

Daily Nebraskan

March 14, 1994

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

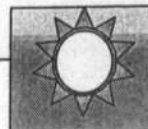
Vol. 93 No. 123

SPORTS

NU nets first title

Eric Piatkowski and the Huskers look to win first NCAA Tournament game after winning the first Big Eight title in school history.

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Monday

71/30

Today, mostly sunny and warm, cooling off at night.

Haste could cause waste, senator says

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Editor
and Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Editor

Caution should be exercised before acting on recommendations to create a separate Omaha engineering college, Sen. Don Wesely of Lincoln said Sunday.

"I just don't think we should drop everything and take this consultant report and try to push it forward," Wesely said.

A report on the engineering college will officially be released today. Sources have said the report, prepared by four independent consultants, recommended establishing a separate engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Wesely said he had not seen a copy of the report. But he urged caution if the report did recommend a separate engineering college.

"There is a lot of momentum out of Omaha to jump on this issue," he said. "I'm just concerned we not act in haste."

Wesely said that with one month left in the legislative session, there was not enough time to make a decision about supporting a separate college in Omaha.

"I think it's the beginning of the discussion," Wesely said. "My concern is legislative movement that is faster than the (NU) Board of Regents and the administrations of the campuses."

Sen. Ron Withem of Papillion said Sunday he thought the Legislature should act on the report in its current session if it recommended a separate

engineering college for UNO. However, Withem said he agreed the Legislature should not move too quickly.

Withem said the Legislature could respond to the report by passing a resolution that would begin the process of implementing the college.

The resolution, he said, would make it clear that the Legislature intended to move forward on the recommendation without acting too quickly to implement the proposed college.

"It's a delicate issue," Withem said. "I don't think we can just ignore it."

"But on the other hand, we need to make it clear that we do plan to move the process forward."

Ted Sokol, a UNO engineering professor, said Sunday the report made it clear that Omaha needed a separate engineering college.

"It brings to a conclusion, I hope, of what we've been trying to convince Lincoln of in the past 10 months," Sokol said.

"Everybody realized it was a pretty obvious thing that had to be done," he said. "Why Lincoln persisted in fighting this I'll never understand."

Sokol said he had not seen a copy of the report, but he became aware of its contents from "officials high up."

NU President Dennis Smith received a draft copy of the report last Thursday, NU spokesman Joe Rowson said. The report was released to members of the NU Board of Regents.

Contents of the report were not intended to be released until today, Rowson said.

Stan Liberty, dean of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Engineering and Technology, did not return telephone calls Sunday.

Many NU officials, including UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier and regents, were at the Big Eight basketball tournament Sunday and were unavailable for comment.

Alleged campaign misdeeds may break UNL, state codes

By Brian Sharp
Staff Reporter

If proven, alleged campaign wrongdoings by the VISION party may break more than just ASUN election laws. They may also violate the UNL Student Code of Conduct, residence hall regulations and state law.

Complaints were filed last week against Jason Vogel, VISION election-day coordinator; Dave Milligan, VISION senator-elect for the College of Engineering and Technology and Greek house coordinator; Doug Stobbe, Greek house coordinator; and other individuals party officials could not identify.

Violations that VISION is accused of committing include campaigning in residence halls, males being on a female floor without an escort, placing party signs on vehicles, room-to-room telephone solicitation and removal of opposing parties' campaign signs.

The Electoral Commission will rule on all campaign violation complaints and may assess penalties Thursday before deciding whether to certify last Wednesday's election results.

Mark Byars, election commissioner for the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, said campaigning in residence halls might also have violated state law.

There have been reports of such solicitation in several residence halls. To date, however, only residents in Abel Residence Hall have filed complaints.

"Now we're getting into some more

serious violations," Byars said. "I take the rules very seriously."

Reports of campaigning in Sandoz Residence Hall could lead to more violations, if filed, because the hall was a polling site Wednesday.

ASUN President-elect Andrew Loudon, the presidential candidate for the VISION party, said some rules had been broken, but he thought the complaints unfairly singled out VISION.

"We did not willfully break election rules," he said. "It did happen on occasion out of ignorance."

"I don't think this is going to be a big deal when it comes out," Loudon said. "There will be a fine levied, and we'll pay it."

James Griesen, vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said past ASUN elections had been free from violations of the magnitude now alleged.

"All I can say is that anyone who feels they know of any rule violations should report them to the Electoral Commission," Griesen said.

The commission will not investigate the possibility of violations unless they have been filed, Byars said.

Byars said "massive violations" by all parties had brought only a \$47 fine against VISION.

Anyone planning to report possible campaign violations has until noon Monday to do so. Filing must be made at the ASUN office, 115 Nebraska Union.

"I've come to the decision that I am going to pay the fines (if levied Thursday)," Loudon said. "We need to get this thing behind us."



Damon Lee/DN

Eric Piatkowski hoists the Big Eight championship trophy up for the crowd at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday night. An estimated 5,000 fans gathered to welcome the team home to celebrate Nebraska's victory in the Big Eight Tournament finals.

Hoops hoopla

First NU conference title reflects fan force

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Finally, after 98 years, Nebraska basketball fans have a reason to celebrate.

After Nebraska beat Oklahoma State 77-68 on Sunday to win its first Big Eight tournament championship ever, Nebraska fans showed their appreciation.

Assistant Sports Information Director Nick Joos estimated that the Bob Devaney Sports Center played host to a crowd of 5,000 fans Sunday evening to welcome Husker players and coaches home from Kansas City.

Nebraska's championship helped it earn the sixth seed in the NCAA tournament's East bracket. The Huskers, who are playing in their fourth consecutive NCAA tournament, will meet Pennsylvania on Thursday.

Coach Danny Nee said the entire state was excited about the championship.

"Once we hit Nebraska, there were signs everywhere," he said. "We drove up here (to the Devaney Center) and there were people everywhere. The people here have been just wonderful."

"This is overwhelming."

Nebraska, which has won six of its last seven games, will try to accomplish another feat never achieved by any other Nebraska basketball team — winning an NCAA tournament game.

Assistant Coach Gary Barga said capturing the Big Eight title was a major boost heading into the tournament.

"This has been a goal for us to win the Big Eight forever," Barga said. "We definitely have momentum going into the tournament. The fans have really helped us get to this point."

Barga said as the Huskers got on a roll, Nebraska fans responded.

"We've had sellout crowds before, but the last three (home) games against Kansas, Kansas State and Oklahoma State, it really escalated," he said.

Fans began chants more than a half-hour before the team's arrival, and the noise level increased considerably when point guard Jamar Johnson led his teammates onto the floor carrying the Big Eight Tournament championship trophy.

After Nee's opening statement, each player spoke briefly — each thanking the fans.

"I can't explain how incredible it is to see all of you out here," Bruce Chubick said. "It makes my day just as much as a Big Eight championship to know you were all behind us."

For fans, the first championship in Nebraska's 98-year basketball history couldn't be sweeter.

"This is the best play I've ever seen from a Nebraska team," said Sean Stevens, a senior marketing major. "This is even better than the 26-win team in 1991. This team plays as a team better than I've ever seen."

Sophomore pre-pharmacy major Mike Hayes said there had never been a better time to be a Husker basketball fan.

"This is great right now," Hayes said. "I think all this enthusiasm started back with the fan stuff we did earlier. It was as good of fan support as I've ever seen at the end of the season."

Nee, in his eighth year at Nebraska, was more than happy to be the coach to give Husker fans their first-ever championship.

"To have one of these finally up here is really special," Nee said, looking toward the championship trophy.