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Police say orange and junk throwers will be booted

By Val Swinton

Bowl bid in Miami or not, persons caught throwing sunshine fruit at tomorrow's OU-NU football game may be asked to take a hike. That's the word from both the Lincoln and University Police as they gear up for the Oklahoma game.

Captain John Miller, LPD team captain for the Lincoln Center area, and Gale Gade, director of the UNL police department, both agree that the throwing of debris, including oranges, is becoming a problem at home games.

"We're having people that are complaining, especially on the south side and east side near the south end," said Captain Miller, adding that cans, bottles and oranges have caused some minor injuries among fans sitting in the lower level seats.

Student complaints

Some UNL students are complaining that police have singled out the south end of the stadium where the student section is and are concentrating enforcement efforts in that area. Miller said extra officers were moved into the area during the last home game, but said the

officers were there for good reason.

"We haven't concentrated on anyone," he said. "But if a problem develops during the game, we move people in to take care of it."

Lincoln police by far have the largest number of officers assigned to the game, usually sending about 60. State and county police are also there to help the UNL officers with enforcement.

Although state police usually cover the south end of the stadium, city police occasionally are asked to help out.

Fans ejected

Miller said about 12 persons were either cited for disorderly conduct at the last home game, or were escorted from the stadium for throwing things.

Gade agrees that if fans are caught throwing items onto the football field, they could lose their seat.

"If we catch them throwing oranges, there's a good possibility the persons will be removed, and the possibility that the persons could be cited," he said.

Under state statutes, throwing debris at the football game constitutes disorderly conduct.

Grandstand injuries

Gade said he is not aware of any injuries caused by falling debris, except for a minor eye injury when one fan was struck by a piece of ice at an earlier home game. Another person received head injuries after being struck in the head by a transistor radio that fell from the upper deck.

Both men say there will be no additional officers at the game.

Gade also said there was no pre-arranged plan to send additional officers into the southeast end of the stadium during the last game, but some were sent after the first touchdown when the oranges flew.

Although Gade's men are not assigned to the south end, he is charged with coordinating the efforts of the various law enforcement agencies.

Falling goal posts

Gade also says there is some concern about the possibility of students tearing down the goal posts if Nebraska wins. Presently, there are no plans to prevent the student body from taking such action; but "our concern is to keep people from being injured, so we'll have to play it by ear," he said.

And, University Police will be busy in the parking lots before the game handing out literature concerning consumption of liquor.

Sgt. Joe Wehner said the pamphlets will simply remind the fans it is illegal to drink beer and liquor in the stadium, or anywhere on campus.

Police say there's little they can do to prevent persons from bringing in liquor in containers other than the usual cans and bottles. Whener said, "We're trying to solicit cooperation from the community."



Photo by Ted Kirk

Your license is expired, you've got no plates, motor vehicles aren't allowed on the football turf and I wanna ride too.

Football keeps company out of red

Cornhusker and Sooner fans will have one thing in common Saturday; there is a good chance they will have purchased their red Nebraska cowboy hats or their red Sooner coach's hats and sun visors from the same company.

Bud Smith Enterprises owns three Big Red Shops, one across from Nebraska's Memorial Stadium at 701 N. 10th St., one across the street from the Sooner's home field in Norman, Okla. and one in Oklahoma City.

Ken Campbell, a Big Red Shop manager in Oklahoma City, said the company buys a large quantity of blank red hats. The hats are sent to Nebraska where an N is put on them. In Oklahoma an OU or Sooners is placed on the same hats.

Bud Smith was on his way to Lincoln Thursday with a "van full of Sooner souvenirs," Campbell said. He said the Big Red Shop in Lincoln will sell only Nebraska items to avoid alienating Husker fans, but Smith will sell both NU

and OU products inside the stadium.

Although he said his boss (Smith) will be pulling for OU Saturday, Campbell said he is an out-numbered Cornhusker fan in a foreign land.

"I catch a lot of flack for it, but I keep telling everybody I hope the Huskers just run all over OU," Campbell said. He explained that he is related to former NU defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, and his father and uncle both played football for NU.

He said the shops in Oklahoma concentrate on Sooner goods, but sell items supporting all Big Eight schools. He said the popular NU cowboy hats don't sell as well with "OU" on them.

He said the big, red, Sooner-supporting items are coach's type caps, sun-visors, and for women, something called "floppy hats."

Floppy hats are loose cowboy hats, Campbell said. He added there is no difference in the color of OU items and NU items.

Class cancellation opposed by Young

UNL Chancellor Roy Young said Thursday he opposes a proposed cancellation of classes on Monday Nov. 13 in the event of a Husker victory over the Oklahoma Sooners.

Young said he had received comments from students and faculty, both in support of and in opposition to an ASUN resolution supporting the cancellation of classes.

"Cancellation . . . would have a serious effect on the time available for classroom and laboratory experiences for the remainder of the semester," Young said.

"Because so few weeks are left in the semester, it would be extremely difficult, and perhaps in some cases impossible, to reschedule classes and laboratories which would be required to cover materials projected for courses, and in some cases meet association standards."

He also said cancellation would be unfair to students who have paid full tuition because it would deny them "the full measure of services for which they have paid."

"The University of Nebraska has a first-rate football team," Young said. "When we beat Oklahoma, we should take it in stride as one step toward the ultimate goal of a win over Missouri, a win at the Orange Bowl, and a possible national championship."

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