

Sales dwindle for student football tickets

Demand declines over past decade

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Reporter

Fewer students will be yelling "Go Big Red" in the Memorial Stadium stands this season.

The Nebraska ticket office reported earlier this week that 7,500 student football tickets have been sold this year, down from 8,000 sold last year.

This year's decline continues the trend of dwindling student ticket sales at Nebraska, but Joe Selig, Nebraska athletic ticket manager, said declining sales were not just hitting the Nebraska athletic department.

"There's been a constant decline (in sales) over the past 10 years," Selig said. "But I think it's something other schools are experiencing."

In 1983, 15,400 Nebraska students purchased football tickets. Since 1988, student ticket sales at Nebraska have

dropped from 10,700 to the present figure of 7,500. The trend was similar at Oklahoma, where in the same five-year period sales dropped from 8,739 to 6,000.

However, student ticket sales at Colorado have nearly doubled. Ticket sales numbered 8,700 in 1988 and have increased to 14,000 for the last three years.

Selig said it was hard to give any specific reasons why student ticket sales have dropped, but he offered some speculations.

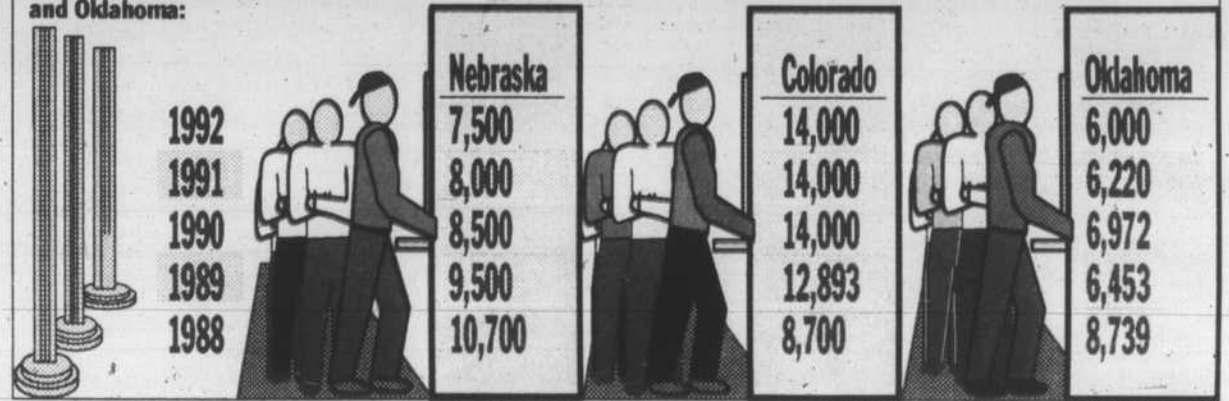
"Nowadays, I think you have more students working their way through school, and Saturday is a prime day for employment," he said. "I think that's had an effect."

"I also think there's more competition for the entertainment dollar than there was a few years ago."

This year, student ticket prices were raised to \$8 apiece for six home dates for a total of \$48. Last season, tickets cost \$7 for seven home games, a total of \$49. The last price increase oc-

Student football ticket sales

Nebraska's season ticket sales to students have dropped from 15,400 tickets sold in 1983 to 7,500 this year. A five-year look at student ticket sales at Nebraska and two comparable Big Eight schools, Colorado and Oklahoma:



Scott Maurer/DN

curring in 1984 when ticket prices increased to \$7 from \$6.

Selig said he thought ticket prices weren't a factor in sales because the price had been constant throughout the decline.

Student tickets left unsold will be

made available to the general public, Selig said.

About 1,500 tickets were left for the Cornhuskers' first two games against Utah Sept. 5 and Middle Tennessee State Sept. 12. Selig said enough single-game ticket requests

had been received to sell out the rest of the home games.

Selig said it was hard to tell if the trend had slowed in recent years.

"We'd certainly hope so," he said. "The drop the last two years has been less, so we hope it's slowing down."



Erik Unger/DN

Nebraska outside hitter Debbie Brand practices in the NU Coliseum Thursday afternoon. Brand, a native of Adelaide, Australia, is one of three seniors on the Cornhuskers' roster.

Volleyball senior set to expand role

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Three years ago, Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit found a special brand of player when he looked outside his usual Midwestern recruiting area.

What he ended up with was Australia native Debbie Brand, who

became the Cornhuskers' first-ever foreign player when she signed with Nebraska in 1989.

Brand, with Stephanie Thater and Eileen Shannon, is one of three seniors on the Nebraska roster this season.

She said she was prepared to be a major contributor on a team that

has won 16 consecutive Big Eight Conference titles and is a national championship contender this season.

Brand's role for the Huskers in the past three years has been coming off the bench in critical situations "to try to get the team going and come in if somebody's not

hitting well," she said.

Pettit said Brand was ready to expand that role this season.

"The difference between this year and other years is she wants to be on the court and is more mentally prepared," Pettit said. "She's

See BRAND on 8

Huskers plagued by minor injuries

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

More and more, the Nebraska football team is looking like a list of walk-in wounded.

The Huskers, who practiced for two hours on the grass Thursday, were plagued by minor injuries to key players.

Second-string freshman quarterback Tommy Frazier practiced with a twisted ankle. Quarterbacks Brook Berringer and Joel Cornwell, who are tied with Frazier on the depth chart, also practiced with sore arms.

Coach Tom Osborne said he was concerned that he may go into the season with only one experienced quarterback, senior Mike Grant.

"Last year our top three quarterbacks graduated," he said. "That's a lot of knowledge that just goes out the window. We're just starting over and you can't give them the experience on the blackboard."

A toe injury forced sophomore I-back Calvin Jones to miss the scrimmage, as well as senior split end Tyrone Hughes, who was out with an ankle injury.

Junior Ernie Beler also missed the scrimmage with a twisted ankle, and offensive tackle Zach Wiegert was forced to miss with a pulled hamstring.

Osborne said the injuries could deplete the Huskers for their last scrimmage of the year, which will be Saturday afternoon at Memorial Stadium.

"All we can do now is wait and see how players come out of these injuries," Osborne said.

Do you think Mike Grant should be Nebraska's starting quarterback? Does the Nebraska volleyball team have a chance at the national title this season? Will the Cornhusker mens' basketball team make it to a third straight NCAA Tournament?

Write to the Daily Nebraskan sports section to air your views. Just write to: Sports Editor, Daily Nebraskan 34 Nebraska Union 1400 R St. Lincoln, NE 68588

All letters must be signed. Please include your year in school and social security number. We look forward to hearing from you.

Track teams to make another run at success



By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

After being ranked among the nation's best last year, the Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams are pointing toward the same kind of success this season.

The women's team again brought home the Big Eight championships in both the indoor and outdoor competitions for the 13th straight year. They also finished third outdoors at the

NCAA Championships at Austin, Texas, in June.

The Cornhuskers were also named dual meet champions for the second straight year by Track and Field News.

Coach Gary Pepin was encouraged by the women's performance, and he said he was looking for continued success this year.

"Our women had a tremendous year last year," he said. "We will have a good team, but it will be difficult to beat last year's performance."

Pepin is also looking for one or two more recruits for the women's team.

"We had a good recruiting year, but not very many in terms of number," he said.

The men's team, which finished second outdoors at the Big Eight Championships last year, were led by

NCAA indoor champion Kevin Coleman in the shot put.

The men finished sixth in the Track and Field News dual meet rankings.

This year's men's team, Pepin said, is young. He said he expected standouts to include Coleman in the shot put and Travis Grant in the sprints.

"We had a good recruiting year," Pepin said. "We've got quality and depth."

Pepin said he believed Coleman could win another national championship.

"Performance-wise, Kevin will do better, but you can't tell how the competition will do," Pepin said. "He could do just as good as last year or better, but he still might get second."

Nebraska was represented at the Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, by two

former Huskers, Ximena Restrepo and Merlene Ottey. Restrepo, representing Colombia, took the bronze medal in the 400-meter dash, and Ottey, representing Jamaica, did the same in the 200-meter dash.

Two members of the current team won at the U.S. Junior Meet: sophomore Robert Thomas in the long jump and sprinter Kathy Travis in the 100-meter dash. Both will compete at the World Junior Meet in Seoul, South Korea, in September.

Pepin, entering his 13th season at Nebraska, said the Huskers needed to keep recruiting athletes in all events to continue their success.

"The keys to our success are good athletes and balance," he said. "All events are important to us, not just one."