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Husker plates in high demand

Brashear: Championships call for spirit design

By Ted Taylor
Senior Reporter

We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?

No, Sen. Kermit Brashear of Omaha is not a cheerleader.

He's just posing that question to his colleagues in the Nebraska Legislature as he tries to get a bill passed that would create special Nebraska Cornhusker license plates.

Brashear initially brought up LB620 early last year, after the Cornhusker football team won its first national championship in 23 years, but it was killed in the Legislature's Transportation Committee.

He is hoping a second straight football national championship, teamed with men's gymnastics and volleyball titles, will have senators yelling Go Big Red.

"I think it's appropriate when we have reached the national championship level in several sports to allow people to show their support for not only the sports programs, but the university," he said.

The bill may hit the floor as soon as next week, an aide to Brashear said Wednesday.

The \$70 spirit plates would be in the school colors, scarlet and cream, and feature the word "Cornhuskers" or "Husk-ers" in the design.

Currently, 21 other states offer spirit plates, including Alabama, Florida, and Texas — all of which generated more than \$1 million in revenue.

Brashear's bill would send \$40 of the \$70 fee to the university's spirit plate proceeds fund.

The first \$3 million of the fund would be used for financial support of former University of Nebraska athletes who pursue graduate school studies.

The next \$2 million would be appropriated to NU to establish an endowment fund. Any money over the first \$5 million would be used to upkeep athletic facilities at NU.

"The sports program is a very unifying factor in this state," Brashear said. "All the things that tend to divide us pass away with our unified enthusiasm for the accomplishments of these men and women."

This is an enthusiasm he said the Legislature had no room to withhold.

"People are asking us to provide a celebratory opportunity," he said. "What business does government have denying that opportunity?"

NU fans want vehicles to be part of 'REDPEAT'

By Jenny House
Staff Reporter

At last came the morning after. Early Jan. 3, motorists started requesting novelty plates in honor of the Huskers' drive past Florida for the national championship the previous night.

Alvin Abramson, director of the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles, said the DMV so far had processed 30 to 50 requests for the personalized plates.

That's slightly fewer than last year, he said, but requests from other counties have not all arrived.

Abramson said it would be three or four weeks before fans received their plates.

Among those waiting are Husker fans Bryon and Julie Bratt from Lincoln, who last year got the plates "94 HSKRS." This year

the Bratts — not surprisingly — opted for "95 HSKRS."

"The reason I did these plates was to dedicate the Husker season, not for the game," Bryon Bratt said. "Everyone else seems to be doing it just for the game."

He said the '94 and '95 Huskers dominated all year, so he wanted to dedicate the plates to the whole team.

The day after the game, Bratt took the day off and arrived at the DMV at 9 a.m. to get his first choice. He wasn't the first, though — one early riser had arrived at 6:15 a.m.

Lincoln resident Deborah Oliveros said her husband, John, decided a week before the Fiesta Bowl to get personalized plates if the Huskers won. She arrived at the DMV at 9:30 a.m. to request the license plate "BCK2BCK."

But not everyone got their first choice.

Despite her early efforts, University of Nebraska-Lincoln graduate Gayle Kloewer from York had to settle for her second choice for the second year. Last year, Kloewer requested "NU24 M17," but the plate was taken, so she and her family switched to "24NU 17M."

This year, Kloewer again wanted the score, and again, it was already taken. A T-shirt gave her another idea: "REDPEAT."

"The plates will go on our red Voyager minivan that goes to games religiously," Kloewer said.

Ken Bunnell, a devout fan from Fremont, said he, too, had to settle for his second choice — "95NU94."

His plates last year read "13 AND 0," and he enjoys the smiles and waves he gets on the road from others who read his plates.

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