

Student football tickets sell out after two straight national titles

By CHAD LORENZ
Senior Reporter

For the second straight year, some University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who wanted season football tickets were turned away at the ticket window.

The 8,400 tickets allocated to students sold out in mid-July, athletic department ticket manager Cindy Bell said. Student tickets went on sale April 1. Incoming freshmen received ticket applications with their admissions packets.

The allocation for student tickets shrunk to 8,400 in 1991 after student ticket sales took an all-time dive since 1977. Even though enrollment was increasing, students were buying fewer tickets.

In 1994, the ticket office hit bottom, selling only 6,375 students tickets.

After winning the first National Championship in 24 years, students rushed to the ticket office in 1995 to jump on the Cornhusker bandwagon, causing UNL's first student ticket shortage.

The first shortage wasn't enough to make the athletic department expand the student section for this year, Bell

said.

The remaining 63,600 seats in Memorial Stadium are sold to faculty and the public, Bell said. Public ticket holders can renew their season tickets every year, so the athletic department couldn't give that seating to students, Bell said.

Expanding student seating would require a collective decision by the university, starting with the chancellor, Bell said. Before a move starts, students would need to prove they will keep demanding plenty of tickets, she said.

"Before we jump the gun and start throwing people out of their seats, we should see if there's any trends here," Bell said.

Past records showed that student ticket sales picked up following Nebraska's National Championship win in 1971. But in 1972, the Huskers won only nine of 12 games, and in 1973, student ticket sales dropped by 1,464.

"If we don't win a National Championship or lose a few games, we might be sitting here at this point next year trying to figure out what to do with the rest of these tickets," Bell said.

In past years when students didn't buy all 8,400 tickets, the rest were sold

to the public, Bell said.

Compared to universities in the Big 12, UNL students receive the smallest ticket allotment. And the cost of student tickets, \$87.50 for 6 games, is the highest price in the Big 12.

Oklahoma State University comes close with an allotment of 8,500 student tickets, but the student population is 18,500. Nebraska's 8,400 are sold to a student body of 24,300.

Stephanie Sharp, a second-year graduate student in urban planning, waited until July to look into her student tickets.

"I thought, 'It's only mid-summer. I'll still be able to get them.'"

Sharp didn't try to buy tickets when they were first available during the ticket lottery in April because she couldn't afford them. She later regretted her decision.

"I was really disappointed because I've had football tickets since my freshman year," Sharp said.

Sharp said the athletic department should have arranged seating so more students could still buy tickets.

"I realize they make more money off public tickets, but it's our school," she said. "We're the ones paying to go here."

"They're obviously not accommo-

Big 12 Student Football Tickets

Nebraska students are in poor shape for football tickets compared to the rest of the Big 12 schools.

School	Student ticket Allotment	Stadium capacity	Ticket price	Enrollment
Nebraska	8400	72700	\$87.50 (6 games)	24300
Oklahoma	(no limit)	74000	\$40 (5 games)	20000
Kansas St.	9000	39000	\$60 (6 games)	21200
Texas Tech	10000	50700	\$42.50 (5 games)	24300
Iowa St.	10000	45000	\$42 (6 games)	24700
Missouri	13000	62000	\$71 (6 games)	24000
Colorado	14000	51000	\$25 (6 games)	25000
Texas	15 - 23000	75000	\$ 95 (sports pass)	50000
Texas A&M	23600	70210	\$115 (sports pass)	40000
Baylor	(no limit)	49500	Free (5 games)	12200
Oklahoma St.	8500	59000	\$65 (7 games)	18500
Kansas	(no limit)	51500	\$37 (5 games)	25000

AARON STECKELBERG/DN

dating students."

Jason Bynum, head of the ASUN student-athletic relations committee, said he and athletic department officials discussed the anticipated sell-out last spring.

"They were meeting supply and demand earlier, but now there's too much demand," Bynum said. "I don't think it's anyone's fault."

Athletic department officials told Bynum the student ticket allotment would be expanded if tickets keep selling out. No one specified how many

seasons would need to sell out before the allotment would be increased, he said.

"As far as expanding seating or getting more tickets, that might require a lot of discussion," Bynum said.

Students should tell the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska their complaints and concerns, he said.

If enough students voice an opinion through ASUN, they could start a movement equal to the one that saved student football seating from being

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