

# Daily Nebraskan

## Summer Edition

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1999

VOL. 98, No. 163

# NEW LOOK NU

If you've been driving by Memorial Stadium's west entrance over the last year or attended home football games last fall, you've probably encountered bulldozers and mass construction.

Come this fall, according to NU Director of Athletic Facilities John Ingram, you'll encounter a beautifully renovated stadium.

The facelift of Memorial Stadium and Tom Osborne Field should be completed by the start of the football season.

Ingram said that the \$36.1 million Memorial Stadium improvement project will be ready and officially dedicated on Sept. 11, the day of the Huskers' first home game against Southern Mississippi.

He also said that the \$248,000 installation of the field's new playing surface, FieldTurf, should be completed by Aug. 15 for the players to practice on.

"We're right on track," Ingram said. "Everything under construction should be due by the end of September."

And the football stadium isn't the only athletic facility that's getting spruced up.

Last Friday, Lincoln Mayor Don Wesely officially announced plans to unveil a new \$24.4 million baseball stadium project for the city of Lincoln, which would be the facility used by the Huskers. A stadium for the women's softball team was also a part of the project. The project needs to pass the city council, and would also house a minor league baseball team.

And, if you've walked by the track facility this summer, you've probably seen mounds of dug-up dirt, which will soon be a new field of dreams that will hopefully lead to the hosting of a prestigious meet and attract better athletes.

The flourishing expansions, renovations and construction of the athletic facilities and the money and plans that go into them have showed that the Athletic Department plans to improve its strength nationally, not just retain it.

"It's a sign that Nebraska is serious about its athletics," NU baseball coach Dave Van Horn said. "It benefits everybody. To me, (upgraded athletic facilities) makes it easier to show a kid that we have a solid program here. Kids buy with their eyes, and they're seeing some good things around here."

Of course, the bearer of most of the athletic facilities' upgrading is the football program. And that alone has its own \$36.1 million price tag.

The Memorial Stadium improvement project was approved by the Board of Regents in the spring of 1998 and has since

Please see **SPORTS** on 6

Story by JOHN GASKINS

Photos by LYDIA GONZALEZ

