

## HuskerVision awaits fans returning to stadium

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

Any Nebraska fan who hasn't seen Memorial Stadium since last winter will be in for a big surprise this fall.

Almost \$5 million worth of improvements and renovations have been done to the home of the Husker football team since last season.

The most noticeable difference is the installation of two 17-by-23-foot Mitsubishi Diamond Vision screens. One screen is located in the southeast corner of the stadium and the other will be in place in the northwest corner.

The screens, which have been dubbed HuskerVision, will show every play of each game live.

"We are going to show every play, and if time permits, we'll show every replay, too," Joe Selig, Nebraska's assistant athletic director for facilities and events, said.

Selig said the Big Eight Conference had set standards that permitted teams from showing controversial calls in most situations.

But no other Big Eight schools have video screens, therefore a precedent has not been set.

Selig said Nebraska planned to show every replay, controversial or not.

"We feel that we are safe in that area if we go ahead and show every replay," he said.

In addition to the HuskerVision screens, 88 additional closed-circuit, 27-inch televisions will be installed throughout Memorial Stadium.

"All the concession stands will have screens to accommodate the fans and we will also have televisions lined along under the balconies in the east and west stands."

Selig said fans in the top four or five rows of the first deck would not be able to see the entire HuskerVision screens.

The total cost of the video screens and televisions, which were funded entirely through corporate sponsorships, came to \$3.8 million, Selig said.

Jeff Schmahl, who is the production director of the HuskerVision system, said the screens would be used to show approximately 14 features during each game.

"We are going to do things like have the Armour hot dog of the game," Schmahl said. "For that, we will pick out four crazy-looking fans in the stands and choose one as the fan of the game. We are going to have trivia contests, a puzzle reveal, Husker moments in history,



Jason Levkulich/DN  
Jeff Schmahl, HuskerVision production director, scans the monitors that aid in the operation of Memorial Stadium's closed-circuit giant video screens.

halftime highlights, quarter statistics and the previous week's players of the game."

To aid Schmahl and his staff, which is partly comprised of University of Nebraska-Lincoln journalism students, the athletic department also has added a new sound system to Memorial Stadium.

The \$811,000 sound system is the second-largest off-season renovation to the stadium. A large set of speakers is in place atop the scoreboard in the north end-zone. Additional

speakers have also been installed throughout the concourse level of the stadium.

"One of the things that you have heard fans complain about in the past is that they would rather stay home and watch the game on TV," Schmahl said. "Well now, with the video screens and the sound system, they can come to the game and get the best of both worlds."

Other changes include rebuilding Section 14, which collapsed in the summer of 1993. It has been repaired and made handicap accessi-

ble. In addition, the west stands are being overhauled and waterproofed.

On Sept. 16, at 7:30 p.m., the university will host a HuskerVision Kickoff Celebration at Memorial Stadium to showcase the improvements. The replay boards will be unveiled and the Huskers will also take time to recognize the fans for the the upcoming 200th-consecutive sellout of Memorial Stadium.

The following day Nebraska will host UCLA in a 2:30 p.m. game.

## Baseball fans are big losers in owners-players dispute

The clock is fast approaching midnight. A priest has administered the last rites. The prisoner is on his way to the death chamber.

By Friday, the 1994 Major League Baseball season will be over.

Barring a miracle — and that's exactly what an 11th-hour agreement between players and owners would be — today's games will be the last for a long time.

Say it ain't so.

But that's reality. Baseball is big business. And everyone just wants to protect his own interests. And, apparently, both owners and players feel a strike is the best way to do that.

Two weeks ago today, the players announced Friday's strike date. The fact that no progress at all was made in that time is an indicator of just how set both sides are.

Owners want a cap on players' salaries. Players want an increase in

the league's minimum salary. Owners want a revenue-sharing plan. Players want to restore arbitration to players with two years of service. Fans just want the games to continue.

Some onlookers have said that what the fans want should have no bearing on the negotiations. Consumers in other industries have no say in labor-management disputes.

But baseball is not like any other American industry. Unlike other industries, baseball is exempt from federal anti-trust laws. And, of course, it is our national pastime. But that's neither here nor there. Eventually, the strike will end and the games will begin again. The big question is when that will happen.

Not soon, according to union head Donald Fehr. "If they (the owners) believe players will panic in a week or two, I have bridges to sell them," he said.



Matthew  
Woody

Many people have predicted the strike would end in time for this year's playoffs to take place. If the strike indeed lasts that long, it could rival 1981's strike, which lasted 50 days. And that seems quite possible since both sides seems as unmoving as Gibraltar in their current positions.

Will the owners get a fair shake?

Bud Selig, chairman of the owners' executive council, has claimed that between 12 and 19 teams would lose money this year. Changes must be made to ensure that the industry doesn't go belly up, owners insist.

But it's hard to feel sympathy for a

group of people who are conceited enough to let the game go without a commissioner so they wouldn't have to answer to anyone, and stupid enough to pay players millions of dollars a year as they complain about losing money. If you can't take the heat, you know what to do.

And then there's the players. It's also hard to sympathize with them. When the median annual salary is more than one million dollars and the minimum salary is more than \$100,000, it seems like they're just being greedy.

We just want to be paid the market value, players contend. Well, the market is way out of whack.

There may be no winners in this dispute, but there are clear losers: the fans.

Last season, fans wondered how the game would go on without legends Nolan Ryan and George Brett. Well, it

did — for roughly 115 games.

But now baseball fans are left to bite the bullet. After tonight, they'll have to go clean and wait for the dirty dealing to be done, left to wonder what-ifs.

What if San Francisco's Matt Williams would have hit 62 home runs, breaking Roger Maris' record? What if the White Sox's Frank Thomas would have won the Triple Crown? What if good-guy Tony Gwynn batted .400? What if the Astros' Jeff Bagwell never stopped batting in runs? What if a team in the American League West would have finished with a .500 record?

These are questions that, in all likelihood, will never be answered. Everyone must now wait until the next season to ask new ones.

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