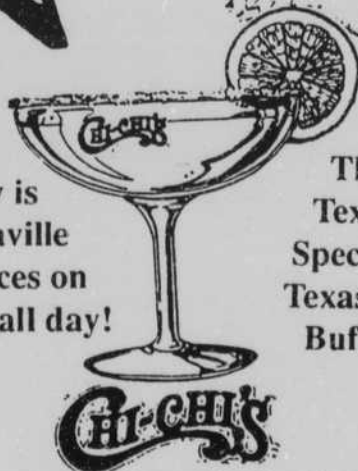


# TNT

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## Players, school would benefit if curriculum included athletics

Last week I argued that athletic scholarships are inconsistent with the other scholarships given at major colleges.

I suggested that the scholarships be eliminated, and a system of minor leagues replace college football and



**Paul Domeier**

basketball to develop players for the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

Well, that's kind of a bummer, isn't it? Win one for the Gipper, or Sal, or whomever, goes out the window. Getting an education and playing sports would be that much harder for poor students, and the leagues would be almost impossible to start. Imagine the discussion at an athletic directors' convention:

"I'll drop my programs right after you do."

"No, I'll drop my programs after you do."

"No . . ."

That first suggestion won't get too far. Even though athletic scholarships don't make sense, as long as the programs pay for themselves, the funding will continue.

So here comes the Second Domeier Proposal:

**MAKE ATHLETICS PART OF THE CURRICULUM, INCLUDING DEGREES.**

Take football as an example of how the present system could be adapted into the curriculum. This could be a class bulletin of the future.

Football 101 -- four hours, fall semester: Open to all incoming freshmen after passing an entrance test (a physical). Different sections of the class will play each other during the semester. FB 101 will present basic football techniques and strategies. High school experience is recommended.

FB 102 -- two hours, spring semester: Spring football and winter conditioning.

FB 101H and 102H -- by permission only: Students will practice and play with upper-level classes.

FB 151 and 152 -- the redshirt years; by permission only: Students will practice but cannot play in games.

FB 201, 202, 301, 302, 401 and 402 -- by permission only: The students will practice and play under

Professor Tom Osborne. Games will be played against varsity teams (or upper-level classes) of other universities.

Professor Osborne and his staff will decide who gets the 95 available scholarships. All students in the College of Athletics must have a double-major outside of the college. Athletic courses are offered pass/no pass only.

In addition to the courses in one department (24-30 hours), athletics majors must take core courses. These would include sufficient levels of math, English 150, Political Science 100, History 100 and 101 and a new class, Speech 116 -- The Interview.

"In this course future athletes, public officials and anyone else who may need to sound intelligent to a reporter will learn to speak freely and without putting the student in a compromising position. The student will learn to eliminate cliches, 'uhs,' 'ya knows,' 'likes,' and 15-minute sentences with too many 'ands.'"

Other students, if they do well enough in FB 101 and 102, could minor in the sport.

That's the proposal. The easiest way to explain and defend it will be to attack it, playing devil's advocate.

**ATTACK:** This degrades all academics since the world began. A Bachelor of Arts in football?

**DEFENSE:** Spector sports are a billion-dollar entertainment industry, so athletic degrees have as much basis as music performance or theater majors.

**A:** But a tiny percentage of college athletes play professional sports. You'll be exploiting the athletes.

**D:** Yeah, and a tiny percentage of percussion majors play drums in heavy-metal bands; a tiny percentage of English majors become world-famous authors; a tiny percentage of history majors become professors at Harvard. Why are students given the chance to go for a dream and possibly fail, while athletes have to be warned?

Besides, the double-major degrees will have worth in the world.

**A:** Like what?

**D:** Like the benefits athletes draw from playing collegiately now. Ex-Huskies are held in high regard as people who can thrive individually within a group structure.

**A:** Anything else?

**D:** Secondary education majors with football minors would be better qualified to coach than grads are now. Incoming freshmen who take a 100-level sport might stay in shape, a

college rarity.

**A:** Schools will become known for their sports programs, not their traditional academic disciplines.

**D:** What do you think schools are known for now?

**A:** Fine, the present system could be absorbed into the curriculum. But except for solving the logic problems with the scholarships, what good will this do? Why bother?

**D:** I'm glad I asked that. In addition to solving the logic problem with the grants, students will have an easier time with school. The best students in the student-athlete group, like Jake Young, Virginia Stahr and Renita Tyrance, could still double-major.

The extra hours will be paid for by the scholarships. No problem, no change. Yet even for them, their athletic participation will be right on the resume.

For those great athletes who aren't good enough to go to college, except to play sports, the athletic major will be a great savior. Instead of having to take four three-hour classes to pass the 12 hours needed each semester to stay eligible, the athlete could take three courses and devote more time to each class.

**A:** This would delay graduation.

**D:** Double-majors usually do delay graduation.

**A:** What about those athletes who use this to take school easy until their eligibility is up? They drop out with about 75 "real" hours?

**D:** Fine. Stop babysitting the athletes. He or she didn't want an education then, anyway. And for those students who struggle to get the 75 "real" hours, they drop out because they aren't cut out for college and only went for the sport; they are still better off for their effort.

Maybe those liberal arts courses will help the athlete be a bank guard instead of a bank robber, or work on the government side of a welfare desk. Maybe they can do the work and get something out of the nine hours, and not have to ghost through 12 hours of basket-weaving while trying to play a sport.

And one more point makes this proposal far more attractive to collegiate powers. One college could enact this proposal by itself, and the first college that does will have a huge advantage in recruiting. In college sports, that's reason enough to do anything.

Domeier is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.

## Pieces come together for men's team; NU women reach for Big Eight win

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

The pieces are beginning to fall into place for the Nebraska men's swimming team.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said the Cornhuskers took another step toward their 11th-consecutive Big Eight title by defeating Arkansas 83-50 Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. He said the meet was critical because Nebraska won despite having several swimmers compete in their second and third events.

The Nebraska women's swimming team did not have that luxury, as Coach Ray Huppert said the team needed everything it had to post a 73-67 win against the Razorbacks.

Bentz said the Nebraska men need to continue to develop their depth. He said depth will play a key role when the Huskers compete in the Big Eight championships on March 1-3.

Bentz said Nebraska is making good progress towards the Big Eight championships.

"We feel we're coming right along," he said. "We're starting to get our lineup set."

Bentz said that lineup will include Jan Bidman, Sean Frampton and Ryan Bell, all of whom stood out against the Razorbacks. Bell won the 50-yard freestyle in 21.32 seconds,

while Frampton won the 100 breaststroke in 57.40.

Bidman won the 100 backstroke in 52.41, the 200 backstroke in 1:54.34 minutes, and the 200 breaststroke in 2:05.33.

Bentz said he was not surprised by Bidman's performance. The sophomore from Sweden was recently named the Big Eight's swimmer of the month for the second-consecutive time.

"I don't know why anyone would be surprised by his performance," Bentz said. "You know he's going to swim fast."

Huppert said anyone who plans on competing against Nebraska's Michelle Butcher also must swim fast. Butcher proved she is a legitimate title threat by claiming the 500 and 1,000 freestyle and 400 individual medley titles against Arkansas.

Huppert said Butcher's performance in the 1,000 freestyle was impressive. Her time of 10:01.32 set a school record and a Sports Center pool record.

In addition to Butcher, Huppert said Nebraska also received top performances from Mindy Matheny and Jennell Garcia. Garcia won the 200 butterfly in 2:04.81, while Matheny captured the 100 freestyle crown in 52.53.

Huppert said those performances

were critical because the meet was an emotionally draining one.

"It was a tight meet," he said. "It was close the whole way through."

Huppert said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"We rose to the level where we needed to be at," Huppert said.

Huppert said that level has not brought a lot of national recognition. He said Nebraska has not received a lot of attention nationally even though it has compiled an 11-3 dual-meet record this season while competing against seven top-20 teams.

Huppert said Nebraska is not bothered by its lack of national recognition.

"That doesn't bother us at all," he said. "Let everyone else get all the attention. We know what type of team we are."

Huppert said Nebraska will now spend the next three weeks resting and tapering in preparation for the Big Eight championships. The conference championships will be held Feb. 22-23 in Ames, Iowa.

Huppert said his team will be ready for the Big Eight competition. They will really be ready if they hit their taper, which is a process in which swimmers try to reduce their times by resting and shaving.

"These girls are ready to compete," Huppert said. "They know what they're capable of doing."



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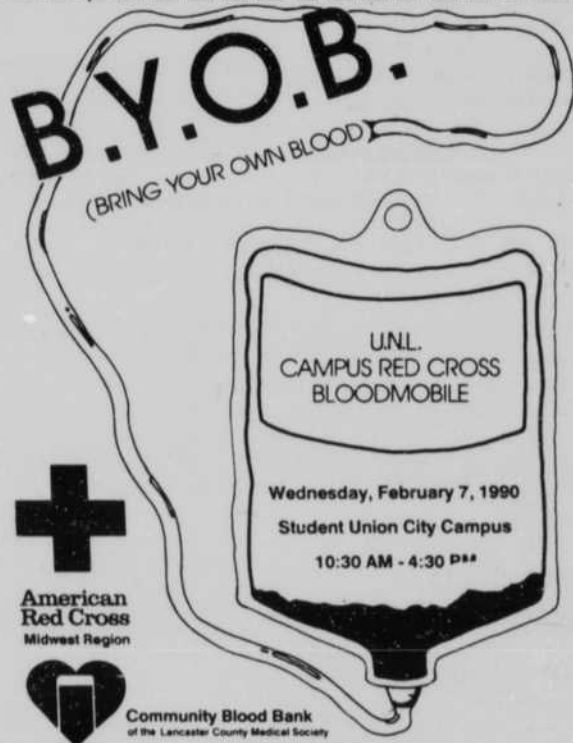


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