

Daily Nebraskan

Thursday

WEATHER:

Thursday, mostly sunny and colder, high of 40-45, northwest wind 20-30 miles per hour. Thursday night, diminishing winds, low of 10-15. Friday, mostly sunny, high of 30.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Commission cuts basketball season, spring practice

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

Measures enacted by the NCAA this week will have "minimal impact" on the quality of athletics but will give student-athletes more time for education, said the chairman of the NCAA Presidents Commission.

Martin Massengale, also University of Nebraska interim president and University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellor, said the NCAA's attempts at reform -- based on Presidents Commission proposals -- are a step to return integrity to college athletics and return student athletes' focus to academics.

The reforms, in part, are the result of student-athlete input, according to Massengale. Student-athletes have said athletics placed undue demands on their time and they wanted more time to study and participate in other student activities.

At the convention in Dallas, spring football practice was reduced from 20 to 15 days. Players can wear pads

for only 10 of those days. The Presidents Commission had supported a proposal to cut spring practice to 10 days with no pads allowed, but the final measure passed was a compromise.

The basketball season was cut from 28 to 25 games, and the number of exemptions -- games allowed beyond the limit -- were trimmed. Every four years, teams will be allowed to participate in one exempted game, which are those in the preseason National Invitation Tournament, Alaska, Hawaii or against foreign or club teams.

Although many universities had complained that fewer games would decrease revenue, Massengale said the advantages of the change outweigh money concerns.

"We have to be, first and foremost, concerned about the students," Massengale said. "That has to be our first priority over money."

Under the changes, preseason basketball workouts cannot begin until Nov. 1, two weeks later than currently is allowed, and the season will not begin until Dec. 1.

Another reform enacted to focus athletes' attention on academics requires schools to publish the percentage of students who graduate and the percentage of student-athletes who

Devaney: NCAA changes won't hurt

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The quality of college football and basketball will not be compromised by reducing the time student-athletes may devote to practicing and playing their sports, NU athletic officials said Wednesday.

The NCAA voted this week to reduce the college basketball season from 28 to 25 games; to cut spring football practice by five days; to publish the graduation rates of student-athletes; to increase the Pell Grant allowance for student-athletes from \$1,400 to \$1,700; and to change Proposition 42 to allow student-athletes to receive financial aid even if they don't qualify for athletic scholarships under Proposition 48. Propositions 42 and 48 set minimum college entrance

requirements for athletes.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney said that although he does not agree with the changes made by the NCAA at its annual convention this week, he does not think they will hurt the football program.

Five fewer days of spring football practice will shorten the time for assessment of younger players, Devaney said, but he was glad the NCAA met the coaches' wishes halfway with a compromise.

The NCAA Presidents Commission had proposed that only 10 days of non-contact spring football practice be allowed, but a compromise proposal put the spring practice time at 15 days with 10 days of contact practice.

"It's not what everybody wanted," Devaney said, "but it was a compromise."

The change in basketball also

will not decrease the quality, Devaney said, but will hurt the athletic department's coffers.

Three fewer games will cut down significantly on income, he said, although he did not know by how much. Some universities had said they could lose as much as \$250,000 with the shortened season.

Devaney said he is not opposed to the proposal to disclose student-athletes' graduation rates but is concerned that the figures would be misleading because they could be manipulated by some universities.

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said he doesn't think the shortened spring practice will make a lot of difference but will make the sessions more compact.

"I don't think it will be a real

See COACHES on 6



Massengale

graduate. The student-athlete total will be broken down by sport and the basketball and football graduation rates will be broken down by race.

Proposition 42 also was adjusted

to allow partial qualifiers under Proposition 48 to apply for need-based student financial aid. Proposition 48 prohibits student-athletes from receiving scholarships their freshman years

if they don't meet academic standards.

The Pell Grant allowance for stu-

See MASSENGALE on 6

Deficit request tops university legislation

By Victoria Ayotte
Senior Reporter

The University of Nebraska's emergency deficit request for \$12.6 million and the higher education restructuring report will dominate the spotlight for NU at the Nebraska Legislature this session, said Lee Rupp, vice president for university relations.

Many other issues are important, Rupp said, but won't "see the light of day." The backlog of bills and the short legislative session, 60 days this year, will make time "of the essence."

But the budget request and higher education restructuring are sure to find places on the agenda, said Rupp, the university's chief lobbyist.

No bill has been introduced on higher education restructuring, Rupp said, so the university has not yet

formulated a strategy for lobbying.

The Legislature's Appropriations Committee will hold a public hearing Jan. 29 on the budget request, which proposes more money for retirement, health insurance, asbestos removal, instructional equipment and a family practice program for the Lincoln Medical Foundation.

A public hearing will be held Jan. 30 for the revised request for a telecommunications system, according to Rupp.

Overall, the university is requesting \$5.1 million for 1989-90 and \$7.5 million for 1990-91, increases of 2.3 percent and 3 percent over the original 1989-91 biennial budget approved last year.

The retirement plan will exceed projected costs by about \$1.5 million

See BUDGET on 3

Four abortion-related bills on Legislature's agenda

By C.J. Schepers
Staff Reporter

At the onset of the 1990 legislative session, Nebraska lawmakers will have to deal with four abortion bills -- three that would restrict abortion and one that would expand abortion rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court opened the door for the introduction of abortion bills in state legislatures with its July ruling in Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services.

LB1054, a pro-choice bill introduced by Lincoln Sen. David Landis on Tuesday, would, among other things, allow public employees to be covered by health insurance for abortions performed in health-threatening cases. Current Nebraska law only allows insurance coverage for an abortion if the woman's life is threatened.

LB854, sponsored by Omaha Sen. John Lindsay, would require a 24-hour waiting period from the time a woman agrees to have an abortion before it could be performed. It also requires that a woman be informed of

the "anatomical and physiological characteristics of an unborn child" at the time the abortion is to be performed.

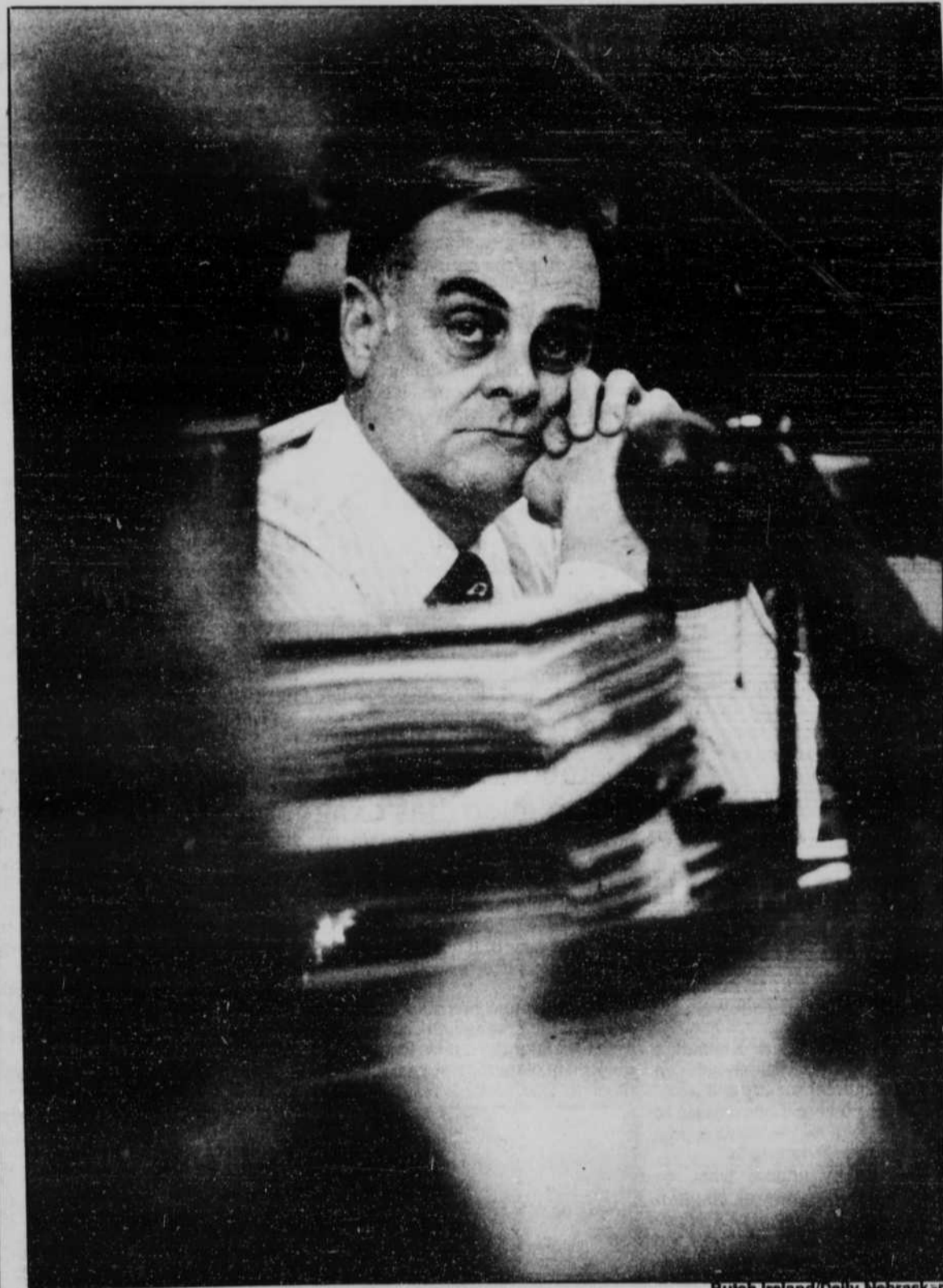
LB889, introduced last week by Sen. M.L. "Cap" Dierks of Ewing, would prohibit public employees from participating in abortions. It also bans using public funds and facilities for abortions.

A third restrictive measure, LB769, would require parental notification before performing an abortion on a minor. The bill, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Bernice Labeledz, was carried over from last year's session after it stalled during first-round debate.

Lindsay, co-sponsor of the other two bills aimed at restricting abortion, said the intent of the 24-hour waiting period required by LB854 is to remove the woman from a "high-pressure situation" when making her decision.

"We're not talking about a decision like whether or not I should go to the grocery store, or whether or not I should get my cars pierced," he said.

See ABORTION on 5



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Sen. Frank Korshoj of Herman listens to Lincoln Sen. David Landis during debate on the legislative floor Wednesday.