

Game tickets in short supply

By PETER MARHOEFER
Staff Reporter

Students hoping to go to the Big 12 Championship game Dec. 7 in St. Louis should not plan on receiving tickets from the UNL athletic ticket office.

"We considered the championship game an away game, and the students chose Kansas State as the migration game," Ticket Manager John Anderson said.

The University of Nebraska ticket office will be allotted 7,500 tickets if the Cornhuskers beat

Colorado and win the Big 12 North Division. But those will be scooped up by season-ticket holders, Anderson said.

"Our demand has well exceeded our supply," he said.

But students might not be locked out. If the Southern Division Champion does not purchase its full allotment, more might become available to Nebraska fans. Students should call the athletic ticket office Wednesday, Dec. 3, with inquiries, Anderson said.

Students also can call other Big 12 universities. All Big 12 schools received a small allotment of championship-game tickets.

Players speak against tobacco

SMOKEOUT from page 1

"I'm not the biggest guy ... I'm not the fastest guy," he said. "I knew if I wanted to accomplish my dream, I couldn't smoke."

Johanns spoke from experience when talking about the dangers of tobacco. Johanns smoked heavily for about 15 years, he said, and wishes he had those years of his life back.

"Every time you use that habit, you give away a piece of your life," he said.

Although the Great American Smokeout calls for smokers to quit for just 24 hours, Johanns said, "that was the toughest part when I quit."

A better solution is to not start smoking in the first place, he said.

The elementary students jeered tobacco, said "No!" in unison and cheered Johanns for quitting his habit.

Nikki Lopez, American Cancer Society tobacco control specialist for Nebraska, said although students in kindergarten through fifth grade probably do not smoke now, it is important for children to absorb the anti-tobacco message at a young age.

"The tobacco industry has focused their ads toward young kids," Lopez said.

Tobacco ads are featuring younger models, more colorful pictures and popular trends among teen-agers, such as sports and cars, to attract young smokers, she said.

And the young are paying attention to those ads, she said. About 3,000 adolescents, ages 13 to 17, start smoking every day.

Laurie Sutter, health educator for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, said the smoking rate among Nebraska teenagers is higher than the national average. And Lancaster County rates are higher than the Nebraska average, she said.

A survey conducted last year found nearly 40 percent of all Lancaster County high school students had smoked in the month before the survey. Nationally, more than 1 million adolescents begin smoking each year, Sutter said.

Tobacco-related illnesses killed about 420,000 Americans last year, Sutter said, more than motor-vehicle accidents, AIDS-related illnesses and homicides combined.

Bruce Anderson, city chairman of the Great American Smokeout, said adolescents and others in the community were asked to throw out their tobacco today in buckets on public school and college campuses.

But not many people pitched in, he said. "I wish we had gotten more," Anderson said. "But, overall, it went very well."

Anderson burned all collected cigarettes at 3 p.m. in the Lincoln General Hospital incinerator, which sits next to a "no smoking" sign.

And that, he said, is a good start.

Cigarette butts cost money, time in clean-up work

BUTTS from page 1

after we had noticed an increased litter problem on campus, which was cutting into our other maintenance," he said. "We want to make people aware of what an unattractive and noticeable problem it is."


Zillinger said it wouldn't require much extra effort for smokers to improve the situation, noting that most cigarette butts fall within 10 feet of campus ash urns.

According to the task force's findings, cigarette-butt litter increased significantly after UNL implemented its clean indoor air policy prohibiting smoking in all campus buildings. Zillinger was unsure if UNL would consider policy options for reducing outdoor litter.


Angela Goin, Landscape Services grounds supervisor, said the litter problem has worsened in spite of efforts by Landscape Services to place ash urns in convenient locations for smokers. Most urns are located near the entrances of buildings.

Goin said that although emptying ash urns is not a pleasant task, it is preferable to cleaning up littered cigarette butts.

"It's pretty bad, if you can imagine picking up each little cigarette butt floating around campus," she said.



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