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SPORTS ▶

Football scholarship cuts

Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne, football coach Tom Osborne and players respond to the NCAA's effort to achieve gender equity by cutting football scholarships.

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Tuesday

55/45

Cloudy with rain today. Wednesday, cloudy, chance of rain continues.



Kiley Timperly/DN

Graham Spanier reflects on nearly two years of serving as chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Spanier was installed as chancellor Nov. 1, 1991.

Plugging away

Consistent flow of issues keeps Spanier on his toes

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

It was a cold, snowy Nebraska day two years ago when Graham Spanier assumed his duties as chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The temperature was below freezing; three inches of snow covered the ground, and the mayor had just postponed Halloween.

Students' eyes focused on Spanier, who was called upon to make his first decision for UNL — whether to cancel Friday classes because of the weather.

The snow fell all night, and school was open Friday. Spanier's decisions, he said, have grown

in importance since then.

"There are issues every day," he said. "Literally every day."

The Halloween incident perhaps foreshadowed Spanier's busy schedule of decision making.

Spanier dove head-first into the swirling pool of academic administration. He entered the university in the midst of the largest budget-cutting process in UNL's history.

"The day I arrived we had to contend with that," Spanier said. "We brought a lot of calm to the campus."

Spanier worked with other administrators to cut 4.5 percent from the university's budget through a series of hearings, discussions and heated debates.

He then faced the task of hiring adminis-

trators to fill several, empty upper-level university posts.

As of this year, Spanier filled the jobs. "This is one of the first times in years the university has had stable leadership across the top," Spanier said.

Spanier said he had worked hard to steady what was a shaky situation at UNL.

"The first year-and-a-half or so, I had to spend time stabilizing things," Spanier said.

Since then, his time has been filled with university business. Spanier starts his day about 7:30 a.m. and brings his work home with him, often hosting evening meetings at his house.

Spanier's office equips him to stay in

See SPANIER on 6

Bjorklund trial jury selection on in Sidney

From The Associated Press

SIDNEY — A judge told potential jurors for the Roger Bjorklund murder trial that what happened 350 miles away from them could become their business.

Eighty-three Cheyenne County residents reported for possible jury duty in the trial investigating the death of UNL student Candice Harms.

"Maybe it isn't your business what goes on in Lincoln, but maybe it is," Lancaster County District Judge Donald Endacott told the potential jurors.

"We are involved in a serious business and that business is a search for justice," Endacott said. "It's up to every American to make sure the system works."

Bjorklund, 31, is charged with first-degree murder and use of a weapon to commit a felony in the abduction and shooting death of Harms, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln freshman.

See BJORKLUND on 6

Beating leaves foreign students with concerns

By Alan Phelps
Senior Reporter

Police say they don't know why a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student was assaulted homecoming night in Broyhill Plaza.

"We're not sure what started the fight," said Sgt. Mylo Bushing of the UNL Police.

When authorities arrived on the scene shortly after midnight early Sunday morning, they found Boon-Chung Ong, a UNL student from Malaysia, lying semi-conscious near the northeast corner of the Nebraska Union. Ong was taken to Lincoln General Hospital where he was treated and released, Bushing said.

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs James Griesen said Ong was admitted to the University Health Center some time Sunday for further observation. Ong had no broken bones, but was suffering lingering effects from blows to the head, Griesen said.

Ong was scheduled to be released from the health center Monday afternoon, Griesen said. A student witness to the incident told police

See ASSAULT on 6

Officials say gender equity may hurt football program

Editor's note: This story is the second in a week-long series that will explore how Nebraska athletics has been — and will be — affected by the NCAA's implementation of gender equity. Tomorrow: Nebraska's progress and shortcomings in gender equity.

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

Gender equity, designed to increase opportunities for female college athletes, may be coming at college football's expense, athletic department officials said.

Because no women's sports are comparable to football in numbers of scholarship athletes, Nebraska Athletic Director Bill Byrne said, the NCAA has decided to cut football scholarships and balance the other sports.

During the past seven years, Nebraska football scholarships have dwindled from 105 to 88. Next year, the number will be cut to 85.

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne said he feared more cuts

were coming.

"There are those out there who are more radical and want to see the number of scholarships cut drastically even from where it is now," Osborne said. "Some would like to bring it down from 85 to 60 and eliminate three more coaches."

Byrne said he thought the NCAA already had gone too far.

"I would like to have at least 95 scholarships," Byrne said. "Football will not have enough scholarships with this cut."

At Nebraska, it would take about seven women's sports to equal the number of football scholarships.

This year, the 88 football scholarships account for approximately one-third of the 231 men's scholarships.

Almost 38 percent of the scholarship athletes at Nebraska are women.

To make up for the difference in numbers of male scholarship athletes and female scholarship athletes, Nebraska must add to the number of women's sports or cut from men's

sports, Osborne said. Nebraska has chosen to do some of both.

But Osborne said he would like to achieve equity "without eliminating opportunities for men."

While the addition of women's soccer next year will help, Osborne said, it also will add to the athletic department's costs.

Nebraska has allotted \$50,000 for women's soccer in its 1993-94 budget.

The additional costs make cutting programs more desirable to adminis-

trators than adding new programs, Osborne said.

Osborne said cutting scholarships in football could lead to a decline in the quality of college football.

And that may lead to reduced revenue from football in the athletic department, he said.

The Nebraska football program is the leading supporter of the entire athletic department, generating more than \$13 million in revenue.

See EQUITY on 7

Timeline to define gender equity

