

Department investigating possible recreation facility

By Bob Lannin

Recreation department officials are investigating the possibility of constructing an indoor recreational facility at UNL.

Recreation director, Dan Steller, said the facility would provide "an all-encompassing situation, providing the most things we can to the students."

Steller said the facility would provide racquetball courts, a sauna and steam room, a combative arts area, an indoor track, multi-purpose courts for basketball, badminton and volleyball, gymnastics equipment and a weight room all within one building.

Lockerroom facilities and recreation department offices also would be included in the building, Steller said.

Students in a 400-level architectural design class will be designing possible models for the facility later this semester, Steller said.

These designs will be displayed Dec. 14 in the Nebraska Union. Steller said these models will help students understand the kind of building that could possibly be built.

Having students design models would provide student input into the possible facility, Steller said, and would not cost any money for a preliminary design.

Steller said the recreation department was planning to issue a University-wide referendum next spring to get student reaction to the facility.

Students would be questioned whether they wanted a recreation facility, Steller said, and how the building should be funded.

Funding would most likely have to come from student fees, Steller said. Steller said the recreation department would also try to get private foundations or grants for the facility.

There is no possibility of state money funding the facility, Steller said, since the Legislature will not appropriate money for non-academic areas.

IF STUDENT REACTION is favorable and funds are found, Steller said the department would present its plan to the NU Board of Regents.

If the Regents approve the idea, professional architects and engineers would be brought in to complete the building.

Steller said it would probably take about three years to complete the building if the regents approve its construction. He estimated the total cost of construction at \$6 million to \$9 million.

Steller said one reason the facility is needed is because of the inaccessibility of the existing recreational facilities.

"There is no place on this campus where a student can go and participate in some recreational activity," Steller said.

Steller added that the Men's P.E. building doesn't open until 3:30 p.m. and the other recreational buildings on campus open at 6 p.m.

Steller said if one all-encompassing building is constructed, it would be open from 7 a.m. until midnight.

Steller said that there is no place a student can go and participate in recreation indoors because the different recreational activities are spread over campus.

THE FACILITY WOULD provide students with a "centralized type of program, with all events in one spot," Steller said.

Steller said the UNL ranks seventh in the Big Eight as far as recreational facilities are concerned, and that soon UNL will be last because the University of Oklahoma is constructing a new recreational facility.

Steller said participation in recreational programs at UNL is strong but that facilities are lacking. For example, UNL's outdoor program including football, softball and soccer, is third in the Big Eight, Steller said, but the outdoor facilities rank seventh.

The indoor recreational facility at the University of Colorado is used by 6,000-8,000 students a day, Steller said, almost 40 percent of the student body.

The Colorado facility, which is open from 7 a.m. until midnight, cost \$6.8 million to build in 1973. Steller said. Students paid a \$15 fee for use of the facility per semester when it opened, Steller said, and now they pay \$23 per semester.

Bowling Green University, Georgia Tech, Texas Tech, and Illinois University have recently constructed indoor recreational facilities, Steller said, indicating he felt the constructions were a nation-wide trend.

The two most likely sites for construction, Steller said, were the field south of the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence halls, or in the field east of the Abel-Sandoz complex.

In a poll conducted with the ASUN elections last March, 72 percent of the students polled approved additional recreational facilities at UNL, Steller said. However, 57 percent of the students polled did not want additional student fees to pay for the facility.

CU captures title

Colorado placed four runners in the top five to easily capture the Big Eight men's cross country championships Saturday at Stillwater, Okla.

Brian Dunnigan placed 12th for Nebraska with a time of 31:40.7, but the Huskers finished last in the team totals. CU's Mark Anderson won the individual title with a time of 30:20.1.

Following Colorado's 22 points were Kansas 65, Oklahoma 80, Kansas State 119, Oklahoma State 139, Iowa State 142, Missouri 157, Nebraska 169.

Also scoring for Nebraska were Dan Chirchir (21st) 32:04.4; Phil Shirley (40th) 33:24.6; Tom Bowmaster (43rd) 33:55.8 and Todd Hornung (53rd) 37:05.5. Other Nebraska finishers were Paul Downes (54th) 37:44.6 and Doug Kubr (55th) 38:36.5.



Photo by Jerry McBride

Crabby

Nebraska soccer player Tim Fields (No. 5) appears to be playing "crab-ball" instead of soccer in a match Saturday against Colorado. The Buffs, who are defending Big Eight champs, won 1-0.

Gambling...

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A popular method is to bet a specific college game on Saturday, then bet double-or-nothing on a Sunday NFL game to recoup losses. If a bettor loses both Saturday and Sunday, he may bet double-or-nothing again on Monday Night Football.

"There's a lot of sweat rolling down foreheads on Monday night games," one fraternity president said.

One student's \$200 bet on a Saturday blossomed into an \$800 double-or-nothing wager on Monday night, he said. If the student had lost, he would have had to sell his car and phone his family for financial reinforcement, the president said.

A former bet runner said a smart way to bet is to wager on a Friday night college

game and bet half the winnings on a Saturday morning game. Half the winnings from that game are bet on a Saturday afternoon game, and so on until the bettor loses.

However, one fraternity official had a much less scientific method.

"My successful method is to find out what the house does and bet the opposite," he said.

Most betting methods result in marginal winnings or losses, sources said. Everyone knows when someone wins big, they said, but bettors tend to be quiet when they lose.

In the long run, more people must be losing than winning, one student said.

How else could the local bookie afford a Cadillac Eldorado, he asked.

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