

Big Red days turn stadium into 'Memorial Jungle'

There are millions of them out there. Every home football Saturday, Husker fans learn the law of "the survival of the fittest."

First, you wade through scalpers and fight your way into the gate. You stand in line to get your seat. You kick people out of your seats, people who are there because others were in their seats. And when the concessions people at last come your way with a much-needed Coke, they sell their last soda to "the man in the red" — two rows down.

It's a jungle in Memorial Stadium, and it seems to get more crowded every year. In reality, however, attendance is "almost the same" from game to game, said Helen Wagner, athletic ticket manager.

Figures do vary somewhat for every game, Wagner said, because the number of people involved in the halftime show, the number of police and the number of concession workers vary.

"There's no way to get an exact figure," Wagner said. She said the attendance figure is based on the number of tickets sold, reserved seats, Nebraska players, visiting players, ushers, coaches, band members, security officials and concession workers.

In some instances, attendance estimates may run high. Wagner said her office bases its estimates using only the number of sold and admission tags assigned. No one actually counts the number of people going through the gates, she said.

"Ticket holders can come or not," she said. "A Coke man could get a cold at the last minute. There's no way to account for that."

She said if 10,000 fans were absent because of bad weather or some other reason, she would know, but, she said, "with a few hundred missing, it's hard to tell."

At other games, attendance figures could be low.

"There's no way to account for the people that sneak in," she said. "I hear of about 10 or so from the police, but I think it's probably closer to two or three hundred."

Wagner said 72,608 people can be seated in reserved sections, the bleachers hold 910 people, and the wheelchair section holds about 140, including wheelchair attendants. Wagner said the demand for tickets exceeds the supply, and that every game is a sellout.

According to Thomas Simons, assistant sports information director, Saturday will be the 128th consecutive sold-out game. On Oct. 1, Nebraska set a National Collegiate Athletic Association record when the NU/Syracuse game was the 127th consecutive sell-out. He said home football games have been sold out since 1962.

Simons said the record-high attendance at Memorial Stadium occurred Nov. 23, 1974, when 76,636 people watched Nebraska play Oklahoma.

The lowest attendance during the past 18 years was in 1967, when 59,792 people saw Nebraska lose to Oklahoma, Simons said.

Simons said one reason for the difference in attendance at these two Oklahoma games was that in 1967, the seating capacity was 65,000. In addition, Simons said, the 1967 game was televised and the weather was bad.

Correction

The page-one story about today's NU Board of Regents meeting should have read that the regents will hear information about proposed admission standards for the UNO College of Business Administration. The proposed requirements would not affect students at UNL.

So says the VA... as shown by Vagel Pines

VETERANS SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN VA DRUG TREATMENT MAY CONSULT ANY VA OFFICE.

Contact nearest VA office (check your phone book) or a local veterans group.

Shorts

The Undergraduate Psychology Organization will meet Sunday at 7 p.m. in Burnett Hall 227. Dan Leger, assistant professor of psychology, will discuss his research on ground squirrels in a talk titled, "If I Could Talk to the Animals: A Course in Elementary Ground Squirrel for Beginners."

The talk will be followed by a discussion of future activities for the organization. Refreshments will be available; a 50 cents donation is requested.

Applications now are available for a \$3,500 scholarship for travel abroad. Nebraskans who are 19 to 26 years of age and interested in 6 months of living and working with a family abroad may apply. Contact Mary Ann Harms at the State 4-H and Youth Development Department (472-2838) for more information.

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STYX

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