Sports

Funds, not pins, stand in bowlers' path

By Ward W. Triplett III

Dec. 28 and 29, the best collegiate bowling teams in the United States will be rolling at the Las Vegas Invitational. The best, that is, that can afford to get there.

Some teams, such as UNL, have a financial problem to overcome as well as making an average high enough to make it to the tournament.

"You're accepted by past performance, or at least potentiality," Nebraska coach Bill Straub said. "Nebraska has had a competitive team for quite a while. If not nationally, we have gone other places and done quite well.

"But this is a very expensive stay."

The Las Vegas trip will cost \$2,500. The team gets no funding from the university or sponsors, so the entire amount is being raised by pledges.

The bowling team does have six patrons. Arrow Stage Lines, the Brass Rail, K and Z Distributing, Nebraska Bookstore, the Nebraska State Bowling Proprietors Association and the Bowler's Pro Shop, all donate \$500 a year in services. But, none of that money goes toward the unusually expensive Las Vegas tournament.

The situation is simple, according to Straub. If the team members cannot raise the money, they don't go to Las Vegas. If they can't, they would miss the chance for some valuable national prestige, he said.

"It's one of the top three tournaments of the year, including the national tournament in the spring," Straub said. "A lot of recognition is given to the teams that finish in the top 10 there."

A Bowl-a-thon this Sunday at the Nebraska Union RecRoom bowling lanes will be the primary source of funds, Straub said. Each of the eligible bowlers is seeking pledges on a per-game bowled basis. While donations to the team can continue up until the semester ends, pledges will have to be complete by Friday, Straub said.

The bowling teams are coming off second-place finishes in the Kansas-Nebraska League's five-day tournament.

"That's not bad when you consider both teams finished second to Wichita State.

"They (Wichita State) always finish somewhere in

the top five in the nation," Straub said.

In addition, the men's team, led by Mike Sanders' 201 average, finished 14th in the National Collegiate Match Game Tournament in St. Louis.

"That's good in a way and not so good in another," Straub said. While the team finished well in the 48-team field, it got second a year ago, he said.

After the second-place finish in St. Louis last year. Straub said the Huskers were headed to the Las Vegas Invitational but had car problems along the way and failed to arrive.

Sanders also ranks as the top men's bowler in the individual rating system Straub uses. The junior from Grand Island is followed by Terry Synovec, a senior from Fremont; Russ Leeper, a freshman from Fremont; Paul Sailor, a sophomore from Syracuse; Bob Dill, a sophomore from Lincoln; Danielle Lymus, a freshman from Omaha; Sue Reed, a sophomore from Bellevue and Lori Fry, a sophomore from Lincoln.

Ten men and six women will make the trip. There would be an equal number from both teams but that's all the women who are out for the team, Straub said.

Loyalty wears thin in 'nosebleed' section

I climbed higher and higher. The air was thin. I stopped, rested my hands on my knees, and took several short deep breaths. I climbed some more. Finally, I was there.

I had reached my seat for a Nebraska basketball game.

I was raised, for the most part, in North Carolina, where they know how to play basketball. In Nebraska they have football. And corn. They have Willa Cather and the Oregon Trail. When you think of Nebraska you don't think of basketball. But I still love Nebraska.



Here's what they said:

"Hey Jim, let me see your binoculars a minute. I want to check the score."

"OK, AL"

For those of you with the lower reading scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test, one of the guys is named Jim and the other one is AL Anyway:

"Oh yeah, I can see it great with these binoculars. It's another Nebraska blowout. We lead by 20 points."

"Who are we playing anyway?" Al asked. I guess he was slow. Of course he might have just been drunk.

"Oh, the Wyoming Institute for the Advancement of People Who Want to Make Those Little Tips for Shoe Strings," said Jim.

"Wow," Al said, "A national powerhouse." He was drunk. "This really ----- " Jim said. They won't let me say that in a family newspaper, so you will probably see little lines after the word really. He went on. "Last year I had seats right down there on the floor. And the year before that, too. I was a loyal fan. Even when the team played like The Three Stooges in a room full of marbles. Now I'm up here sitting in front of someone like Bill Allen." perched on the back of the seat. They are supposed to have the best eyes of just about any animal. This one was wearing glasses. I don't know how he got into the game. Talk about your non-traditional students.

Al and Jim went after a cold drink at halftime, and they left their binoculars. I picked them up and focused on the floor area. Those people sure didn't look like students to me.

I wonder where those people were when Jim, the loyal fan, followed the Huskers in past years?

They were probably watching North Carolina on T.V.

Columnist's note: I'm certainly not trying to kick anyone while they're down. This column was written before Tuesday night's loss to Texas Tech. I refuse to take blame for the fact that I am a reasonably good (or lucky) basketball prophet.

Nebraskan Bill Jackman went to North Carolina and played basketball. He came back to Nebraska. He either learned how to play basketball and will help the Huskers, or he found he didn't know how to play basketball and will fit in with the Huskers. We'll find out next year.

This year, I'm watching the game from what is generally referred to as the "nosebleed" section.

I don't really mind. I won't attend that many games. I came tonight because of something called "school loyalty." You can read about it in most history books. Right next to the part that says "college sports can be a nice addition to a well rounded university." Instead of the other way around like it is these days.

During a lull in the game, or I should say the lull of the game, I listened to the two guys in front of me.

I was hurt, but I didn't say anything.

"I think I see the team," Al said, looking through the binoculars. "What color are they wearing, Jim?" "White and red."

"Oh, yeah. There they are. But why are they standing around that station wagon."

Jim took the binoculars and looked.

"That's the paramedics, you idiot," he said to Al. Then he focused the binoculars on the game and gave them back to The Stupid One. El loco in Spanish. Hey, I have to use that stuff somewhere.

I laughed. Way up in the back, there was a hawk

Swimming relays Sunday

The intramural swimming relays for men's, women's and co-rec teams will be Sunday at the Collseum Pool.

There are eight events overall, including a 200-yard co-rec sweatshirt relay. The relays are a Espirit de Corps events, meaning the most points toward the all-university championships will be given to the organizations with the most participants.

The relays will begin at 6 p.m. The pool will open at 5 p.m. for warmups.

