

Sports

Humble solution ends discrimination

Hello, sports fans. Wake up, open a beer, it's me. I'm making a surprise guest appearance on the sports page to solve a little controversy that has recently flared up.

Women can't eat at that new monstrosity, the athletic training table. "Outsiders" say that's discriminatory. At least, Bob Devaney said it was "outsiders." He was quoted in a Lincoln Journal-Star article saying that it was only "outsiders" and not female athletes and coaches who complained about the discriminatory policy of the training table.

Bill Allen

Then one of our humblest (down-right humble, you might say) reporters just happened to ask a couple of these athletes and a coach and darned if they didn't say, yep, we're being discriminated against. They wondered why Devaney and other training table planners hadn't asked their opinion in the first place.

So do I. Now, being just a low-life college

student and not an athlete or anything like that, I don't know if I have the right, as an "outsider," you know, to complain about sexist discrimination in the athletic department or anywhere else for that matter. But it seems to me that at one time a bunch of "outsiders" complained about what was going on in Nazi Germany by a fellow named Hitler. I didn't hear tell of any of Hitler's men complaining, but the situation was wrong anyway.

Maybe that analogy doesn't quite apply here, and maybe we're just lucky that no one has been killed in this training table thing yet. Time will tell.

However, I would like to offer my humble solution to this crisis. I hope Devaney likes it, and if he does, I'm sure those cheerleaders the local media (otherwise known as the humble sports writers) will like the solution, too. You know, I can't think of anything that Devaney likes that the local sports writers wouldn't like. At least not from reading the Lincoln papers.

For instance a typical article: "I had lunch with Bob Devaney today. Wow, can you imagine that. We had coffee. He ordered cream. I ordered cream, too. I usually don't like cream but now I do. Eventually we talked about sports,

but I don't have time to write about that now."

Yep, that's how they go in the Lincoln papers. Randy York, where are you?

But anyway, let's settle this training table discrimination thing and by doing so we can also save UNL athletics from those godawful legislators who cut mucho dinero from the athletic budget (you can tell it's not an election year, huh).

The solution: Let female athletes work as cooks and dishwashers in the training cafeteria. Pay them what you would pay anyone else and let them finance their education with that. Sure, they wouldn't be able to practice as much, but they're just girls anyway, right, Devaney?

After all, athletics are for making money, right? Why else even have a college athletic program if it isn't the biggest, bestest, gosh darn program in the country, for male athletes, of course, only males, mind you.

Why with the money women make washing dishes they wouldn't need those ol' scholarships anyway and we could give more money to football players. Why, if we try real hard we might even find a way to break a few NCAA

rules. There's more. Not only can those women athletes earn money from washing dishes, they can do other things when they're not studying, being tutored, working out, practicing, or sweeping up at the male training table study area.

They could wash football players' clothes, for money.

And here's the beauty of it — it won't cost the athletic department a crying red cent. Not a penny. Make the football players pay for their wash out of their own pockets.

I think they can afford it. Let's see, in a hypothetical situation let's say the average scholarship player gets \$200 a month for rent, \$200 a month for other expenses we won't name, and oh, let's say \$15,000 a month from illegal alumni contributions.

Add all that up and it's a heap.

Surely they could spare \$10 to \$20 a week to pay female athletes to do their laundry.

Then, after paying rent, buying clothes, books, and some food, the female athletes on this campus would feel redeemed for that previously scandalous discrimination policy.

That's my solution, and it's simple.

If you don't like that one, maybe you could try my second one. That's the one where you treat college athletics as fun, and developmental, and as part of UNL, rather than as a business. This solution also involves trying to build the biggest, bestest gosh darned program in the country, but not at the expense of the very athletes, male and female, who help to build that program. And certainly not by means of sexist discrimination.

Slide me another one, bartender.

Double role suits Husker freshman coach Young fine

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

Nebraska freshman football coach Dan Young has had to make a lot of big decisions in his 22 years of coaching football, but none were as big as the decision he made three years ago.

Young, who was the football coach at Omaha Westside High School at the time, had just coached the Warriors to a record 24 straight victories, including its second consecutive Class A state championship.

Immediately following Westside's 34-0 victory over Lincoln Northeast, which wrapped up the Warriors 12-0 state championship season in 1982, Young approached first-year Iowa State football coach Jim Criner about a position on the Cyclone coaching staff.

"Jim came over and we had an interview so I assumed he was interested in me," Young said. "I saw it as a good opportunity. It was a chance to get into major college football."

Following his talk with Criner, Young asked Nebraska coach Tom Osborne to pass along a recommendation for him to Criner.

However, Osborne ended up not only giving Criner the recommendation, but also gave Young the chance to join the Nebraska coaching staff as a graduate assistant coach with the junior varsity.

"When Tom offered me the job as a

graduate assistant, I was shocked," Young said. "I about fell off my rocker."

The opportunity for Young to join the Nebraska staff, one that he always regarded as the best in the nation, created a dilemma. He was forced to choose between his family and his \$30,000 a year job at Westside, the assistant coaching position at Iowa State, or the job at Nebraska which paid only for his room, board, and books.

After some admitted soul searching, Young chose to part with his family and the financial security of his teaching-coaching position at Westside in favor of the job with Nebraska which would pay him nothing directly.

"It was a big decision for me and I never have felt I made the wrong choice," Young said. "It was probably the biggest decision I have made in my life."

Making the adjustment to the college game, however, has admittedly been easier than was his decision to accept the job for the 42 year old Young

as his JV squads have compiled an impressive 9-1 record over two years.

His only loss, a 23-21 setback to Waldorf Junior College, snapped both his personal 32-game winning streak which dated back to 1981 as well as the junior varsity 24 game streak which went back to 1979.

The last two years have been "rugged," Young said. He has had to bear the pain of being away from his wife, son and daughter who live in Omaha while he resides in Lincoln in either Abel Hall or his apartment which he shares with his cousin, Bryan Siebler. Siebler is a reserve safety for the Huskers.

"I took a two year leave of absence from Westside just so I would have something to fall back on if things didn't work out," Young said. "It's been tough, but life isn't all a bed of roses."

Now, after two years of this drastically different lifestyle, the future is beginning to look brighter for Young.

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