

# Proposed football league concerns NU's Devaney

By Jeff Speer  
Sports Editor

Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney expressed doubt about a new football league that is looking at Lincoln as a possible site for its home games.

Devaney said he doubts that the National Spring Football League will come to Lincoln because several other franchises were experienced in the area. He said he would like to see the league established in the past and that some franchises are still in use. He said he would like to see the league established in the past and that some franchises are still in use.

Devaney said the only way he would allow a professional team at a Lincoln stadium is if he was certain that it would not interfere with Nebraska's football program. He said that means the franchise would have to work around the Cornhuskers' schedule, and could not affect the attendance at Nebraska's home games.

Devaney is concerned that a new franchise may take fans away from the Husker program, which has sold out its last 100 contests.

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while providing employment for players, coaches and front-office personnel.

Papworth said the 12-team, three-division league wants to establish itself in cities which have either lost a NFL or United States Football League franchise in the past or in cities in which football has strong fan support. He said Lincoln is a natural site for a franchise.

There is no pre-leased site for any franchise. When we think of Lincoln, we think of football. The market is definitely there.

Papworth said the league will begin playing in the spring of 1991, and will be a spring/summer league. He said the league will not serve as a minor or developmental system for the NFL.

Papworth said the league chose the spring/summer schedule because it realizes that the NFL is more important.

"We're not out to rival the NFL," Papworth said. "We're just trying to get a good product out of them. They're big. They're big."

Tim Spivak, the NFL's director of football operations, said the league will have to be established in the past and that some franchises are still in use.

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