

Athletes deserve tears and violins, but not special Pell Grant bonus

Daily Nebraskan writers, especially those in the sports department, have often been accused of fanning the flames of controversy on their pages.

writer before being appointed "big cheese"—wrote an editorial criticizing the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's support of increasing Pell Grants for athletes at the NCAA convention in Nashville, Tenn.

The piece of legislation UNL faculty representative James O'Hanlon voted for would set student athletes' priorities ahead of those of other students for Pell Grant money. Reilly wrote in his editorial that athletes should earn their spending money during the summer months, like other students, and not have it handed to them.

Good point, except many athletes

didn't agree. One wrote a letter to the DN a few days later and argued that Cornhusker athletes work just as hard, if not harder, than other students at Nebraska. Getting up at 6 a.m. to lift weights while other students sleep sound and cozy in their beds, she said, is a real inconvenience. And, judging from her letter, "busting her butt" at practice for three hours a day just to "entertain" us peon sports fans (who help pay for her athletic scholarship by supporting various Nebraska sports) is a real puker, too.

The athlete also included this little gem in her complaint: "If one would take the total amount of money athletes receive through scholarship money and divide it by the total hours athletes actually use up in their day devoted to their sport . . . athletes earn less than the minimum wage."

Is that violin music I hear in the background? Oh, but wait. It gets better. In the following days, a few non-athlete students wrote in and voiced their opinions of the "pampering of athletes," as one letter called it.

Another letter included this: "If one would divide the amount of tuition by the total amount of hours spent on schoolwork, one would discover that most of us pay to go to school. What a novel concept!"

Just when you thought it couldn't get any hotter . . .

"All through the elementary, junior high and high school years, we were dedicated to our sport," said one of Tuesday's letters, which was jointly written by three athletes. "This meant our free time was spent training, and the majority of our money went to gear, team dues, entry fees and travel."

The letter brought up an important point about athletics. It is hard work, and lots of sacrifices have to be made. My high school days were spent playing football and running track, and I

See GREEN on 11

Chuck Green



Well, here we go again. On Jan. 12, DN editor Mike Reilly — who was a DN sports-



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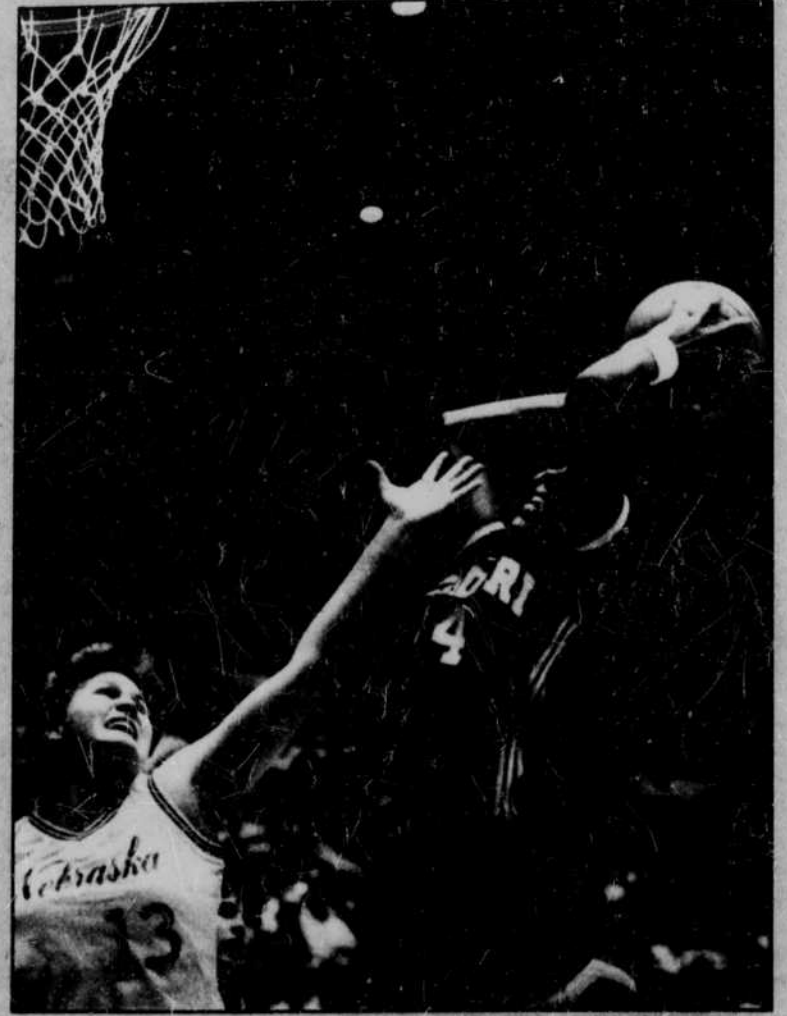
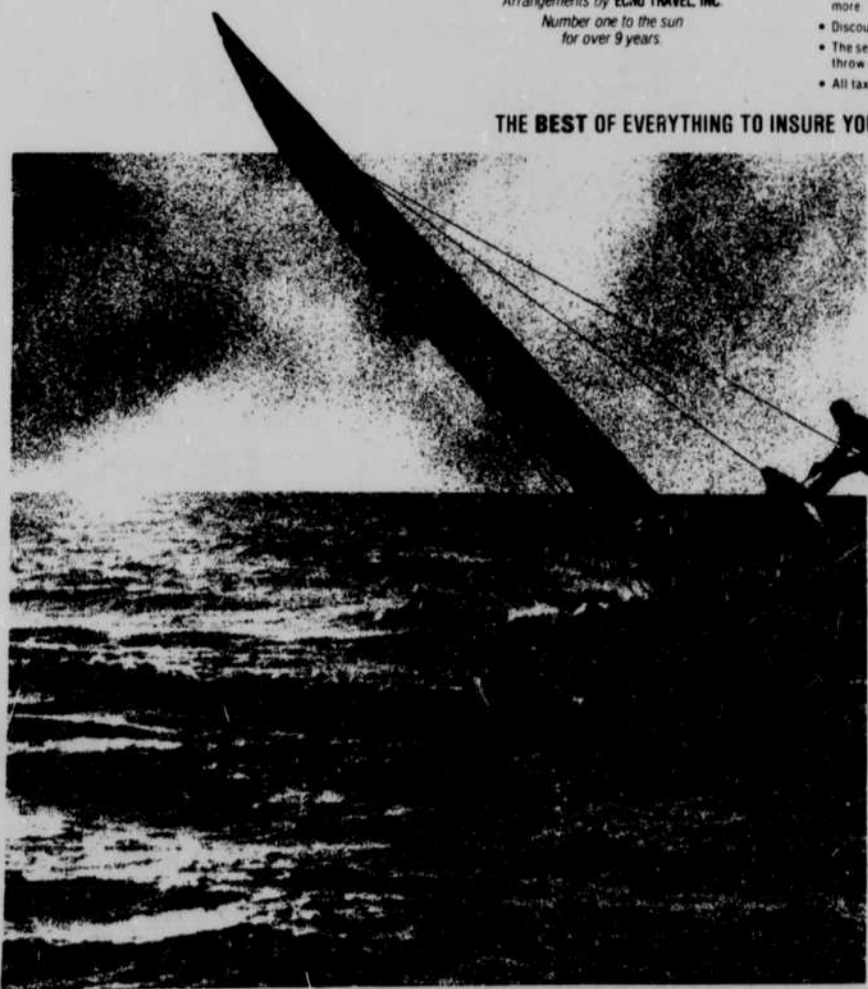
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Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Ann Haisne attempts to block a shot by Missouri's Tracy Kelly.

Beck wants consistency after team's biggest win

Probable Starters:

Nebraska (14-2, 4-0)
Amy Stephens G
Pam Fiene G
Stephanie Bolli C
Maurice Ivy F
Kim Harris F

Oklahoma (10-6, 3-1)

Terry Willis G
Margaret McKeon G
Dale Ivey C
Kelli Epps F
Jo Mosely F

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck admits the Cornhuskers' 80-64 win against Kansas Saturday was the team's biggest victory of the year, but said that doesn't mean the Huskers can

get complacent.

"There's always room for improvement," Beck said. "We could improve our rebounding and play better defense."

Beck said the Huskers attempt to hold their opponents under 70 points and limit their shooting to under 40 percent from the field. She said Nebraska reached that goal against Kansas, but has not achieved it consistently this season.

Beck said holding the Sooners to less than 70 points will be a challenge because of the multiple offensive weapons Oklahoma possesses.

Nebraska will face Oklahoma at 5 tonight at the Lloyd Noble Center in Norman, Okla.

"They have a new coach, Val-

See SOONERS on 11

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