

sports

Last game not end of information director's job

By Kevin Schnepf

When the University of Kansas Jayhawks pack their bags for Lawrence after their game with the Huskers Saturday, the 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. workday for UNL's Sports Information Director, will end.

Don Bryant, in his 15th year of putting in 11-hour days while the Huskers play at Memorial Stadium, said he wishes UNL would play a home football game every Saturday.

"Next Saturday, I'll probably wish we had another football game," Bryant said. "Sure, we get tired and weary. In fact, I usually end up with a cold at the end of the season, but it's a very rewarding job.

"Football is a great season, it just goes by too fast."

The Huskers tradition of receiving a bowl bid the past eight years means Bryant's job with the football team is far from over.

"The problem is that the season doesn't end with the last regular season game at Nebraska," Bryant said. "We have to get ready for a bowl game while basketball, swimming and other sports are going on. The next three weeks are the busiest time of the year."

Bryant said his department filled out a two-page information sheet for the Orange Bowl although UNL is not assured of a trip to Miami. The winner of the Big 8 Championship goes to the Orange Bowl.

Another season

"They request it for early printing," he said. "They couldn't wait until we know we are going, or else it would be too late. If we go to a bowl, it's just like starting another season—with pictures, promotion and television."

Bryant receives help from Bill Bennett, assistant sports information director and staff assistant Susan Landen.

"This job is a team operation," Bryant said. "There are no finer people coast to coast to work with than Bill Bennett or Susan Landen. One guy couldn't handle this job all by himself."

Bryant begins his work day Saturday attending the KFOR radio breakfast at 7 a.m. He then goes to his office, underneath South Stadium, from 8:30 to 9 a.m. to do any last minute credential checks and prepare pre-game "dope" sheets. Bryant goes up to the press box from 9:30 to 10 a.m. to check out the scoreboard, radio booths and assign press box and photo booths. Bryant answers media and maintenance requests until lunch is served in the press box at 11:30 a.m.

"Prior to the game, I will go down to the locker room to check line-ups while Bill (Bennett) is up in the press box," Bryant said. "From the start of the game on, we supervise the press box and are essentially the command post for the whole stadium."

Almost chaos

Bryant said a "million things" could happen between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on football Saturdays.

"Many years ago, I got a call from the chancellor in the middle of the game about a person complaining that the bass drum was too close," he said. "There are a lot of problems that do not sound very big, but when you combine them all, it's chaos."

Bryant said, however, he has help in solving when chaos occurs.

"The police, the fire department, the health depart-

ment, the food department, the ushers and the band are all busting their tails to put it all together," Bryant said. "I don't care if it's Podunk University or Oklahoma University playing, everybody works just as hard at every home football game.

"We'll be working just as hard against Kansas as we did when ABC televised the Alabama game. It is a very rewarding feeling when you make it through a game successfully," he said.

The press box, where Bryant and his crew are stationed on Saturdays, accommodates 50 reporters, nine radio booths, the scoreboard operators and a photography dark room on the first level. The second level includes 300 theatre seats which are reserved for those who contri-

buted \$1,000 or more for stadium construction. Contributors have the option to purchase four seats at the premium price.

The third level is an open-air deck for television, movie and news photographers.

"Our press box is not as big as Colorado's," Bryant said. "But it is more than adequate for most our games. It may be a little small because of the growing interest in football."

When Bryant leaves the press box after Saturday's game with Kansas, he will supervise the press during post-game interviews. At 5 p.m. Bryant will begin making plans for the trip to Norman, Okla. for the University of Oklahoma game Nov. 25 and a possible bowl game bid.



Photo by Ted Kirk

It will just be the end of the another football game and another season for the Fat Fox when Kansas boards the bus after its game with the Cornhuskers Saturday. The Fox, Don Bryant, has virtual control of what happens before, during and after home football games.

Early season competition gets gymnasts into shape

Practice makes perfect, or so says Husker women's gymnastic Coach Judy Schalk as her team prepares to leave for the Phillips 66 Open in Bartlesville, Okla., Saturday.

Schalk said the Huskers are going to the meet to get in shape and to gain experience.

"I chose to go because it is early in the season and I am using it to force the team into competitive shape before most teams," Schalk said. "When the height of competition comes, they will be more trained and better able to handle it."

The meet is an open meet with clubs and teams from all over the nation competing in all age groups. Schalk said there are about 50 participants in the 15 and over age group in which the Huskers will be competing.

She said the toughest competition would come from girls 13 to 16 years old or at the age when gymnasts peak.

Schalk said she is not optimistic about the Huskers chances for winning the meet.

"I don't expect to win because the club competition is at the advanced

level," she said. "All I expect it to be is a developmental meet to get in condition, give them a look at competition and give them experience."

The Huskers will be competing without two of their all-arounders, sophomore Tammy Driscoll and senior Carrie Buckley. Driscoll has a hyper-extended elbow and Buckley has a shoulder injury.

Schalk said sophomore Patty Carmichael and freshman Jeanne Concannon should do well.

"Patty is a former elite gymnast, which is the level just below the Olympics," she said. "The olympians are chosen from the elite level."

Carmichael, however, has not stayed at the elite level Schalk said, because competition at the college level is not that high.

Concannon is a "great talent in the developmental stage," Schalk said. She took first in the all-around, uneven parallel bars, floor exercise and vaulting competitions at the team's first meet last week against the University of Minnesota. The Huskers lost that meet 126 to 123.

'Prestigious' tournament scheduled for grapplers

By Kevin Schnepf

The UNL Men's Physical Education Building, 14th and W Sts. will be the site this weekend for one of the most prestigious national wrestling tournaments, according to UNL wrestling coach Orval Borgialli.

The Great Plains Invitational, an American Amateur Union-sponsored event, will feature 300 to 350 of the nation's top collegiate and amateur wrestlers. The tournament will begin Friday at 1 p.m. The evening session begins at 7. Competition will continue Saturday at 1 p.m. with the final session at 7 p.m.

The tournament is the qualifying round to determine which United States team will travel to Tblisi, Russia in January.

"Last year, eight Great Plains champions were on the team that went to Russia," Borgialli said. "There are a lot of amateurs as well as collegians entered so it will be a pretty tough meet."

"It's a big national tournament and wrestlers will be coming from all over."

Borgialli also said several of the nation's junior world champions will compete. The junior world championship, held this summer, included high school juniors and seniors.

The Huskers will enter 24 wrestlers in the tournament including team co-captains Court Vining and George Mink. Vin-

ing, in the 158 pound class and Mink, is the 190 pound class, are UNL's top two contenders in the tournament.

Borgialli said "every individual who is eligible and some of our redshirts will be wrestling."

The Huskers return 11 starters including sophomores Dave Finken, Agron Vasha and Dave Redding. Recruits Rudy Glur, a three time high school champion from Columbus, and Rick Hotz of Grand Island bolster the lower weight class divisions. The team includes out-of-state recruits Jeff May, (Ohio) Mark Niblo, (Iowa) Kirby Trump, (Colorado) and Ray Payne, (Oklahoma).

"The wrestlers are tired of practicing and are ready to compete," Borgialli said. "They would prefer the meet to be collegiate rather than freestyle, but they can adjust to that."

In freestyle, wrestlers can lock their hands on their opponents at anytime. Under collegiate rules a wrestler can lock his hands only while standing. There are some modifications in scoring and time of bouts under freestyle rules, Borgialli said.

Wrestlers from the top three Big 8 schools, the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and Iowa State University, will compete in the tournament.