

Cards & Letters

Young running squad finishes 11th in NCAA

Intramural official doubts team claim

Dear William Davoson,
I read your letter in (Nov. 13) Daily Nebraskan and found it quite amusing. Your letter inferred in some way that the officiating in your playoff game cost your team the win or at least a chance at a tie.

Let me ask you a few questions. During the game how many dropped passes did you have? How many interceptions did you throw? How many times did you or one of your teammates go to grab a flag and miss? How many times did your defense let the offense behind them and let them get a big gain?

If you can honestly say none of these things happened and you played a perfect game, then the officiating might have affected the game. So let's talk about the four points of officiating you brought up.

1. The huddling of officials — did you ever think that the officials just wanted to get together to make sure they made the right call to give both sides a fair shot of winning.

2. The pass interference — that's a judgment call and I won't even address that one.

3. The illegal forward pass — I didn't ref that game but I wish I had. The signal for this penalty is the same for two forward passes. Don't forget the offense's line of scrimmage is one or three yards behind (on your side) the "bean bag" depending on how close you are to the goal line. Once a player with the ball steps over that line, he cannot throw it.

4. The other two refs signaling a touchdown — the signaling of a touchdown only means the ball crossed the goal line. Nothing else.

I highly doubt that the defense intimidated the officials into making that call. If the flag was dropped during the play, the official had already spotted your foul.

You said there were three officials working the game. I'd like you to know that a full crew is four officials, but it is hard to get four officials to show because not only are these officials full-time students with homework to do, they get jumped on by both teams with every call they make.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying every official is perfect — they are far from it.

Now I'm sure your team didn't play a perfect game. I officiated more than 70 games this fall and didn't see one team play a perfect game. So please don't try to use the officials as scapegoats.

John Fleming
junior
intramural official

OU fan sends compliments

I thought I would drop a quick note of appreciation to your student body and fans for the hospitality they extended to us in last Saturday's game. I was especially impressed by one anonymous Nebraska fan who came up to me after the game down by our pep band, shook my hand and said, "Good game. Congratulations." I was, needless to say, impressed by the magnanimity of our fans.

Thanks for being such good hosts, letting us have a decent parking place and not wanting to bill us for having won the game (like Texas fans). I hope we in Oklahoma can accord your fans the same measure of courtesy that you extended us.

Jon R. Taylor
graduate student
Norman, Okla.

Nebraska's women's cross country team won one invitational this season and failed to place any runners on the All-American squad. But 1984 may go down as the beginning of an era for the sophomore-dominated squad, which finished 11th in its first ever NCAA championship last Monday.

"I thought this was a great way to end the season," Nebraska Coach Jay Dirksen said. "Our girls worked hard all season for this meet and I think all that training and hard work paid off."

Kurt Russel, the only Nebraska men's cross country runner to make it to nationals, finished in 26th place. However, he was the 15th American. The top 16 Americans qualify for All-American.

"Kurt ran a super race," Dirksen said. "He ran an intelligent race and might have run just as good or better than Duffy did last year."

For the first time this year, the field for races was bigger because more teams received at-large berths.

Dirksen said the competition was tough in the women's race. There was only a 16 point difference between the teams from the eighth to 16th places.

"We beat Alabama by only one point and the teams that finished two, three places behind us we only beat by five to ten points," Dirksen said.

Dirksen said the team from the Southwest and the East Coast looked strong. But he also said the teams from the Midwest did well. Wisconsin beat Stanford for the women's national title and Missouri and Kansas State finished in the top 10.

"I think the Big Eight Conference is one of the top conferences in the nation," Dirksen said.

Now that the cross country season is over, the men's and women's teams will start training for the indoor track season. Dirksen said he will add more distance to the workouts and do some track repetitions to get the runners used to running on a track.

Dirksen said the reason both teams improved so much this year is because the workouts from last year made the runners stronger.

"As the runners get older they get stronger. I hope that our runners can contribute to the track teams' success," Dirksen said.

Coaches Volleyball Ratings

School (First Place Votes)	Record	Last Week
1. UCLA (14)	29-6	3
2. Pacific (15)	28-7	1
3. Stanford (9)	18-4	4
4. USC (2)	28-6	2
5. Cal Poly SLO	33-7	6
6. Hawaii	33-10	5
7. Nebraska	27-3	7
8. San Diego State	31-13	8
9. San Jose State	23-9	9
10. Colorado State	26-8	10
11. Texas	30-6	11
12. Illinois State	36-5	13
13. Penn State	29-5	12
14. Arizona	16-11	14
15. Brigham Young	33-13	15
16. Northwestern	27-9	19
17. Pepperdine	24-14	18
18. Oregon	26-11	16
19. Western Michigan	25-7	17
20. Wyoming	23-13	20



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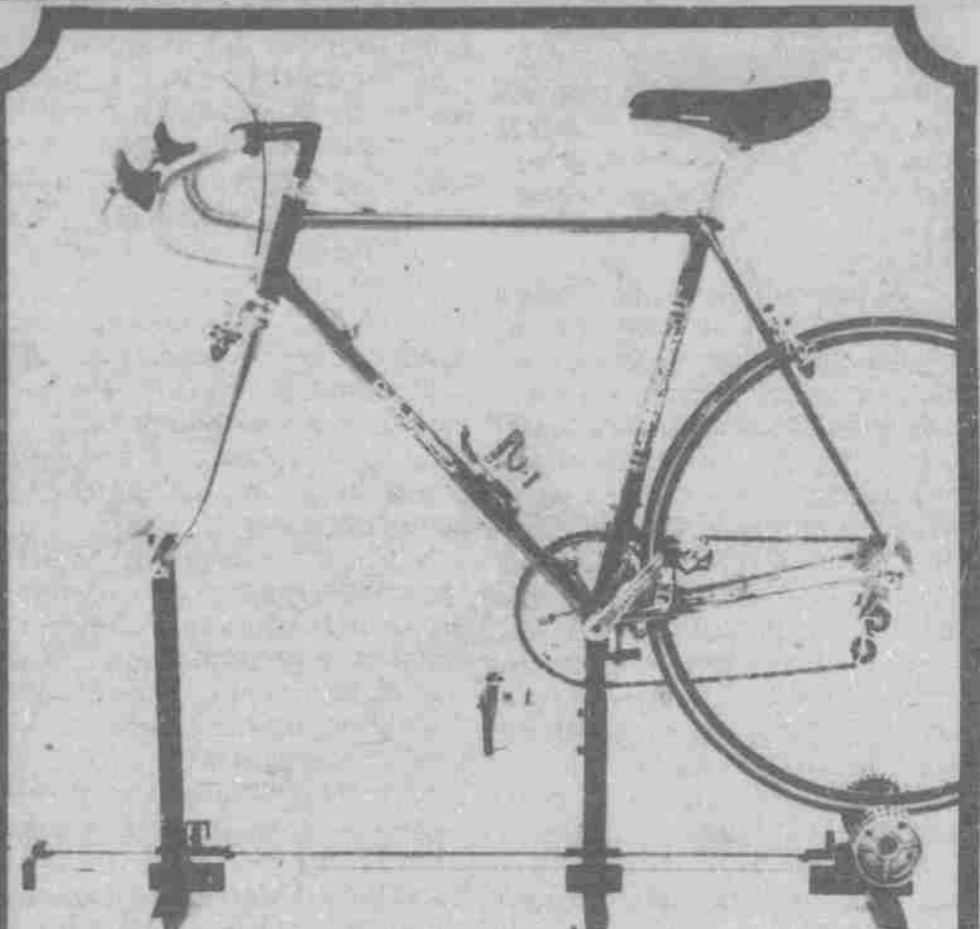
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