

# Daily Nebraskan

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SPORTS

## Huskers on a hot streak

Nebraska's baseball team, winners of five straight, will try to keep their string alive tonight at Kansas State.

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Tuesday

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Today, breezy with a chance of showers.

## Jam motivates youth to think about future

By Matthew Waite  
Senior Reporter

When 12-year-old Tawnya Freeborn came to the Bob Devaney Sports Center Monday morning, she wasn't thinking about her future.

But when Tawnya left, she had set a goal for herself: she was going to college.

More than 6,000 elementary and junior high school students like Tawnya gathered at the Devaney Center for the Best of America "School is Cool" Jam. Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne, Butkus Award winner Trev Alberts and USA TODAY First Team Academic All-Star Jill Anderson spoke to the students about staying in school.

At a media breakfast earlier Monday, Gov. Ben Nelson read a proclamation naming April 11 as School is Cool Day.

"It's important to help individuals understand that school is cool," he said. "We all have a stake in doing this."

Former UNL football player and Kansas City Chiefs Rookie of the Year Will Shields and his "Will to Succeed" program helped sponsor the event.

Shields told the students at the Jam that if they wanted to become a professional athlete, they needed to start now while they were young.

"It starts when you are little, and it (goes on) until you are grown up," he said.

Shields stressed the importance of education, telling the students that professional sports wouldn't last him forever. He said could get injured and not be able to play sports.

"An educated athlete has more power than anything else," Shields

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said.

The Jam also was sponsored in part by the UNL Athletic Department, the Golden Key Honor Society and the Lincoln Public Schools Department of Special Education.

Tawnya, a sixth grader from Wymore, said the Jam would keep her in school, so she could study to become a teacher or a nurse. She said after she had listened to the speakers talk about goals, she was going to set her goals soon.

Russell Davis, a fifth grader from Tecumseh, said he didn't know what he wanted to be, but his favorite classes were math, science and computers.

The Jam was inspiring, Russell said. He said he was going to set goals for the future.

"One of my goals will be to get an education," Russell said.

The Jam featured UNL football players Corey Dixon and Jacques Allen singing and rapping to the students to stay in school and get an education. A slam-dunk show with Nebraska basketball and football players and an exhibition from the UNL gymnastics team also were part of the schedule.

Osborne said sports and school were not that different.

"You can't be a great football player if you can't block and tackle," Osborne said. "Nobody can do well ... if they can't read."

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## UNK computer option draws mixed response

By Angie Brunkow  
Senior Reporter

Besides the beds, desks and chairs found in most NU residence hall rooms, some Kearney students will find one additional and unique feature next year — computers.

Dean Bresciani, director of residence life at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, said students living in the halls would have the option to buy or lease Apple or Digital computers.

Few other universities, in Nebraska or nationwide, offer students this option, he said.

"This is a fairly unique program," Bresciani said.

Using the computer package, students can access the university's main frame and Internet, he said. The computers also will connect students to other students, professors and the UNK libraries.

Students can buy either desktop or laptop computers for about \$2,400 and \$2,900, respectively, Bresciani said. A three-year, six-semester payment plan also is available, he said, but will cost students an additional several hundred dollars.

Doug Zatechka, director of the Housing Office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said administrators at the Lincoln campus were not considering offering UNL students a similar option.

"I don't think it's a possibility in the very near future," he said.

Many UNL students bring their

own computers to school, Zatechka said. If not, they can use one of the 350 computers located throughout the residence halls in labs, he said.

Bresciani said students could put together their own computer packages, but the university program made it cheaper and easier.

"Most students don't have the sophistication and access to put a package together for that price," he said. The package comes with a computer, modem, printer and Microsoft Works software.

Lisa Hetzel, hall director at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, said many universities, including her own, were beginning to offer this option to students.

Steve Leida, computer technician at Morningside, said students paid \$100 per semester for a Gateway 2000 computer. At the end of eight semesters, they own the computers.

"It's a heck of a deal," he said. Morningside is able to offer computers at such a low cost because of outside donations, he said.

Other universities might have problems offering students such a deal, said Paul Hemphill, programmer analyst in the department of residence life at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

MU lacks the management and money resources needed to implement such a program, he said. The school does not have enough modem ports or mainframe access.

"That is totally unfeasible," he said. "That would be a nightmare."



Jay Calderon/DN

Greg Desrosiers, a professor of sign language at UNL, communicates with his classes using his hands. Born deaf, Desrosiers teaches American sign language to UNL students.

## Helping hands

### Instructor signs students on to learning

By Kara G. Morrison  
Senior Reporter

Greg Desrosiers' classmates at the Saskatchewan School for the Deaf were the first to be captivated by the emotion and expression he used to tell his stories.

As a high school teacher, those skills helped Desrosiers' deaf students learn history.

"They became fascinated by history, seeing it through my hands," said Desrosiers, who was born deaf.

As an American Sign Language instructor at UNL, his students say his teaching abilities have brought a new dimension to ASL classes.

"Just watching him teaches you things a hearing person wouldn't be able to teach ... it's beautiful," said senior Kristi Wilken, a deaf elementary education major.

Desrosiers came to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in June

looking for a new teaching challenge. Previously, he had taught at the Iowa School for the Deaf for 14 years.

He hadn't planned to stay for the regular school year, Desrosiers said, but his UNL students didn't want him to leave.

"The students gave me wonderful evaluations — they were really glowing," he said.

Brenda Schick, director of deaf education at UNL, said she recruited Desrosiers because she believed deaf teachers were the most competent to teach sign language at the university level.

Desrosiers said he enjoyed university teaching because it lacked the constant responsibility of disciplining students that high school teaching involved.

"I enjoy teaching again," Desrosiers said. "It's fun and really different."

So are his classes, his students'

said. "He's funny! He's very, very funny, and he always tells stories and jokes," Wilken said. "He doesn't intimidate you in any sort of way. He's really caring and easy to talk to."

Telling stories and jokes is a method Desrosiers uses in his teaching. As students begin reacting to a joke or story, he said, other students become focused on understanding what is being said.

Above all, though, Desrosiers wants his students to leave his class understanding more than the jokes.

"Naturally, I'm very selfish and have high expectations of hearing students," Desrosiers said. "I want them to understand deaf culture and to be able to communicate with high signing skills."

Desrosiers admits, however, that his teaching method can be intimi-

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