



MEMORABILIA LINE tables at an auction of the late former athletic director and football coach Bob Devaney's possessions Friday night in the Nebraska East Union. JOSH WOLFE/DN

Devaney items auctioned

Sale supports an emergency aid fund for students

BY SARA SALKELD
Staff writer

The wife and children of the late Bob Devaney gave his final contribution to the people of Nebraska.

An auction held by the family Friday at the Nebraska East Union sold the last of Bob Devaney's memorabilia.

Ford & Ford Auctioneers Inc. ran the auction. Marlene Ford, the wife of Norman Ford, one of the company's owners, said Friday's auction was the last opportunity for anyone to get a piece of the legend that is Bob Devaney.

Bob Devaney died May 9, 1997. He served as the University of Nebraska's football coach from 1962-1972 and was the NU Athletic Director for 26 years.

Ford said the items auctioned came from Bob Devaney's home. When he and his wife, Phyllis Devaney, moved to a retirement community, most of the items went to Mike and Pat Devaney, their children.

Mike Devaney said many of the items had been stored in boxes, where no one was able to enjoy them.

Part of the reason for auctioning the items was to give back some of

Bob Devaney to Nebraskans.

Because Nebraska is where Bob Devaney spent most of his life, it is only fitting for these pieces of his life to go to fellow Nebraskans, Mike Devaney said.

Another reason for the auction is to support the Bob Devaney Emergency Student Aid Fund, which Bob Devaney started.

The fund helps students who cannot meet tuition because of a crisis, such as a death in the family or any other circumstance where a student could use some help.

More than 230 items were auctioned. One item was a red cashmere sweater with the monogram RSD, which stands for Robert Simon Devaney. This item was the only article of clothing at the auction. The sweater sold for \$300.

Also for sale were letters to Bob Devaney from former President Richard Nixon. One letter went for \$500.

Devaney fans paid a lot of money just to get a little piece of his history, Marlene Ford said. For example, a framed photo of Johnny Rogers and Bob Devaney brought \$150.

Mike Devaney said his father would have wanted these things to go to the people of Nebraska.

“It was time for the family to close that chapter of their life.”

MARLENE FORD
Ford & Ford Auctioneers Inc.

He also said his father loved the public. He said he feels his father would be happy to see the auction and pleased with the large contribution made to the emergency student aid fund.

As of Sunday night, the total amount raised was not known.

Ray Neverdahl, a Lincoln native, said he and his wife wanted to see things they would not get another chance to see.

Neverdahl said he was also interested in getting a shot at the red 1993 Cadillac DeVille given to Bob Devaney at his retirement party.

Marlene Ford said the event, which drew more than 200 people, was good for the family.

“It was time for the family to close that chapter of their life,” she said.

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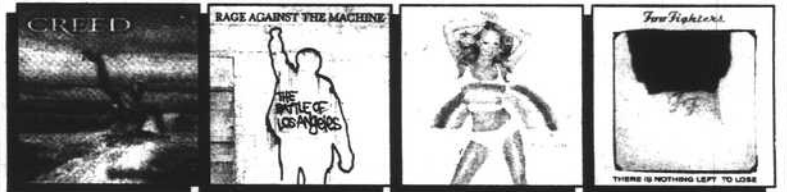
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