

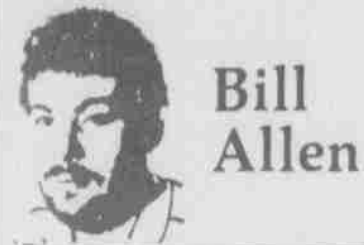
Intramural losers vs. Phil's Team in season's first basketball game

For the past few weeks most of the sports world has waited with eager anticipation for Super Bowl XX. They also waded, with less anticipation, through a glut of Super Bowl news stories, so I won't write another one.

Those of us who can't find a bookie who hasn't been busted have turned our attention to a popular campus diversion. The highlight of the sports season to us is, of course, intramural basketball, which started this week.

Judging from the large number of teams participating this year it is obvious that intramural basketball is definitely a campus favorite. Many of us sacrifice our rigorous study habits one night a week to engage in this athletic endeavor.

I play, along with six fellow Daily Nebraskan staff members, for the Los Cojones Grandes.



Bill Allen

Why Cojones?, we've been asked? It's a strange and fascinating story. One night, while sitting around on my patio drinking tequila from empty Campbell's soup cans (I'm a fan of Andy Warhol), we revealed to each other that as children we all wanted to be marauding Spanish conquistadors. Imagine that, seven guys from different geographical, cultural and religious backgrounds all wanting to rape and pillage small villages in their youth.

Since all of us have flunked Spanish at one time or another we're not quite sure what our team name means. However, we have narrowed it down to large boxes, a dozen eggs or big testicles. We'd appreciate help from Spanish majors.

Last year the Cojones won one game. The team we beat had a point guard who looked like "Saturday Night Live's" Larry Bud Melman. There is no indication this year will be an improvement since we have not practiced since last season's finale.

That's why the luckiest team in intramural basketball this week is the dreaded Phil's Team. They are our first opponent in this young, still hopeful season. Against them we will test our manhood, our dreams, and how many fouls we can get away with. The main

test is whether we can all run up and down the court for an entire game.

I called the captain of Phil's Team, the mythical Greg Feldman. He wasn't home, but his roommate and teammate, Brian Varvel, was.

I wanted to know just what kind of team we would face at 7 p.m. tonight in the hallowed arena of the Men's Physical Education building. There is no admission fee because no one wants to watch the fiasco anyway.

No one, it turns out, on Phil's Team is named Phil. The illusive and mysterious Captain Greg came up with the name. No one knows how or why. The legendary Greg remains a mystery to the Cojones.

Phil's Team is tall and plays an inside-oriented game, Brian said. Which is fine with us. We're short, but like to play inside, too. It's dark and cold outside this time of year and finding a lighted outside court is hard anyway.

These guys did not have a team last year so, unlike us, they don't know how bad they really are.

We do have one major advantage over Phil's Team. They don't have team nicknames. We do. The Cojones are David "Smooth as Cream" Creamer, Mike "Our Lad" Reilley, Mark "Bongo" Davis, Greg "Slick" Kersten, Gene "The Slammmin' Machine" Gentrup and Chris "Savage" Welsh.

I'm, of course, called the 'Fridge.

Brian said the unavailable Greg was the tallest player on their team. The tallest player on our team, "Savage," is the spitting image of Drago in "Rocky IV."

When I told Savage he would be playing Captain Greg, he quoted his stone-faced hero from the popular movie: "If he dies, he dies."

Brian is a graduate accounting student from Hay Springs. He said mostly Phil's Team is playing for fun. So are we. And believe me, we're funny. Usually we only score while the other team is laughing at our last mistake.

And like us, Phil's Team, Greg said, is just a bunch of friends getting together to play. That is the spirit of intramurals and the main reason I look forward to each season. The Cojones gave up dreams of winning the trophy after our first game last year, when the referee told us no, both teams staying at one end of the court and using the same goal would not make it easier for everyone.

But we play every game like conquis-

tadors. We sweat like conquistadors and we smell like conquistadors. After each game, we drink like conquistadors.

So a hi-ho arriba to all you basketball players, and good luck this season. The Cojones don't need luck, we need points.

Hasta Luego.

Editor's note: This is not a regular series about the Cojones' season. Just in case you were worrying.

Allen is a senior English major and Daily Nebraskan Arts and Entertainment editor.

Letter

A few words to a losing team

This letter is in response to the article about the Nebraska basketball team's 68-67 loss to Missouri ("Huskies Collapse," Daily Nebraskan, Jan. 20).

In it is a quote from Moe Iba which says, "That's a tough ball game for those kids to lose. There's nothing you can tell a team after you lose a game like that."

Well Moe, there's plenty. How about: "Guys, we were out-coached, just like every other game we've played in. We practiced before we were supposed

to, and we still can't run a good inbounds play or break a press. No one on our team can bring the ball up the floor because I won't allow anyone but Brian (Carr) to do that. My 6'10" center scores 23 points a game, but that is because no one else is allowed to shoot.

"Guys, I could go on and on, but there just aren't enough hours in a day. Maybe it's time for me to move on."

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