

Network to televise non-revenue sports

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

An 11-year battle came to an abrupt end Wednesday when the Prime Sports Network announced that it plans to televise a variety of non-revenue sports beginning next season.

Barb Hibner, the assistant director in charge of women's athletics, said she is excited about the contract because it completes a struggle which began when the Nebraska women's athletic program was formed in 1978. She said the Cornhusker women's athletic program has been battling for sponsors and wide-spread recognition ever since it was founded.

But, Hibner said, the Big Eight took a big step towards winning that battle when it signed a two-year contract with the Prime Sports Network. The contract states that beginning in the 1989-90 academic year, championship events in volleyball, wrestling, and men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and gymnastics will be aired.

In addition, the Denver-based station will also air the women's post-season basketball tournament and will televise at least four regu-

lar-season games.

All of those contests will be viewed on a near-national basis, as the network is connected with 12 other cable networks that stretch from the East to the West Coast. The network has 112 subscribers in Nebraska that view it from the Windbreak Cable System in Gering.

Hibner said she was surprised the Big Eight signed the contract because she views the conference as being conservative. She said the contract is the biggest boost women's athletics have received since they initiated corporate sponsorships in 1978.

"This is the biggest booster shot we've received in 11 years," Hibner said. "This is something we've been trying to accomplish for some years. I'm really excited to see it's finally happening."

Hibner said she hopes the contract leads to increased interests in women's athletics. She said an increase in interest would lead to an increase in the number of fans who attend women's sporting events, which would lead to a revenue increase.

"The exposure we will receive will be a tremendous boost," Hibner said. "We've

shown that TV does not decrease attendance. If anything, it increases it."

Hibner and Bill Hancock, the assistant commissioner for the Big Eight, said they hope the contract has a strong impact on women's basketball. The Big Eight ranked seventh in women's basketball attendance last season with an average of less than 800 fans per game, while the Southwest Conference led the country with an average of 1,900.

"Ten years ago when we first started sponsoring women's basketball, I think we all figured that by 1989 attendance and interest would be stronger than it is," Hancock told The Associated Press. "Girl's high school basketball in our region is super big. In little towns all over the Big Eight area, women's basketball is a giant. We're hoping it's just a matter of not having people exposed to it."

Hancock said the contract is not going to be a big money maker for the Big Eight. He refused to disclose its specific terms.

"I would classify it as modest," Hancock told AP. "The main thing is the exposure. We're getting closer and closer to our goal of making non-revenue sports a zero expense."

Hancock said the majority of the money that

is making up for the funds lost through women's athletics and other non-revenue sports comes from the Big Eight baseball tournament. He said the four-team tournament had a net income of \$118,000 in 1988.

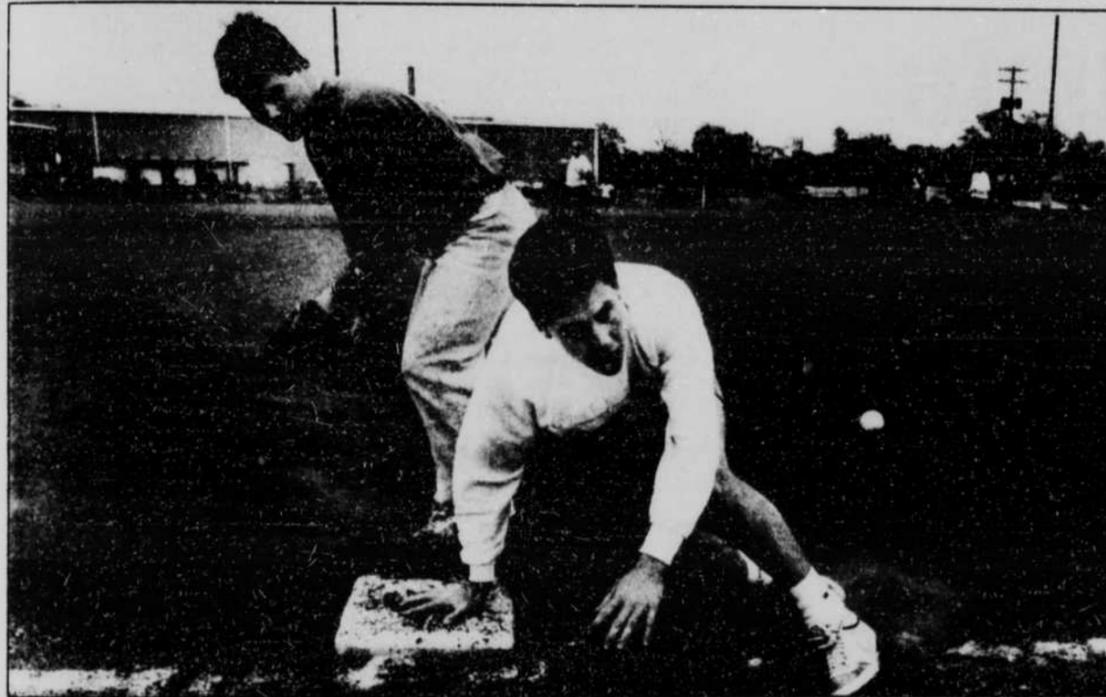
Hancock said the Big Eight would like to raise enough revenue from ticket sales and corporate sponsors to offset the expenses it encounters through non-revenue sports. Last year, non-revenue schools in the Big Eight lost an average of \$250,000.

Hancock said he is confident schools can make up that deficit.

"With increased television exposure of women's basketball and the other non-revenue sports, we think we'll make it in about three years," he said.

Hibner said a balanced budget will not mean the end of corporate sponsorships at Nebraska. This year, corporate sponsorships were used by the Nebraska women's basketball, volleyball and gymnastics programs.

"Those individuals took a chance when others turned their backs," he said. "We appreciate that, and we definitely won't forget about them."



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Kegs on legs' Mark Runyan ends up safe on third as the ball rolls by Milkbones' Jay Borer. Milkbones defeated Kegs on Legs 14-9 in the Campus Recreation A Division championships Wednesday.

Milkbones defeats Kegs on Legs for title

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

The Milkbones coed softball team completed an undefeated season Wednesday by beating Kegs on Legs 14-9 in the Campus Recreation A Division Championship at Vine Street fields.

Jay Borer, Milkbones' pitcher and team captain, said an all-around team effort enabled the Milkbones to win.

"We've played together for a long time," Borer said. "It took a lot of people to win -- some weren't even here tonight."

Borer said the Milkbones lineup consisted predominantly of Albion High School graduates.

"Most of us have been playing together all the way since little league," Borer said. "All but one guy and girl are from Albion and we

played against them, so we know how each other plays."

The championship win gave Milkbones a 9-0 record, while Kegs on Legs suffered its only loss and finished 7-1.

Borer said a balanced offensive attack and solid defense propelled Milkbones. Milkbones out hit Kegs on Legs 16-15, while Kegs on Legs committed three errors.

"Defense has been our strong point most of the season," Borer said. "We hadn't given up more than four runs until tonight, but we knew they would be good."

Milkbones had to overcome four home runs by Kegs on Legs, including one by Shane Perrien on the game's first pitch. Following a ground out, Kegs on Legs' Joel Denkert added another home run to allow

Kegs on Legs to open a 2-0 lead before the Milkbones batted in the bottom of the first inning. Milkbones added three runs of its own to take a 3-2 lead after one inning.

Borer said he thought Kegs on Legs had some hitters who could beat a team with one swing. He said that's why he decided to intentionally walk three Kegs on Legs' batters.

"A key was walking their big bats," Borer said. "We've never done it before, but we've never faced those kind of hitters before. With the wind blowing out and on a short field, we knew they were going to hit some out."

Sam Wood led Milkbones by hitting two home runs and adding a double. Perrien led Kegs on Legs with two homers and a double in its loss.

Gdowski has fun scoring 36 points

By Mark Derowitsch

Senior Reporter
and Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Gerry Gdowski had some fun at the expense of the Nebraska Wesleyan intramural all-star basketball team Wednesday night.

Gdowski, who doubles as Nebraska's No. 1 quarterback, scored 36 points to lead the Hosers -- the all-university champions -- to a 63-61 win against Wesleyan before about 100 fans at Taylor Gymnasium.

And Gdowski said he wasn't even being serious while scoring his points.

"I wasn't serious at all," said Gdowski, a senior-to-be from Fremont. "I just enjoy playing basketball. It's fun just to come out and play."

Gdowski was obviously having fun in the first half Wednesday. The 6-foot-1, 195-pounder scored 20 points, including 11 straight in a two-minute span that gave the Hosers a 31-18 lead. But the Hosers failed to score in the final five minutes of the first half as Wesleyan cut the margin to 31-28.

Cary Haynes, Wesleyan's player-coach, said he didn't recognize Gdowski when the game began. But Haynes knew who Gdowski was by the end of the half.

"He can shoot the ball," said Haynes, the lone senior on Wesleyan's team. "I knew he was a good athlete, but at first I didn't know who he was."

Hosers coach Dave Clare said Gdowski was the difference in the game.

"He was on fire tonight," Clare said. "He's our top gun launching those three-point bombs. But he's done that for us all year. He definitely

decided the game."

Gdowski hit a game-high eight trifectas.

Despite Gdowski's presence, Wesleyan managed to take a 47-46 lead on Derrin Hansen's basket with 8:29 left. Gdowski responded with two straight baskets to give the Hosers breathing room.

Wesleyan cut the Hosers' lead to one on three occasions in the second half. But a basket by former Husker defensive back Lorenzo Hicks gave the Hosers a 61-58 lead with 29 seconds left. The Hosers' Tim Barada followed with a steal and two free-throws before Jeff Rippe hit a three-pointer with 9 seconds left, accounting for the final score.

Haynes said Wesleyan was hindered by a roster that included 15 players, 13 of whom played.

"It was kind of tough with so many players," Haynes said. "They had the right amount. If you're in good shape, you should be able to play with seven or eight guys."

The Hosers played with six. Gdowski said he noticed Wesleyan's advantage in terms of number of players before the game and was worried.

"They had about 20 guys and we had six. I thought we would be in trouble," Gdowski said. "They had some good players. We had four of our regular starters out with injuries and that didn't help."

Included among the missing were Husker receivers Tim McCoy and Chip Bahe.

Clare said Wesleyan's talent caught the Hosers off-guard in the first half.

"I was sure we were going to win, but I knew they would play us tough," Clare said. "They came ready to play, we weren't and it showed."

Scales hopes he's impressive 'down under'

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska guard Clifford Scales wants to score a few points during his return trip to Australia in May.

Scales doesn't necessarily want to score baskets, but he hopes his play at point guard impresses Coach Danny Nee.

Scales and Cornhusker center Rich King will travel to Australia at the end of May with a Big Eight-select team that will be coached by

Kansas' Roy Williams. The Big Eight will release the names of the rest of the team next week.

Last May, the Huskers played a series of games in Australia.

"I just want to work on all phases of the game," Scales said. "I don't know what position I'll play, but if I get a chance to play point guard, I won't mind."

Scales said he will play point guard for the Huskers next season. Last year, he averaged 9.9 points per

game while shooting 49.4 percent from the field.

Scales said he won't know until the first game what position Williams will let him play.

"We'll only have two practices before we leave and when we get there, we'll start playing games," Scales said. "So practices won't mean that much. What matters is that we'll all be getting plenty of game experience."

Scales said he's excited about the

opportunity of playing in Australia for the second time.

"I wish it would have been somewhere else, but I can't wait to visit Australia again," he said. "It was a nice place to visit last year. This year, it will be a new experience in an old surrounding."

Making the return trip with a teammate will help, Scales said. King, a 7-foot-2 center from Omaha Burke, also traveled with the Huskers to Australia last year. He averaged 11.1 points and 6 rebounds during the

regular season last year.

"I don't think I have trouble relating to other people and we all will know of each other," Scales said. "But with Rich around, it'll make the first few days easier. It will help break the ice."

The best part of the trip, Scales said, will be representing the Big Eight.

"This is an honor that I'm really proud of," he said. "I'll always remember it."