

Regents to consider skyboxes

By Mike Kluck
Staff Writer

Bill Byrne says Nebraska's citizens have given him overwhelming support for the athletic department's latest building proposal.

Now Nebraska's athletic director hopes he has the support of the Nebraska Board of Regents.

The Regents will meet this weekend in South Sioux City for their July meeting. On the agenda is a \$36.1 million Memorial Stadium improvement project.

The gist of the project includes 40 revenue-generating skybox seating areas. Other areas of the project include installing permanent lights for night games, improving utilities and improving concessions and restrooms.

Byrne said he couldn't predict if the Regents would approve the project, but said it was important to Nebraska athletics.

"This will help us to be competitive in all areas of athletics for many years," Byrne said. "I hope it is going

to go well."

The project would be paid with revenue bonds, donations and profits from the use of the skyboxes.

The Omaha World-Herald reported Wednesday that the price of 10 reserved skyboxes would be \$2 million each, and would guarantee ownership for 25 years.

The other 30 boxes would go for an annual payment of \$75,000 apiece for six years, and then would sell at market price for an additional four years.

Regent John Payne of Kearney told the newspaper each skybox would include 20 season tickets, but he did not know whether the more expensive boxes would offer more amenities.

"I've been in skyboxes in other college football stadiums and it really continues the tradition of college football," Payne said.

Byrne said if the skyboxes are approved at Saturday's meeting, they would be operational by the year 2000, but might be ready by the 1999 football season.

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