

Devaney says women receive equal treatment

By Jim Rasmussen
Staff Reporter

UNL's brand-new, men-only athletic training table and study area has drawn concern from women's groups who say women athletes aren't getting the opportunities their male counterparts have.

But UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney said he thinks women athletes do receive equal opportunity.

"I think this whole training table thing has been overplayed," Devaney said. "The complaints have not been by student athletes. There have been a few outside people complaining, and they've been very vocal."

Two women's groups have been investigating the university's training table policies. Susan Hale, president of the Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women, recently toured both the men's and women's athletic dining and study areas. Hale said she thinks the new men's facility is "wonderful."

"The new facilities are grand," she said. "But the women's facilities don't compare."

The men's dining and study area opened March 11. Built under the west side of Memorial Stadium, the Hewitt Center dining area features carpeting, many individual tables and soft padded chairs. The adjacent Boekel study area has seating for about 50 people, carpeting, five computer terminals, two printers and a copy machine. Two academic counselors are available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The study center, bounded on two sides by glass doors and walls, also contains a small conference room.

Women athletes have two rooms to study in, Devaney said. One of those rooms, the South Stadium Lounge, features plush carpeting, padded chairs and nine tables. The room easily seats 50 students.

The other room, an auditorium in the same building, seats about 150. Women athletes are free to use both rooms, but sometimes have to clear out when meetings are held in the rooms.

The women's athletic department employs one full-time academic counselor and a part-time assistant.

Women athletes eat at the food service in the Harper-Schramm-Smith residence hall complex. The food service stays open a half-hour later in the evenings so women athletes can get there after practice. Unlike the men's program, the women's program offers no special diets. Athletes eat what is on the regular student menu.

Devaney said he would be willing to set up special diets for women athletes, if the athletes requested them.

"We're not against trying to make things good for the women," he said.

Devaney said most women athletes don't need special diets. The women "don't need 5,000 calories a day" like some of the football players do, he said.

Kelly Hill, women's basketball coach at UNL, said she's satisfied with the diet provided by the food service.

"I don't think I'd be concerned about whether we have a special diet," she said.

However, Hill said, she wishes the women's program would have been considered during the planning stages for the new training table.

"It's too bad the women weren't considered," she said. "I think both programs have adequate facilities. But the newness of the Hewitt Center, and the publicity it has received, adds more glamor."

Hill said a women's training table would have served as a powerful recruiting tool. Other schools have women's training tables, she said, giving them a recruiting advantage over UNL.

Devaney said he doesn't foresee a women's training table in UNL's immediate future.

"We don't have the money," he said. Two UNL alumni contributed all the funds for the men's dining and study area. Bill Hewitt and Bob Boekel, both from Denver, donated a total of about

\$1 million for the project. Hewitt and Boekel specified that their money be used for men's athletics only, Devaney said.

Hence, the new complex serves men athletes only. It's not big enough to serve both the men's and women's programs, Devaney said.

"They (women) are not eating there because the place wasn't built for men and women," he said. "They didn't eat with the men when it (the training table) was in Selleck."

The university badly needed a new training table, Devaney said. The old training table at Selleck Quadrangle seated about 125 people, half as many as the new dining room can seat.

But Devaney's comments didn't satisfy Jean O'Hare, executive director of the Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women.

"There are desperate opportunities going on," O'Hare said. "The study center for men has several computers; the women have no computers. Women athletes have to leave their study area periodically because it's used for meetings. The women's program isn't as fully developed, and the women athletes do not have the kinds of opportunities the men have."

O'Hare said her office has received 15 to 20 calls from people concerned about the university's training table policy. She said she thinks many people are shocked and surprised that the new facility isn't used by athletes of both sexes.

O'Hare and Hale both said they plan to discuss the situation further with UNL officials.

"I think the university should do some future planning," O'Hare said. "Are there facilities that could be turned into a training center for female athletes? I'm not just talking about athletics. I'm talking about academics."

O'Hare said the university should have talked with Hewitt, Boekel and other alumni about including women in the new training facility. But now that a separate training table exists, she said, university officials should try to make the women's program comparable to the men's.

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Summer schedules alter building hours

As the seasons change from spring to summer, so will the schedules of many UNL buildings.

Residence Halls

People who will move out of the residence halls must have all their possessions out by 8 a.m. Saturday. The only hall open for summer residents will be Harper Hall. Summer students will be able to move into Harper only after 8 a.m. Saturday. Housing contracts to live in Harper are available at the Office of University Housing at 1100 Selleck Quadrangle.

Libraries

Love Library's schedule will change during the next few months. During the pre-session, May 20 through June 7, Love will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 5 to 8 p.m. on Sundays. From June 8 through Aug. 16, the library hours will be 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 5 to 10 p.m. on Sundays.

C.Y. Thompson Library on East Campus will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday during the pre-session. Friday hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In the first five-week summer session, East Campus library hours will be as follows: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Second summer session hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

Nebraska unions

The Nebraska Union will be open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays from May 13 through June 7. It will be closed on weekends during this period. Between June 10 and July 12, weekday hours will be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Saturdays, it will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. but it will be closed Sundays.

For the rest of the summer through Aug. 16, weekday hours will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. It won't be open on weekends.

The Nebraska East Union will be open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and will be closed on weekends for the entire summer.

University Health Center

After May 13, the University Health Center will not have a doctor on duty 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. It still will have 24-hour service throughout the summer. Instead of a doctor, an in-house orderly will be there to answer any questions. Otherwise, the health center's schedule will be the same as it is now.



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