

# Devaney merits praise for successful direction

With the overall success of the UNL athletic program this season and with the coaches of the so-called "minor" sports claiming victory in their battle to make Nebraska more than a one sport state, it is interesting to note that much of the credit for the success goes to the man who began the Cornhusker football dynasty.

Bob Devaney, long known for his football coaching abilities that turned around the Nebraska program, has also become a well respected athletic director. Don't get me wrong, Nebraska has been blessed with some outstanding coaches in nearly every sport. But much of the success has come about because of Devaney's knowledge in hiring winning coaches and his ability to manage an athletic program which can support all the different sports.

Not so long ago, UNL has one of the poorest programs in the Big Eight Conference. After Devaney retired from coaching, he directed all his efforts into making the program at Nebraska a winner. No one can deny he has had a great deal of success.

## Larry sparks

He brought in Cal Bentz to take over a swimming program which was a perennial loser and since that time, Nebraska has seen two Big Eight swimming and diving titles. Many outsiders say the program is only one step away from being a national powerhouse.

Devaney brought in a former Husker, John Sanders, to lead the baseball team and Nebraska fans have seen the school's first Big Eight regular season since 1948. The Cornhuskers are in the battle for the title again this year.

Realizing the potential of the gymnastics program under Francis Allen, Devaney put aside personal differences and Nebraska has won three straight national titles and will be the favorite to win a record fourth straight next season when the NCAA championships return to Lincoln.

Nebraska had a loser in its wrestling program and Devaney brought in Bob Fehrs who promised to make the team a winner. Fehrs' promise came true this winter when UNL finished in the national top 20 and Johnnie Selmon was named all-American.

Devaney even surprised a few people when he recommended Tom Osborne as his replacement to head the football team. Again, his choice seems to be the right one. Osborne took control of the Devaney dynasty in 1973 and has never lost more than three games in a single season.

The list could go on. Devaney is quick to give credit to the coaches but few people realize how much the university has been helped by Devaney's sound financial program. In a year when many major schools were canceling football games and finding contests closer to home, the UNL baseball team was playing in Hawaii and improvements were being made in several areas of the physical plant.

To top it all off, UNL now holds a commanding lead in the Big Eight men's all-sports championships standings with only three sports yet to be concluded. The title would be yet another tribute to the man who

## Ag computer system will sponsor contest

A multi-state computer network is sponsoring a contest to encourage the design of a new logo.

AGNET, a Nebraska-originated agricultural computer network, will award cash prizes to three logo design winners after the June 1 deadline. The winning design will be used on stationery and official documents from AGNET. The logo should use red as the primary color, with black and white.

Winning logos will emphasize dedication to serving people and agriculture; that AGNET is an information delivery network and that it serves the entire nation.

The AGNET system transmits information to farmers and ranchers to remote terminals in 35 states and three foreign countries.

Farmers and ranchers throughout the country use the agricultural information by connecting a typewriter-like device to telephone lines so the central computer can "talk" with the terminals anywhere telephones are found.

The system is designed to supply farm and ranch management information to persons not necessarily used to using computers.

The AGNET program began in 1975 with terminals in Scottsbluff, Neb. Until 1977, the program was available only in this state. In May 1977, the OLD WEST states received a 30-month grant to expand the program to other states.

The AGNET system is used by both "in-house"—staff and students of land-grant universities in partner states—and subscribers or "external users."

These subscribers are private individuals, businesses, educational institutions and governmental agencies throughout the United States and Canada. They pay the partner states they subscribe to the network through.

In Nebraska, 83 county extension agent offices have AGNET terminals. Subscribers include 63 educational institutions, 44 agricultural leaders, 39 farmers, ranchers, and livestock producers, and 24 farm management and agricultural consulting firms.

started it all—Bob Devaney.

Those who think Turner Gill is an automatic selection for the starting quarterback next fall had better take another look at Mark Mauer. The senior signal caller has been waiting in the background for the past three years but, despite an injury, put on an impressive performance in the spring game. The battle in the fall for No. 1 promises to be a good one.

**Parting Shot:** The year couldn't be complete without

giving thanks to those who have made the sports editor job so much easier for me. Thanks to the sports information office which has more than once searched its files for a photo or some trivial fact that was needed for a story. Thanks to all the different athletic offices for their help and most of all, thanks to the coaches and athletes who have gone out of their way to make our job easier, and—at least for me—brought back the meaning of school pride. Good bye until August.

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