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# Fiesta ends Fischer's career

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

PHOENIX, Ariz. — After 26 years as a member of the Nebraska football coaching staff, Cletus Fischer's retirement didn't begin the way he would have liked it to.

Nebraska's 27-23 loss to Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl on New Year's Day marked Fischer's final appearance on the sidelines as a Husker coach.

Fischer said losing his last game as a coach left an "empty" feeling.

"I would have liked a victory," he said, "but things don't always go as planned. I feel sorry for the seniors who

are leaving, more than for myself."

Fischer, who has spent the last 17 years as the Husker offensive line and kicking coach, will be replaced by Dan Young, who has coached the Husker freshmen to a 14-1 record during the last three seasons.

Fischer said Young is a "more-than-capable" replacement.

"We've worked together for the last few years, and I know he's got a great football mind," he said. "He's got the ingredients essential to help the football program continue to stay where it's at."

Fischer will remain close to Nebraska football, however, working in the athletic department.

Fischer said he will be working primarily with the Beef Club, an organization he said he hopes will get more publicity than it has in recent years.

"You always read about the Touch-down Club, but I think the Beef Club should be mentioned a little more in the newspapers," Fischer said. "It would be good advertising for the state, because Nebraska is a beef state."

Fischer said his main job in the athletic department will be to raise money for the football program to help continue its success.

Fischer's first contact with Nebraska was in 1945 when he enrolled in the university and became a standout half-back for the Huskers. After his career with Nebraska, Fischer played one season with the New York Giants.

A year later, Fischer began his coaching career at St. Edwards High School, his alma mater. He also coached high school ball at Columbus, St. Bonaventure, Omaha South and Midland, Texas.

In 1960, he was hired by Coach Bill Jennings as the offensive backfield coach, where he remained until 1962, when he was named the freshman offensive line coach.

In 1967 and 1968, Fischer became coach of the freshman team, leading the Huskers to an 8-0 record in those two seasons.

Fischer became the varsity offensive line coach in 1969 and has been there ever since.

During his 17 years as offensive line coach, Fischer has been responsible for coaching three Outland Trophy winners (Dave Rimington won two), two Lombardi Trophy winners and 13 first-team All-Americans.

Fischer credits his success as a coach to the good athletes that come to Nebraska each fall.

"Every season we get players here who aren't selfish, who are interested in getting an education and playing well for the team and the university," Fischer said.

Fischer said his training methods for his athletes have never included the



Photo Courtesy UNL Sports Information  
**Fischer**

use of steroids.  
"Until recently, I wasn't really aware of steroids," Fischer said. "I feel that there's really no place for them in athletics. People who use them ought to be punished — a little more harsh action should be taken to stop their use."

Fischer's retirement brings to a close a long-standing Fischer family tradition at Nebraska. His brothers Rex, Pat and Ken all played football for the Huskers, as did sons Pat, Tim and Dan. His daughter Kerry played on the Nebraska women's softball team while his other daughter, Kathleen, was a member of the Huskerettes, a dance group that performs at Nebraska basketball games.

Although Fischer said he can do without the weekly meetings of the coaching staff, he said he will miss a lot of other things about coaching.

"I guess my real memories will be of people I have worked with," Fischer said. "Bob Devaney was a super coach and is a great athletic director, and Tom Osborne is one of the finest coaches in the nation. Everyone here at the university has been real cooperative, and the fans are just great. They support the program well. I'll remember the victories, too. There were a lot of victories, and a lot of ups and downs — but there were more ups than downs. I'll have a lot of good thoughts to look back on. The last 24 years have been great here."

## Massengale supports drug tests

OMAHA — University of Nebraska Chancellor Martin Massengale said the National Collegiate Athletic Association convention was significant for stances taken on drugs.

Nebraska and Creighton University officials said they voted for the NCAA's drug-testing plan, which passed in a near-unanimous vote Tuesday.

It banned anabolic steroids and other performance-enhancing substances and "street drugs" such as cocaine, heroin, amphetamines and marijuana.

Under the plan, athletes will be tested prior to NCAA championship events and bowl games.

"It will have a significant impact on schools," Massengale said. "Although the legislation is for testing at NCAA championships, I think the result is that many schools will be putting in testing programs now. We've had a program for some time now, so it won't impact us."

## Trivia contest to test students' sports wisdom

The UNL campus recreation department has scheduled the preliminary test of its annual sports trivia contest for 6 p.m. today at the Coliseum.

The 60-question test includes sections on football, basketball, baseball and miscellaneous. The questions encompass sports of the past and present.

There is no entry fee for the test. The top eight scorers in the preliminary test will advance to a final next week.

Last year's sports trivia champion was Bob Asmussen, current Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor.

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