

## Audit equals another lost job for Peterson

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Chris Peterson is feeling the lingering effects of an internal audit into the Nebraska athletic department in late February.

Peterson, associate athletic director for external operations, took his latest shot when Eric Hyman, executive associate athletic director at North Carolina State, was named athletic director at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Peterson was one of three finalists for the job and visited Miami three weeks ago.

The morning of his arrival, news articles about the audit of Peterson's office were delivered to the selection committee.



Peterson

articles from The Omaha World-Herald, the student newspaper and the

"I kind of expected this to happen," Peterson said. "The newspaper articles about the audit hit that morning. They thought that everyone who interviewed me should know about it. So the newspaper articles from The Omaha World-Herald, the student newspaper and the

Lincoln paper were circulated by the committee.

"After that it was pretty much history. The unfortunate part of it is that at that time, my wife and I were extremely strong candidates."

Peterson said the Miami job wasn't

the first time he had been hurt by the internal investigation.

"I went from being a finalist to out of the running in other jobs once the news of the audit hit," Peterson said.

"I can't say what jobs it was, but this isn't the first time this has happened. I

*"The power of the pen is something."*

CHRIS PETERSON

Associate athletic director

don't know if frustrating is the proper word to tell what this is like."

Although all the issues surrounding the audit have been resolved, Peterson said his name might never be cleared.

"Anytime you throw out the words misappropriation and misuse, it's not going to be good," Peterson said. "Unfortunately, you're guilty until proven innocent. It's difficult when you spend 14 years of your life working toward something and one day worth of newspaper articles can make it go up in smoke."

"The power of the pen is something."

## Special Olympics basketball tourney fills Devaney Center

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Editor

The sights and sounds of a Nebraska state basketball tournament filled the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday.

Three-pointers ripped the nets. Fans cheered, and parents smiled as their sons and daughters played with intensity and joy.

Coaches and players shared high fives and hugs in victory and defeat.

The 684 participants weren't playing in Nebraska high schools' version of March Madness; they were part of the Special Olympics State Basketball Competition.

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck, who is the director of basketball for Nebraska Special Olympics, said the event showed the best side of sports.

"This is what sports ought to be all about," Beck said. "Competing for the joy and the love of competition. They all just love the chance to play. They have the same types of feelings that we do when we win and lose."

"To give you an idea of how much this means to them, there is a bunch of kids who said they haven't slept for a week because they were so excited."

The event moved to the Devaney Center three years ago from Creighton University in Omaha, and Nebraska Special Olympics Executive Director Margaret Lageschultz said the move caused a surge in participation.

"Everyone was thrilled to move down here because if you're good at basketball in Nebraska, then you play in Lincoln," Lageschultz said. "Our athletes take a lot of pride and excitement in playing basketball here because this is where the best play."

This year, 40 teams in 11 full-court divisions and six half-court divisions, 30 three-on-three teams and 110 individual skills participants packed seven courts in the track area and two courts on the Devaney Center floor.

Lageschultz said the turnout doubled the number of Special Olympians who participated three years ago.

And more participation means more volunteers.



Jay Calderon/DN

Scott Pigsley, son of Jerry and Gina Pigsley of Lincoln, learns defensive skills from Nebraska basketball player Terrance Badgett at the Bob Devaney Sports Center

All the members of the Nebraska women's basketball team spent time Saturday handing out medals and taking pictures with the teams.

The women were joined by seven members of the Nebraska men's basketball team and assistant coach Jeff Smith on Friday night during a clinic for 200 Special Olympians.

Each team has a coach that volunteers his or her time. Each court has officials, scorekeepers and time keepers.

In all, Lageschultz said the number of volunteers probably doubled the number of

participants.

"It is really a year-long process to get everything set up and ready to go," Lageschultz said. "Tomorrow we will have to get ready for next year's event."

Beck said the increase in participation could cause a change in the event's format next year.

"It's almost scary how much it's growing," Beck said. "We have almost outgrown our one-day setup, and we are definitely going to have to look at going to two days next year."

The basketball competition was part of the Nebraska Special Olympics summer games based at Creighton. Lageschultz said more than 2,500 athletes would compete in basketball and 16 other sports across the state this year.

The games will be held May 18-20 and Lageschultz said volunteers were still needed.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Nebraska Special Olympics, you can call 1-800-247-0105.

## Husker sprinter going home after quitting track team

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Editor

Isaac Carson wants to be with his family.

After 2 1/2 years at Nebraska, the Cornhusker sprinter asked for a release from his scholarship so he could be closer to his 4-month old daughter.

After getting the release, Carson quit the track team because he didn't want to further injure his hamstring.

Carson, who is from San Francisco, said he wanted to compete at San Francisco State, a Division II school, next season.

But Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said he was unaware that Carson had quit the team.

"All I can tell you is that I did have a conversation about Isaac Carson not being in school

next year," Pepin said. "I have had no conversations with Isaac Carson about him not running."

Pepin said the last time he talked to Carson was 2 1/2 weeks ago, but Pepin wouldn't comment on anything else regarding Carson's quitting the team or transfer from Nebraska to San Francisco State.

Before going to San Francisco State, Carson said he was told by Steve Rainbolt, a Nebraska assistant, that he must pay his bills from the past three years before leaving.

"Rainbolt called and said I would be billed for everything," Carson said. "They're trying to make it virtually impossible for me to leave."

"He wanted me to pay for the stuff, and I said, 'Just my uniform from this year?' and he said shoes from my freshman year."

Attempts to reach Rainbolt were unsuccessful.

Carson injured his hamstring at a meet Feb. 4 in Champaign, Ill., which kept him out until the Big Eight Championships three weeks later.

Carson reinjured the hamstring at the Big Eight meet. In the hurdles, he almost slipped out of the blocks and didn't make it past the first hurdle.

He was out for the rest of the indoor season and for the first four outdoor meets.

"They were trying to rush me back," Carson said. "I told Coach Rainbolt I didn't want to run until my hamstring got better."

But Husker coach Gary Pepin had other ideas, Carson said.

"Pepin called and said, 'Get ready for Oregon,' Carson said. "I didn't want to waste a year just getting a couple of meets."

Carson told Pepin he wouldn't compete in the Pepsi Invitational at Eu-

gene, Ore., and subsequently, he quit the team.

Pepin said he didn't remember talking with Carson before the Pepsi Invitational.

"Our policy is if indeed Isaac has quit the team, I don't talk about them," Pepin said. "I'll talk about guys who are on the team or who did well at the Drake Relays."

Carson was the Big Eight indoor champion in the 55-meter hurdles in 1994. He finished second in 110-meter hurdles during the outdoor season.

San Francisco State coach Matt Lydum said the situation was the first he had ever been in involving a Division II athlete.

"To be frank, I don't know anything about him," Lydum said. "I know his times, but I haven't seen him run."

Lydum said he has had only brief talks with Carson.

"He contacted me about a possible transfer, but it was nothing specific," Lydum said. "It was a question about an academic major."

"That's been the extent of our communication."

But Lydum said he talked to Rainbolt as part of the release process.

Al Papik, senior associate athletic director and compliance coordinator, said Carson was denied a waiver of the transfer residence requirement, which would allow him to compete without sitting out a year.

But San Francisco State does not give out scholarships, so Carson may be able to compete immediately.

Carson just wants to get everything cleared up so he can go home to San Francisco.

"I just want to go to school," Carson said, "but they're putting this bill on me."