

Arts & Entertainment

'Footbagger' spends weekend competing

By Bill Allen
Staff Reporter

UNL junior Mike MacLean spent last weekend "footbagging" in Chicago.

No, he didn't get arrested for doing it. As a matter of fact, the only reason he was there is because he can footbag better than anyone around here.

Footbagging, as Hacky Sack enthusiasts know, is keeping the small, pellet-filled leather sack airborne using only your knees and feet.

MacLean, a finance major, was one of 16 finalists competing in the First Annual National Intercollegiate Hacky Sack Championships.

Although the Billings, Montana resident didn't walk away with a championship, MacLean almost doubled his personal best at consecutive footbagging. He kept the footbag airborne 734 consecutive times. His previous best of 378 times was enough to get him through the UNL and regional levels and qualify for the all-expense paid trip to the national finals.

MacLean said the national collegiate champion in this event had a score of about 4,880.

The national professional best is held by Andy Linder with 21,135 consecutive kicks. MacLean said that's about four hours of footbagging. MacLean said Linder was at the national finals and did the counting for the final rounds of consecutive kicks.

Linder travels and does exhibitions for Wham-O Mfg. Co., makers of Hacky Sack and the Frisbee disc. Wham-O, together with the association of College Unions International sponsored the Hacky Sack championships.

MacLean and the other 15 finalists competed for the championships in two other events besides consecutive kicks:

— Footbag Freestyle, where scoring is based on originality and style.

— Footbag Net, where players pass the Hacky Sack back and forth over a five-foot net, like a "no hands" volleyball. Competition is one-on-one and is scored like tennis.

MacLean said he concentrated his workouts for the finals on just the consecutive kicks event, because that's where he stood the best chance of winning.

MacLean said he learned Hacky Sack two years ago on the beaches of Galveston, Texas, when he was working at a summer job. His brother and some of his friends taught him the game.

MacLean said he doesn't think Hacky Sack is just a passing fad, though he said it is seasonal, especially in Nebraska.

"It's a popular beach game," he said. "Around here, it's more of a summer game."

MacLean said the footbag work helps to develop foot coordination and if practiced enough is similar to running as exercise.

He said the game is hard to learn, but once it is learned it is addictive.

He said that at first members of his fraternity, Delta Upsilon, weren't very involved with it. But now about 20 men footbag regularly.

MacLean said he worked with Hacky Sacks (different sizes for different events) about four hours a day preparing for the national championships. He competed with the best college footbaggers from Illinois, Florida, Oregon, California, Washington, Iowa, Michigan, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.



David Bourke/Daily Nebraskan
Mike MacLean demonstrates some free-style footbagging in the Delta Upsilon courtyard. MacLean was one of 16 finalists in the first Hacky Sack Championships last weekend.

Cornstock XV will feature movie, bands

Rock bands, musical comedians, a hypnotist and movies are all on the agenda for the East Campus Cornstock week celebration, which begins today.

Dona Lovegrove, Cornstock chairwoman, said this is the 15th year of Cornstock, a last fling before the school year ends.

Previously, Cornstock was a one-day event and the week leading up to it was called Western Week, Lovegrove, a junior business administration major, said. But this year the entire week will be called Cornstock Week.

The schedule for the UPC East-sponsored Cornstock Week includes:

Today

— Jim Wand, hypnotist, at the Terraces at 4:30 p.m., sponsored by the Kaleidoscope Committee.

— Photo contest display, third floor East Union, sponsored by Visual Arts Committee. The display will continue all week.

Wednesday

— Western Week Games, 2 p.m., sponsored by Main Events Committee.

Thursday

— Hot Shandy, musical comedians, at the Terraces at 4:30 p.m., sponsored by Kaleidoscope Committee.

— "Country," the movie starring Sam Sheppard and Jessica Lange, in the Great Plains Room at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., sponsored by the Sights and Sounds Committee. Admission is \$1.50.

Friday

— Cornstock XV, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Cornstock Meadows.

Bands performing this year are Caribe, Sierra and Boys With Toys, sponsored by Dances and Cornstock committees.

Admission to Cornstock XV is a can of food. The canned food gained from the event will be donated to Nebraska communities, Lovegrove said.

Krokos, Accept assault Omaha

Foreign metal impales head-bangers

By Troy Park
Staff Reporter

Omaha was blessed with the sounds of not one, but two European heavy metal bands Saturday night at the Music Hall.

Both Krokus, the headliner, and Accept, the opener, assaulted the crowd of screaming fans with a non-stop barrage of heavy rock.

REVIEW CONCERT

Although much smaller than the Civic Auditorium, the Music Hall made up for its lack of size with a murky atmosphere perfect for the event. Black walls, balconies and air thick with smoke, the Music Hall had the feel of a 1930s horror movie set in Transylvania with werewolves and vampires running about.

Accept brought this feeling to higher levels when it began its 40-minute set. Accept played tight and loud. The second-mix was perfect and the music was driving.

Led by foreman Udo Dirkschneider, Accept has a look not found in any other metal band, foreign or domestic.

The center of this look is Dirkschneider. Standing barely 5½-feet tall,

Dirkschneider is not the stereo-type of the metal lead singer. He clothes his overweight body in Army camouflogé and combat boots.

But looks are forgotten when Dirkschneider's high-pitched scream slices the air. He has a voice similar to ACDC's Brian Johnson only with far more punch.

Punch is a good description of Accept's performance Saturday. The forceful thunderous rock beat listeners. It had the whole crowd, as well as the band, banging their heads to the beat and waving their fists in the air.

Accept was a tough act to follow, but Krokus, the metal maniacs from Switzerland, didn't seem to care, coming out and giving the audience a show packed with great rock.

Krokus lead guitarist Fernando von Arb's cocky smile, outlined by bleached-blond hair and big nose, was the best indication that Krokus was enjoying its headlining tour in the United States.

After a few measures of pure metal jamming enhanced by fog machines, Krokus tore into "Tonight Long Stick Goes Boom" to kick things off. The fans barely had time to catch their breath when lead vocalist Marc "The Voice" Storace introduced the band's version of Sweet's classic "Ballroom Blitz." The crowd went wild. Krokus' "The Blitz" Tour hit Omaha.

Along with Storace and von Arb were



David Bourke/Daily Nebraskan
Krokus members Mark Kohler and Fernando von Arb assaulted the audience Saturday night in Omaha's Music Hall with an onslaught of heavy metal.

rhythm guitarist Mark Kohler, bassist Andy Tanas and drummer Jeff Klaven. The whole band rocked together with no member standing above the others. Things mellowed a bit as the band played "Screaming In The Night" and "Our Love" before crashing into songs like "Ready To Rock," "Stayed Awake

All Night" and latest hit-single "Midnight Maniac."

Krokus gave two burning encores before calling it a night. "Eat The Rich" was the first, followed by Klaven's lengthy drum solo. Then, the topper, "Headhunter" complete with Storace sporting a werewolf mask. The

mask looked incredibly real, finalizing the horror-movie setting of the Music Hall.

As the house lights flick on, many ears were ringing from the onslaught of metal. Both Krokus and Accept showed the American crowd that Europeans can rock too.