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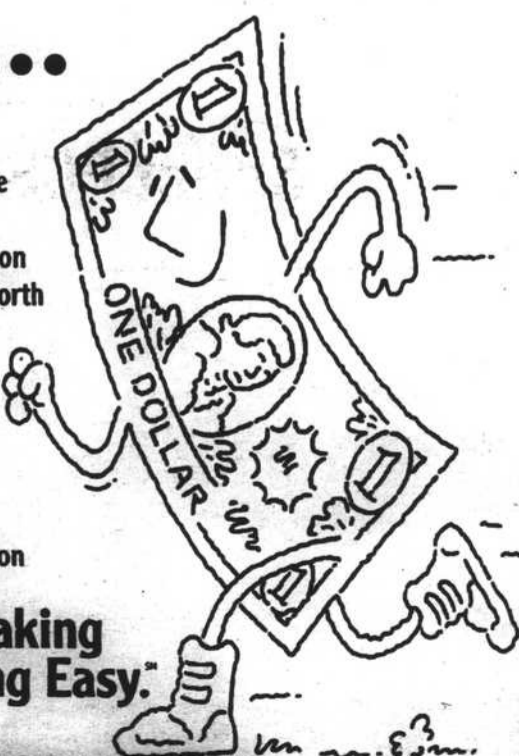
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The 1997-98 UNL Student Directory will be on campus mid-October. Your name, campus address/phone, and home address/phone will automatically appear in the directory. If you don't want to appear in the directory, you must restrict your directory information before Friday, September 12, 1997. You can restrict directory information by going to the Records Office, Service Counter 107C, Canfield Administration Building. Please have your student ID available. If you have previously requested directory restriction on a Change of Address Form, you do not need to take any further action.

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New mascots prepare for roles, look forward to rewarding year

By **DARREN IVY**
 Staff Reporter

Jeremy Wortman will see his first action in Memorial Stadium on Saturday against Central Florida.

But he won't play for NU football coach Tom Osborne's team.

Instead he will bring smiles and laughter to 75,000 fans during his first performance as a mascot.

"I really like getting people hyped about the school," Wortman said. "The mascot was a perfect way for me to act crazy and get people hyped."

Wortman knows the parts of Herbie Husker and Lil' Red, but he's not allowed to say who he will be starring as Saturday. The identity of mascots are to remain secret.

Brad Post and Ryan Fandrich, both veteran mascot performers, have been training Wortman and Ormaun Lewis, another new mascot.

Post said he hoped the fans would not be able to tell the difference between the new and the old performers.

"Our goal is to have continuity with the mascots," Post said.

UNL Spirit Squad adviser Renee Black said Fandrich and Post have done a good job of helping the new mascots learn movements and actions.

"What you are doing inside the mascot looks totally different on the outside," Fandrich said. "That is why it is important to get other people's opinions about whether the moves look good."

At the time of the tryouts, Wortman and Lewis were roommates. Lewis said he decided to try out to support Wortman. Lewis has not performed yet, but said he will soon.

Wortman heard of the position while working in the UNL admissions office as a campus recruit last year. His co-workers told him the mascot job would be a perfect for him, Wortman said.

Post, who has been a mascot for three years, said helping Wortman and Lewis prepare made him remember his first time on the field.

"My hair stood on end when 'Sirius' came on the loud speakers and the team ran onto the field," Post said. "Two years later, the hair on my neck still stands when the team comes out."

To prepare himself, Wortman has been thinking of funny things to do - and drinking a lot of water. He said that mascots sweat off an average of 10 pounds on a typical game day.

HuskerFury membership storms ahead

■ The organization has found many students interested in joining.

By **BRIAN CARLSON**
 Assignment Reporter

Three weeks into the academic year, HuskerFury is gathering steam.

The organization, described as a VIP group for Nebraska sports fans, was formed to spark interest in university athletic events. Students who pay the \$15 membership dues can receive perks such as reduced ticket prices, better seating and participation in the group's events.

About 60 students attended the group's informational meeting Thursday night in the Nebraska Union. Barry Swanson, assistant marketing director for the UNL Athletic Department, said 120 stu-

Lil' Red makes big splash since joining Herbie on field

By **DARREN IVY**
 Staff Reporter

Herbie Husker has been the official mascot of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln since the early 1970s. But since 1993, many have been drawn to sporting events not only to see a university staple, but to see the antics of Lil' Red.

"Lil' Red was added for women's sports as a pure entertainment factor, but he became so successful that we now use him for all sports," said Renee Black, athletic licensing coordinator and spirit squad adviser.

The popularity of Lil' Red has grown so much that last year the UNL Spirit Squad bought another suit for about \$5,000.

The additional suit allowed Lil' Red mascots to perform at more events and gave them another suit in case the old one breaks down, Black said. Last year, the mascots each made 250 to 300 public appearances.

For their work as mascots, the four students receive a book scholarship and a \$1,000 reimbursement.

Lil' Red performs at soccer, volleyball and football games during the fall season and at many charity events. Black said that Lil' Red serves as a mini-ambassador for the university, the city and the state.

"We chose to perform at charities because it helps give the charities a draw," Black said.

Lil' Red may be a favorite among fans, but most of the people are in the dark about how the costume works.

The suit acts like an inflatable mattress, Black said. The student inside the suit wears a belt with a battery strapped onto one hip and



MATT HANEY/DN

a blower attached to the other hip.

The student controls how much air is sucked into the costume by adjusting the blower. The batteries that operate the blower last for an hour, Brad Post, a junior broadcasting major and varsity Lil' Red mascot, said.

Post said he can see out of the costume through a one-way screen on the front of the suit.

In April, Post took his act to the National Cheerleaders Association National Championships in Daytona Beach, Fla., and finished in second place. He lost to the Hokey Bird from Virginia Tech University.

Another highlight for Post was going to Celebrity Mascot Olympics this summer in Orlando, Fla. The olympics featured college and professional mascots from all over the country. "I did my headstand and everyone quit what they were doing and watched because most of them had never seen it done before," Post said. "It was kind of flattering."

Other incidents have not been quite as scary, Post said, but the mascots periodically get kicked and punched.

Despite the long hours and abuse the mascots take, they agree their jobs are fulfilling.

"When I am inside the costume I like seeing the kids' faces light up," Fandrich said.

"We want our members to do what they want to do."

AMY BOE
 graduate assistant

Involvement

Department, said the group's organizers looked forward to seeking members' input in planning activities.

"We want our members to do what they want to do," she said.

Swanson said HuskerFury would continue to publicize itself through advertising, universitywide e-mailing and other upcoming events.

dents have signed up so far.

Students can join HuskerFury at any time, Swanson said. He said the group considered 500 members a realistic goal for this year.

"We haven't stopped recruiting members," he said. "We're going to really hit this aggressively."

Swanson said the group hoped to elect its board of directors within two to three weeks. Once in place, the group's leaders and members will do most of the planning, he said.

Amy Boe, a graduate assistant with the Athletic Marketing