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# Inflated dome would work fine

During his weekly media luncheon the week after the South Carolina football game, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne expressed his desire for a new indoor practice facility for the football team.

The new facility would likely be constructed on the existing grass practice field just north of Ed Weir track. The project would cost several million dollars — a price tag that would offend most people who know anything about UNL's present financial situation.

Granted, the athletic department's budget is separate from the rest of the

So what's Nebraska to do? The weather certainly can't be changed. Building a dome over Memorial Stadium would be a little extreme and a lot more expensive than the original plan of a new facility, so that's also in the woods. The answer to Nebraska's problems is not to build a new, expensive indoor practice field but to utilize the facilities Nebraska already has.

The answer can be found in Champaign, Ill., and in several other places all over the northern United States.

Illinois recently purchased a \$1.5 million air-supported dome, or bubble, that covers all of Zuppke Field. The dome, similar to the one over the tennis courts at Woods Park here in Lincoln, is like a parachute with air underneath it. It can be stored when it isn't in use and then set up in a short time when it's needed. Such a dome could cover all of Memorial Stadium's field for cold-weather practices or even scrimmages at night. The price tag is much less than that of a new permanent structure and yet the facility serves the same purpose. The dome at Illinois is heated and can be lit from inside.

The \$1.5 million bill could be paid by a surcharge on Nebraska's 50,000 regular season ticket-holders. It would cost them only \$5 extra per home game and the dome would more than pay for itself in a few seasons that might otherwise be spent practicing only twice a week on a frozen practice field.

### End Zone Knox

Tyreese Knox, a 5-11, 218-pound sophomore from Daly City, Calif., probably should have been moved back to his usual I-back position the day after Doug DuBose was knocked out for the season because of his knee injury. Knox gained 127 yards and scored two touchdowns against Missouri on only eight carries. Keith Jones may be fighting for his job after a couple of more games. Jones is an outstanding runner — when he turns the corner. Jones is very erratic when he runs up the middle. A good, outside running game is great, but when it's stopped, what do you do? Sure, Colorado, Kansas State and Iowa State aren't going to damage Nebraska too much if they stop their inside game, and neither will Kansas, but what about Oklahoma? How effective will Jones be up the middle against Brian Bosworth? Knox may not be very effective against Boz, either, but he will gain the extra yards that add up.

It could be time for one more sophomore to stand up and take charge in Nebraska's offensive backfield.

### Extra-inning World Series?

If the rest of the 1986 World Series is as exciting as the playoffs and the first two games were, baseball fans might not be able to take the strain. For a season that was decided as early as this one was, with the Mets clinching the National League Eastern Division early and the other pennant races virtually ending at mid-summer, the playoffs were just what baseball fans needed to salvage an otherwise ho-hum season. Don't be surprised if half of Boston and New York calls in sick each day after the games just to rest their throats. I'll say the Red Sox will take home the crown in seven games — in extra innings, of course.

### Watch the Sooners

If Oklahoma somehow beats Nebraska on Nov. 22 and plays in the Orange Bowl for the national championship, it could be the first of two championship games Oklahoma will be playing in three months. Oklahoma's basketball team, losing only one starter from last year's squad, has been picked No. 2 in the Sport Magazine pre-season college basketball poll and No. 4 in The Sporting News poll. Wouldn't that be sickening, watching Oklahoma contend for two national championships in two sports in one calendar year? Yuck! The sound of it even curls my tongue. But credit belongs where credit is due. Oklahoma has proved to the world that it is possible to become a national powerhouse in two major sports. Here's hoping the Sooners don't sign any major blue-chip baseball recruits this winter.

### Dixon's Follies

Entrepreneur Dave Dixon, one of the masterminds behind that professional football joke known as the United States Football League, is at it again. Now Dixon is trying to create a new spring football league which would make high-school players eligible to be drafted into its respective teams. How nice. Now high-school wide receivers and kickers, and maybe even a few — very few — other players at other positions can make thousands of dollars right after they graduate. I wonder what these players will do with their lives when their careers are over at the age of 25. Go to college and learn a trade? Good luck. Dixon and the rest of these millionaire armchair quarterbacks should stick to what they know, whatever that may be, and stop trying to exploit athletes.

Especially athletes who have just hung up their high-school letter jackets.

Chuck Green



university budget, but the number still could bring a lot of fire from the critics.

On the other hand, though, Nebraska's recent lack of success in post-season bowl games can be attributed, in part, to the weather the Cornhuskers were forced to practice in before the games. A good example is the sub-zero conditions Nebraska faced in December 1983, while preparing for the 1984 Orange Bowl national championship shootout with Miami. While the Hurricanes practiced hard for three weeks in the hot sun prior to the game, the Huskers were shovelling snow at South Stadium.

"A lot of people are still talking about that Miami game three years ago," Osborne said at the luncheon. He also said that an indoor facility would have aided Nebraska's preparation for the game a great deal.



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