

Cycling dangers abound — even for the experienced

I should have written this article a broken wrist and two bikes ago. It's about time I try to prevent some cycling accidents before I die in one of them.

Cycling is a great sport, good aerobic exercise and an efficient form of transportation, but it can be very dangerous.

Cheryl Petersen

I researched some statistics on bike accidents, expecting them to build a defense for the cyclist. But the statistics revealed otherwise.

About 1,000 bikers die from injuries each year and 1/2 million are seriously injured. The statistics show that most of these accidents are the fault of the cyclist.

John Forester, author of "Effective Cycling"

- cites the following statistics:
- Brain injury is the cause of death three out of four times in bicycle accidents.
 - American club cyclists are involved in one accident for every 10,000 miles ridden
 - The accident rate on bike paths is 2.6 times the rate on average roadways. Statistically, paths are by far the most dangerous location.
 - About 85 percent of all bike/vehicle accidents occur at intersections.
 - Most car/bike accidents are the result of a car turning left into the path of a cyclist traveling straight through an intersection.
 - Only about 7 percent of all vehicle/bike accidents in urban areas occur when the car is overtaking the bike.
 - In at least 52 percent of urban vehicle/bike collisions, the cyclist, not the driver, is disobeying a rule of the road.
 - 89 percent of vehicle/bike collisions occur

- on urban roads.
 - Riding to work is the safest of all known cycling activities.
 - The more miles a cyclist rides per year, the lower his accident rate.
- Cyclists have to be defensive, alert drivers. They need to obey any and all traffic laws that cars do. Not only do bikers have to be sure they are acting as any other vehicle, but they must make sure that motorists are obeying the laws too. Even if the cyclist has the right of way in a given traffic situation, they often must compromise and let the motorist go ahead. From personal bumper-to-stomach experience, I can tell you that a bike is no match for a car, no matter how law-abiding you are.
- Both cyclists and motorists need to be aware of safety rules in order for them both to survive in the streets. Unfortunately, most people think bicycle safety pamphlets and classes are for kids

who are just ready to take off their training wheels. From the statistics I've quoted, you can see that's not true.

My opinion is that cyclists should have to take a test when they license their bikes, just as a motorist has to take a test to get a drivers license. A bicycle safety portion should also be incorporated into the drivers test. It wouldn't eliminate accidents, but it would surely help. Neither bikers nor motorists are going to disappear from the streets for a long time, so we've all got to learn to respect one another's rights.

You may be one of those who thinks this is kindergarten stuff. You'll change your mind when you, or someone you know becomes one of these statistics.

My advice is to drive and ride defensively, wear a helmet and pick up a pamphlet on bike/vehicle safety next time you're in the bike shop — and read it.

Brandt uneasy about fall-only race schedule

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

The future of racing at the Lincoln Fairgrounds has never been so uncertain, said Henry Brandt, fairgrounds manager.

Brandt said attendance and mutual handle fell off between 3 percent and 4 percent at the fairgrounds last year.

The state Legislature followed these declines with a tax increase that raised the taxable amount from 3 percent to 4 percent and increased the exemptable amount from \$1 million to \$7 million.

"In dollars, that tax increase is going to end up costing us about \$200,000," Brandt said. "It's going to end up hurting us and the horseman because we will lose \$100,000 of that and the horseman will lose \$100,000 of that in purses."

Four years ago, Brandt said he was in a similar situation when the Nebraska Racing Commission took away his split summer and fall racing schedule. The commission ruled in favor of a fall-only racing schedule.

The move left Brandt unprepared as he was left with a spring and summer-type racetrack for a fall schedule.

"The switch to the exclusive fall dates definitely hurt us because our attendance and our mutual handle fell off, although exactly how much I can't say," Brandt said. "We spend between \$250 and \$300,000 already trying to get a fall-type facility and we are still hoping to do more."

Brandt said he is still hoping to expand the current 5/8 mile track to a 7/8 mile oval in order to attract faster horses. He said he also wants to install lights so a later post time other than the current weekday 3 p.m. post and 1 p.m. weekend post times could be put

into effect. He said he has given up hope on getting the old racing dates back.

"I've fought that with the racing commission for over three years now and they haven't given in," he said. "The only positive things that comes out of those fall dates is we don't have quite as much competition as some of the other tracks will because the new track in Minnesota and the new dog racing track, which won't open until next year in Iowa, will have already quit running."

This winter, Brandt took some precautionary steps that he hopes will bring the mutual handle and attendance back to a point where it once was by bringing the Pic-Six to the Lincoln track.

The Pic-Six, which challenges bettors to pick the winner of six consecutive races, has proven to be extremely successful at neighboring tracks in

Omaha (Ak-Sar-Ben) and Grand Island (Fonner Park) and usually attracts big-time bettors, Brandt said.

A second request for a trifecta, where the bettor would have been challenged to pick the exact finishing order of the first three horses in grade, was denied by the racing commission because of too many unanswered questions.

"We went before the racing commis-

sion and proposed the trifecta last winter but just had too many loop holes such as what if there was no winner or what if there was a dead heat to get it passed this year," Brandt said. "We're still hopeful that in the future we are allowed to use the trifecta, which would only be found at Lincoln, and that the Legislature gives us some help in the form of easing the tax burden on us or we could be in trouble."

Huskers face All-America tandem

Illini stars to test secondary

By Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

Nebraska secondary coach Bob Thornton said Florida State's passing statistics weren't a true assessment of how the Cornhusker's secondary played in the Huskers' 17-13 loss to the Seminoles.

Seminole quarterback Danny McManus and Kirk Coker combined for 18 completions in 31 attempts for 176 yards. Those statistics, Thornton said, are misleading.

"I was disappointed when I first saw their completion percentage was so high," Thornton said. "But then I looked at the fact that they had seven completions in the backfield."

Six of those seven completions, Thornton said, were shovel passes to running backs. He said the shovel passes were "almost handoffs," and there wasn't much the secondary could do to break them up.

"I thought the secondary played well the whole game," he said. "They had a couple of mental errors but they did far better than what I expected."

Left cornerback Dennis Watkins said he "wasn't tested" by the Seminole receivers. He said he "almost fell asleep" in the second half.

"It was kind of frustrating," he said. "I've practiced and practiced and then I get in a game and I couldn't make a major impact."

The secondary did have their problems though, particularly with Seminole wide receiver Darrin Holloman, Thornton said. Holloman had five receptions for 65 yards, including a 15-yard touchdown pass from McManus in the first quarter.

"His (Holloman's) quickness more than anything else gave us problems," Thornton said.

Illinois wide receiver David Williams could also give the Huskers problems, Thornton said.

"He's a great receiver," Thornton said of the All-American. "He makes a lot of big plays and knows how to get open."

"Williams is bigger and stronger than Holloman," Thornton said. "He also has speed but he's not quite as quick as Holloman."

Thornton is also aware of the talents of the man who throws the ball to Williams, quarterback Jack Trudeau. Trudeau, also an All-American, has "great command of the field," Thornton said.

Illinois tight end Jerry Reese is a player whose talents have been overlooked, Thornton said.

"He's a big, strong receiver," he said. "We'll have just as much trouble controlling him as we will Williams."

Nebraska will mix its man-to-man coverage and zone coverages in an attempt to stop the Fighting Illini's passing game.

"We can't stay in one coverage against a passing team or we'll get burned," he said.

Watkins said he is anxiously awaiting the opportunity to confront the Williams-Trudeau connection.

"I hope they come my way," he said. "I don't want to fall asleep when they come to town."

Study at your pace,

Independent study

Flexibility is there when you need it with UNL independent study. You pick your course, study and test times, and completion date. Examine the course syllabus before you start. Visit room 269, Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege. Or call:

472-1926 for information.



UNL is a non-discriminatory institution



at your place.

fisher SPACE PEN
BACK TO SCHOOL
SPECIAL OFFER

**Selected by NASA. The astronauts relied on it so you know it's dependable.*

**Writes at any angle — even upside down!*

Regularly \$2.98
Now, for Back-to-School \$2.49

BACK TO SCHOOL OFFER



Guaranteed to write for one year or you receive a **FREE SPACE PEN** refill



Best of all, you'll find it at Ken's for Pens.


1 1/2 Blks. S. of Campus
Garden Level
Douglas III BLDG.
210 N. 13th St.
474-3435

SAVE UP TO \$50 EVERY RING ON SALE

Now's a great time to buy an ArtCarved college ring and save up to \$50. Let your ArtCarved representative show you our incredible selection of Stadium® and 10 or 14 karat gold college ring styles. Every ArtCarved ring is backed by a Full Lifetime Warranty.




ARTCARVED CLASS RINGS

TODAY

DATE

10:00 - 4:00

TIME

City Union No. Lobby

PLACE

© 1985 ArtCarved, Inc. Ring

March of Dimes SAVES BABIES