

NU-Penn State TV viewers unaware of technical work

By Kim Hachiya

When television viewers tune in Saturday morning to watch the NU-Penn State game, few will be aware of the technical work involved in relaying the game across the nation.

Saturday's game is ABC Sport's number one regional game, which means it will be broadcasted to about 70 percent of the nation, to be followed immediately by the nationally televised Ohio State-UCLA game.

ABC pulled into Lincoln Wednesday night with 31 engineers to begin setting up the miles of phone cable and equipment needed for the undertaking.

According to Warren Maisch, a technician, the phone company is one of ABC's closest allies.

"Without the phone company we are dead," Maisch said. "The phones relay everything from point to point. We can get the picture to our trucks, but we can't get it out to be broadcasted without the phone hook-ups."

Maisch, who came to Lincoln from New Haven, Conn. after working last week's Yale-Brown game, said that Nebraska has been cooperative in helping ABC to set up.

"They give us everything we need. Most college people are very cooperative, however," he added.

Peter DiPaola, unit manager, said Nebraska has a good facility for telecasts. Although he said the press box isn't ideal for cameras because it's too high, the camera posi-

tions parallel to the west balconies in the stadium plus the room for mobile camera vehicles and hand-held cameras along the sidelines make for good coverage.

DIPAOLA SAID ABC does not generally make the decision on which games to broadcast until Monday before the games.

"ABC Sports tries to show the best games subject to NCAA rules concerning broadcasts" he said. NCAA rules prohibit any team from appearing on TV more than twice a season except for bowl appearances and play-off games.

Les Wise, technical director, said he just came off a soccer tour, where the technical implementation is totally different from NCAA tours. He said most of the crew has been covering NCAA tours for 10 to 15 years and they begin to know instinctively what is good and what isn't.

Wise said the director makes the judgment on what sidelines shots to show.

"Sometimes we'll inadvertently show a coach in the middle of a profane remark. The audience may read the lips and the damage is done. But in a sense it was blipped because there isn't any audio. It's usually no worse than anything people would see on Johnny Carson," he said.

BOB GOODRICH, the producer for the game, explained that he is in charged of forming the pre-game show, selecting what highlights of former games to show, when to insert commercials and which replays to show.

Working with 30 television monitors and relying on past experience, Goodrich said he would have several options for any given play.

For example, in a third down and long situation, Goodrich would assume a pass play. He tapes the live line (what the home audience is seeing) as a backup plus isolates on the wide receivers from the sidelines and isolates the ball from the endzone. If the play makes it, or even if it doesn't, Goodrich has four options and camera angles to replay.

Goodrich said deciding who to isolate on its a judg-

ment call.

"For instance, if a defensive secondary back has had a good record of interceptions, we'll isolate on him and hope to get some spectacular catch," he said.

Goodrich said it is up to the director to decide which shots of the crowd and sidelines are shown. The cameramen point their cameras and the director checks to see who has a nice shot, Goodrich said.

"HE'LL LOOK for pretty girls, cheerleaders, winning coaches, losing coaches and injured players. With seven cameras, we'll have seven options," he said.

Goodrich has been a producer for five years and has been with ABC since September 1971. He will be at Lake Placid this winter covering his fourth Olympic games. He was in Munich in 1972 during the terrorist kidnapping of Israeli athletes.

"That was a really tense situation," he said. "We didn't know if they (the terrorists) would try to take over the TV center to try to make demands or what. It was very scary for everyone."

Goodrich said the worst incident of his career, however, was not the events at Munich.

"Very simple. It was the Woody Hayes incident," he said. Hayes, former Ohio State head football coach punched a player in the Gator Bowl last year during Ohio State's loss to Clemson.

"I was the producer for that game and I made the mistake of not recording the live line that the home audience sees. That was the only feed that had the incident. Keith Jackson, the announcer didn't see it and we replayed the end zone shot, the only tape we had of the play and it stopped short of Hayes' punch.

"We were accused of covering up for the NCAA and Ohio State. But actually because of an unfortunate series of events, we just didn't happen to have it."

"It was unfortunate. It really was not funny. It was just embarrassing," Goodrich said.

daily nebraskan

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The Daily Nebraskan is published by the UNL Publications Board Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters, except during vacation.

Address: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 14th and R streets, Lincoln, Neb., 68588. Telephone: 472-2588.

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Early start hurts downtown businesses

Downtown business managers contacted this week said the early kickoff in the Nebraska-Penn State Saturday will affect business.

Walter Stephenson of Magee's said he was excited that the game is televised but "it's possible that it may cut down on business."

"Football Saturdays are a vital business day. The outside people make the difference," he said.

To accommodate the football crowd, Magee's will open at 9 a.m. on football Saturdays instead of the usual 9:30 a.m. opening.

Deb O'Hanlon of Brandeis said, "Of course we would prefer that the kickoff be at a later time."

But, she added, because the game will be over earlier, business may increase after the game.

"A lot of people come into the store in the morning to look around. Then after the game they'll come back and buy."

Lawlor's downtown manager, Jim Evenson, said Lawlor's will also open a half hour earlier than usual on football Saturdays.

"There's no doubt about it, we expect a 25 percent decrease in business," he said because of the earlier game time.

Ben Simon's men's clothes manager, Bill Bures said, "In general we expect it will affect business a little." Simon's will be open at 9:30 instead of 10 and will stay open until 6, he said.

Steve Adams of Tico's said that they have a fairly constant crowd on football Saturdays.

"But because the game is televised, I don't expect as many people will leave their homes," he said.

calendar

10-11:30 a.m.—Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Heritage Room

11:30 a.m.—Society of Women Engineers Luncheon, Pewter Room

11:30 a.m.—CBA Executive in Residence Luncheon, Regency Suite A

12 p.m.—Californian for Nebraska Luncheon, Georgian Suite

1-2 p.m.—Muslim Student Association, Room 401

1:30-2:30 p.m.—Bowling Exam, The Rostrum

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