



SPORTS

Top reserve

Nebraska soccer sophomore Amy Walsh would like to start, but is content with her current role on the NU soccer team. **PAGE 7**



A & E

Rolling with the times

The National Museum of Roller Skating is right here in Lincoln, where it has chronicled the proud history of the pastime for 17 years. **PAGE 9**

TUESDAY

September 30, 1997

WALKING ON SUNSHINE
Sunny and pleasant, high 80. Fair tonight, low 47.

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NU regents approve hospital merger

BY ERIN GIBSON
Senior Reporter

NU President Dennis Smith asked the NU Board of Regents on Monday night to quickly and unanimously approve the merger of University and Clarkson hospitals in Omaha and their 31 clinics.

And about one minute later — without discussion or dissenters — the regents followed Smith's advice.

Effective Wednesday, the hospitals will share their facilities and physicians under the title Nebraska Health System.

"It's going to work," said Bill Berndt, University of Nebraska Medical Center chancellor. "I don't

have a single doubt in my mind."

Historically, Bishop Clarkson Memorial Hospital physicians questioned the merger because they feared their private practices would take a back seat to university physicians' academic interests after the merger. But the Clarkson Hospital board of directors approved the merger Sept. 15.

Berndt said the merger holds great financial benefits for the university because of a broadened patient base for UNMC operations and an improved range of facilities for teaching and research.

Without merging with another hospital, University Hospital would have run the risk of getting into "serious financial difficulty" in an era of managed care, he said. But the sys-

tem's larger number of physicians and larger patient base should prevent a financial mishap.

The system will boast 835 hospital beds, 581 physicians and 4,889 employees shared by the hospitals and 31 Omaha medical clinics.

University Hospital now includes 306 physicians, 434 beds and operates 13 clinics.

UNMC students will have access to both university and Clarkson-affiliated physicians and facilities under the new system. Although the system will not employ physicians directly, both merging hospitals will lease their physicians and facilities to the system for a time.

For UNMC to lease all hospital facilities to the new system, the board

also approved Monday repaying about \$38.5 million in issued hospital bonds that funded a new outpatient care unit. Hospital reserves will repay the bonds, which would not mature until 2005. The new system will repay the university's debt.

Berndt and UNMC student Regent Sarah Svoboda said the system's shared physicians and facilities would make UNMC hugely appealing to prospective students.

The new system will remain the primary teaching facility for educators at UNMC, and Clarkson physicians will share leadership of some departments, including radiology, pathology, anesthesia and occupational medicine.

"We've never been able to expose

our students to vigorous private practice, but we can now," Berndt said. "Students may become attracted to our new kind of outpatient teaching activity."

Svoboda said the merger decreases the student to physician ratio; and students look forward to the opportunity to practice medicine in another facility and have great respect for Clarkson physicians, she said. Many Clarkson physicians were educated at UNMC, Svoboda said.

Berndt said the merger of such large health-care providers would not eliminate competition and cause a rise in patients' health-care costs. The hospitals are No. 1 and No. 2 in Omaha in

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State's cancer program seen as role model

BY TED TAYLOR
Assignment Reporter

A program in Nebraska that helps provide breast and cervical cancer screening for women has set the standard for other states, a representative from the Department of Health and Human Services said Monday.

"Many states are looking to Nebraska as a role model on how this is done," said Debra Tomlinson-Hoffman, program manager for the department's Every Woman Matters program.

The program, which began in Nebraska in 1995, is joined with local agencies in 47 counties and three American Indian tribes to help women between the ages of 50 and 64 get affordable, quality cancer screenings.

Nebraska, thanks to the help of the program, has met the national breast cancer screening goals four years ahead of the year 2000 deadline, Lt. Gov. Kim Robak said Monday.

"Not only have we met the goals," she said, "we've made a difference and saved lives in Nebraska."

Nearly 550 doctors offices, mammography units, hospitals and laboratories throughout the state have joined together to help cut the costs of screening exams for at-risk women who are least likely to participate in regular screening, Tomlinson-Hoffman said.

Forty-six percent of the 27,295 women involved in the program have annual incomes of 100 percent or less of the federal poverty guidelines, and 51 percent of the women enrolled have no insurance coverage.

The response and the results of the program have been amazing, Tomlinson-Hoffman said.

She said that 271 cases of cervical cancer were detected by the screenings, 94 percent of which were found in the earliest and most

Please see **CANCER** on 6



JOHN ARCHER, a strength coach for the NU football team, looks at the new bronze statue that will be placed in front of the east side of Memorial Stadium. Archer, who was one of the models for the statue, had to undergo a full-body cast mold for the life-size statue.

Statue immortalizes Huskers

BY TERRA CHAPEK
Staff Reporter

The Cornhusker defense is often compared to stone or steel, but most people don't think of bronze as a popular metaphorical alloy.

On Monday, that changed. A bronze statue, titled "Husker Legacy," was installed Monday outside of the east end of Memorial Stadium to commemorate the

tradition of Nebraska football. The statue depicts six Husker defensive players tackling a player from Kansas State University.

Fred Hoppe, the Malcolm artist who directed the making of the statue, said "Legacy" serves as a tribute to everyone who makes Nebraska football successful.

"Husker Legacy" will be dedicated to the fans, students, coaches and players that make this legacy possible," Hoppe said.

John Ingram, the director of facilities for the Athletic Department, said the members of

the Athletic Department agreed to oversee the statue after Hoppe approached them two years ago.

The statue, weighing about 2 tons and valued at \$1 million, was funded by private donations, Ingram said.

After one year of research and construction, Hoppe said, the sculpture was completed Wednesday at a foundry in Lander, Wyo.

It was scheduled for installation Friday,

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