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OUTDOOR SPORTS

Sympathetic Allen offers solution to agony of too little court time

It seems you have to be a lawyer to get into a game of basketball on this campus, especially this time of year.

The established (though unwritten) system during open recreation hours is to get up a team and challenge the winner of the game being played.

This system is definitely the best, but it can get complicated because of the large number of people using three courts (as is the case in both the Coliseum and Men's P.E. Building).



Bill Allen

Five guys walk in and one says, "Who's got next game?"

"We do."
"Who?"

"Me and these four guys." He points.
"OK, we've got next game."

"No, those guys down there do. You can have it after them."

Because of intramural basketball, virtually no courts are available for open recreation Sunday through Thursday nights — and the volleyball team uses the Coliseum after 3 p.m. weekdays.

Of course, you could play on an intramural team, but that means one game, one hour per week. Whoopee (that's a sarcastic whoopee with no exclamation point).

The recreation people certainly are not at fault here. UNL has the largest intramural program in the Big Eight and the worst facilities. They do damn well with what they have.

And getting into a game keeps getting tougher. "We've got the game after those guys down there." "You better go tell them." He trots over. "We've got the game after you guys." "No, those guys down there do." They point to the first people he talked to. "But they said they have next game." "No. We do."

If you're a woman, you probably won't play. I've seen very few women playing basketball during open rec hours and somehow I get the feeling that more women would play if it were convenient. Whether they feel intimidated to try to secure a court amid the men or whether they just don't care to bother, I can't say. It is unfair if they want to play and don't because of the current setup.

I wrote this because I've been approached by people I don't even know twice this week on the subject of them not being able to play as much as they'd like. However, there's aren't any solutions. You could, I guess, buy your own basketball court and carry it around with you, but that can become a hassle.

And you know the administration isn't going to build any more courts. And don't ask the football team for help. They still have to pay for the new athletic training table.

You could learn to meditate and play in your mind.

Of course, every once in a while you can twist the system to your advantage.

The one guy trots back to the first group he talked to.

"Hey, those guys say they have next game."
"No. We do. They're"

"They also said your sister swims after troop ships."
"They did?"

"Yeah. And they said they've seen you guys play before. They said it looked like the Three Stooges in sneakers walking over marbles."

"We'll kill 'em," they say in unison.

"I would, too," the one guy says, "but you'd better take it outside so you don't get in trouble."
"OK. Hey, thanks."

"No problem. Hey, listen, while you guys are gone, do you mind if we have next game?"

"Huh? Uh, no, go ahead."
"Thanks."

The one guy goes back to his team. "Hey guys, guess what? We have next game."
See ya on the courts. That is, when they're open.

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