get his job back.

"If any legal action is taken, it will be based on a breach of contract," DeMars said. "One of our arguments is that under the by-laws of the University, his (Nicodemus) position is permanent only to be filled by someone with tenure or by someone with a contract with a specific term set."

Contract approved in 1976

According to DeMars, Nicodemus' contract was approved July 1, 1976 as a temporary appointment.

"We're contending that his position is not the type of position to be filled with a temporary contract," DeMars said.

DeMars said since Nicodemus was not notified of his dismissal 90 days before contract renewal time (June 30), he gets an automatic one-year extension of his old contract.

Contacted at his Malmo, Neb. home, Nicodemus said he thought he would be coaching at UNL this year.

"On April 20 I was told by Davis (then interim athletic director) that I would be back as a coach for next year," he said. "There are no written contracts at the university, they are all verbal. She didn't say I was hired, however, I assumed I was."

Nicodemus was one of six finalists for the athletic director's post according to a member of the selection committee. Davis replaced Aileen Swofford, who resigned in February.

Five reasons

Nicodemus said Davis gave his five reasons for his dismissal. She said he was disorganized, players complained about not

playing and she could not locate him at times, he said. She also told Nicodemus he did not submit travel times for road games soon enough and that Nebraska high school coaches will not send their players to UNL because Nicodemus is coach, she said.

"For the reasons given, as an athletic director, I would not dismiss a coach," Nicodemus said. "I could not make them (the charges) out to be as serious as they were given to me."

"She never talked to me beforehand. And she did not explain to me what she meant by disorganized," he added.

Davis, when asked to comment, refused to answer any questions concerning Nicodemus' dismissal.

"I won't deny some players were unhappy about not playing, but the dismissal came as a complete shock. I did not expect it," Nicodemus said.

There was speculation Nicodemus would appeal his dismissal to the NU Board of Regents. He did not, but did talk to one of the regents, Nicodemus said.

May file complaint

He said he may file a complaint with the UNL grievance committee. That committee meets today.

Dr. Norma Griffin, chairman of the grievance committee (a faculty group) explained the procedure.

"The procedure for any grievance is to indicate the nature of the grievance, then to meet with all of the parties mentioned in the grievance," she said.

"If it falls within our jurisdiction, we'll meet in conference, file a report on our findings and make a recommendation."

Nicodemus' resignation may have cost the women's basketball program a recruit, Lynette Woodward, an all-American performer from Topeka, Kan.

"I thought I had recruited her," Nicodemus said. "She had visited the campus and we had spent a considerable time talking."

Signed with Kansas

She wants to make the 1980 Olympic team and was interested in a coach that could promote her. She had it down to Nebraska and one other school. The day after my dismissal, I read she signed a letter of intent to attend Kansas."

DeMars said Nicodemus would like to reach an agreement with UNL without a lawsuit.