

# Omaha helps College World Series celebrate 50 years

## Music will add to baseball anniversary celebration

By Ted Taylor  
Senior Reporter

This summer, College World Series fans will mark the 50th anniversary of the event that helped put Omaha on the map.

For 47 of those 50 years, Omaha has played host to the NCAA College World Series. And College World Series of Omaha President Jack Diesing Jr. said he hoped another 50 years awaits.

Fans from across the nation will converge upon Rosenblatt Stadium from May 31 to June 8 to watch the eight best college baseball teams in the country vie for the national championship.

"The event itself keeps going to another level each year," Diesing said. "We have more people who want tickets than we have tickets to give. We sell general admission ticket books like there's no tomorrow."

Those increased ticket sales have allowed the organization to fund more events leading up to the nine-day event, including VIP golf outings, banquets and recruitment of corporate sponsors.

The College World Series also relies on sponsors — such as the Omaha World-Herald, Bozell Worldwide Inc. and Mutual of Omaha — which have been around since the 1960s.

Diesing, who begins work at the non-profit, volunteer-based organization each July, said he had ulterior motives for being part of the group for the past 11 years.

"I volunteer because it's the love of my life," he said.

And it has become the love of Omaha's life too.

"This is special to us. This is our baby. We've nurtured it, and we've grown up with it," Diesing said.

"We've taken ownership of the event, and you just don't see that with other NCAA events.

"There isn't another place in the country where you're going to have 18,500 fans for every game over eight days. It just isn't going to happen."

The atmosphere in Omaha during those days isn't the same as that found surrounding a NCAA Final Four or Fiesta Bowl.

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**JACK DIESING JR.**

College World Series of Omaha  
President

"The Final Four is more of a glitzy event," said Diesing, who has been to two Final Fours. "Everybody just comes in for a weekend — it's just more of a media related, glitzy event."

But Diesing said baseball — and especially the World Series — had always been for everybody.

"Major league or whatever, white collar or whoever — they all get to enjoy it," he said. "That's what we have been able to prove. We have had tremendous fans who have supported it throughout the years by attending the event."



Aaron Steckelberg/DN

But this year's 50th anniversary won't be without its own pomp and circumstance. Diesing said several events would get people in the mood for the week and "spice things up," including music in the stadium parking lot before each session.

The all-time College World Series team will also be announced on May 19, and there will be a reunion of the

teams that played in the first College World Series.

Diesing might not get another 50 years, but he'll at least get four. The city's current contract with the NCAA ends in 2000.

Whatever happens, Diesing said, his organization will still stick to its motto: "Don't take anything for granted."

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### Police

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requirements and complete a supplementary questionnaire, they must take a two-part test, Hawkins said.

The first part tests the applicants' reading comprehension, writing and grammar skills, Hawkins said.

The second part, the Police Attitudinal Factor test, determines the applicants' dispositions by asking questions such as, "Would you rather be involved in assisting an injury accident or in a high-speed chase?"

Applicants whose combined scores meet the minimum score continue. Usually only half pass the tests, Hawkins said.

"That's where we lose a lot of them," he said. Most applicants pass the next step, a physical agility test in which applicants must complete a 180-yard outdoor obstacle course in 64.9 seconds, Hawkins said.

Applicants then meet Hawkins for an interview. He asks them about their education, past jobs and other background information.

Applicants later conduct a phone interview, known as a perceiver interview, to judge their perception of questions, Hawkins said.

After the interviews, Hawkins rates the applicants and keeps twice as many as the police

*"The people we want rise to the top."*

**JIM HAWKINS,**  
Personnel Sgt.

department needs.

In the last stage, applicants take polygraph tests, drug tests and a psychoanalysis test, Hawkins said.

Hawkins makes the final cuts and the remaining applicants go on to Lincoln's police academy, he said.

"The people we want rise to the top," Hawkins said.

Cadets attend the police academy for 15 and a half weeks, where they learn the basics of criminal law and crisis intervention, he said.

After graduating from the academy, officers work street patrol for six months on probationary status, Hawkins said. Every month they work under a different officer who evaluates their performances.

Branch said the scrutiny of probation was the most stressful part of the whole process.

"You get graded on everything you do," he said.

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