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Fashion for spring, summer: Plain is out, color, stripes in

By STACIE THOMAS

Styles for 1984 spring and summer casual and semi-formal wear are so varied that the only unifying element is the color.

Popular styles range from oversized to body-hugging, ultrafeminine to downright manly. But one thing is constant. No matter what the style, pastel colors are big for spring and summer colors are Olympic-spirited in red, white and blue.

Linda Baldwin, designer clothes buyer for Hovland-Swanson, 1230 O St., said the newest women's fashion on the West Coast is for a woman to wear men's oversized shirts and pants gathered at the waist with a belt. The oversized look is popular in Nebraska but this particular fashion hasn't hit Nebraska and probably won't, according to several local women's wear buyers.

Doug Farrar, manager of The Wooden Nickel, 144 N. 14th St., said he carries a Willi Wear line, which specializes in oversized clothes. Willi Wear features oversized shirts in burlap-textured material and the "paperbag pant," which is gathered at the top with a drawstring so the top of the pant resembles the top of a paperbag. Although many brands of oversized shirts are on the market, few go so far as the paperbag pant, Farrar said.

The cropped pant, ankle pant, extended waling short and the traditional two-pleat normal length pant are other popular pant styles on the market, he said.

Sue Bolls, supervisor of the juniors department at Miller & Paine, 13th & O streets, also said the cropped pant and capri-length pant are popular this year. The cropped pant stops at mid-calf while the capri-length is very narrow in the leg and stops at the ankle. Bolls said the most notable aspect of current pant styles is that plain is out. Pants are decorative, with multi-colored stripes, window-prints, plaids and pinstripes.

Sally Klein, assistant juniors buyer for Hovland-Swanson, said pants are shorter this year and are cuffed at the ankle. Many pants have colored pinstripes with matching belts, she said.

But pants aren't the only cropped style this season, she said. Shirts are being worn cropped just

above the pants. T-shirts and polo shirts also are still popular in the layered look. Farrar said a new look in tops is halter and tank tops made in an open-weave sweater-weight fabric.

Jeane Purdy, junior sportswear buyer for Brandeis in Omaha, said the Oriental influence has been strong in shirt styles this year. Oriental-styled shirts have cowl necks, asymmetrical detailing, and more zippers and snaps.

The "comfortable" dress also is popular this year. "We never have enough," Klein said.

One popular dress style is the boxy-look. The dress is one color and has wide shoulders and is thin through the hips. This style of dress can be worn with or without a belt. Klein said suspended jumpers, denim shirt dresses and jumpsuits also are popular.

Lori Willie, the juniors dress buyer for Brandeis, said full-skirted dresses will be popular for casual wear this spring. Another popular style will be the peplum dress, which has a ruffled flap over a straight skirt. Strapless dresses and chemise dresses, which have no gathered waist, will also be popular spring styles.

Bolls also added T-shirt dresses of any length to the list of casual dresses for spring. She also said dresses will be made out of natural fabrics and many will be striped.

Farrar said mini-skirts have been selling. Mini-skirts sell best in denim or drill cloth and are styled full, not straight, he said.

"It's a fun item. It's not something anybody's going to have more than one of," he said.

Klein said semi-formal dresses for spring will have handkerchief hems or be tea-length. Tea-length dresses come to just above the ankle. Willie said semi-formal dresses will have a lot of back treatments, including a back-draped cowl, a knotted back, lattice back straps and lace-up backs.

The stores also will be carrying a lot of deep khaki, especially with animal prints, and a lot of natural fabrics and colors.

Accessories will include rubber belts and big, plastic jewelry. Accessories will be color-coordinated with the outfit.

"Everything matches this year," Klein said.

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