

Samurai Sam's cheap, tasty cuisine close to campus, downtown

By J.J. Harder
Staff Writer

First it was Jerry Tagge on the radio for Husker games. Then we got to see Steve Taylor on billboards selling real estate. And we've read about Lance Brown and his future dance club. Now we've got Sean Wieting, Matt Hunting, and Japanese food.

I'm sure you're asking, "Who are Sean Wieting and Matt Hunting?" Well, they are former Husker backups of backups that decided to use their football fame and business know-how to open a franchise of Samurai Sam's Teriyaki Grill. Sam's is a chain of fast-food Japanese joints out of Arizona. This is the first in our area.

Sam's offers all of the cooked delicacies of Japan (read: no sushi) at very low prices. It's cheap, filling and very tasty. And it's all Asian food most of us probably don't usually eat, so we can get a little culture at the same time.

The menu begins with the Teriyaki Bowls, obviously the anchor of the restaurant. You can order steak, chicken or veggies with noodles in a small bowl. The hula bowl had too much sweet and sour sauce, but the chicken and

REVIEW

SAMURAI SAM'S

WHERE: 17th and Q
WHAT: Cheap Japanese food \$4-7 per meal
BOTTOM LINE: Husker backups and Japanese cuisine

steak both tasted great. The soy sauce isn't too heavy and brings the flavor of the meat out very well. I would rate the bowls favorable, but not as the best item on the menu.

The Teriyaki Wraps are the Japanese version of what Amigo's and Nacho Fast has done, but without the salsa and sour cream. They are large soft tortillas filled with steamed rice, fresh veggies, soy sauce and your choice of meat. They are big enough that you have to cut them in half to eat, very comparable in size to La Bamba's "Burritos as Big as Your Head." But instead of Mexican machaca or ground beef, these wraps have grilled steak and chicken. They come with a lot of both meat and vegetables for the price.

If you order a value meal, you'll get a grilled egg roll with your meal. It's not bad, but because of the grilling it is limp and falls

apart easily. As for content, it has too much cabbage, which is made evident by the smell. There's only one crown jewel in Lincoln for egg rolls, and that's the Egg Roll King.

On the high-end of the menu are the teriyaki prawns. Usually when a restaurant uses "prawns" instead of "shrimp" you're in for a treat. That's not the case here. You get six small shrimp with rice and lettuce for \$7. The prawns were good, but not for the price. I'd steer clear and try a bowl or a wrap.

But the best thing on the menu is the Yaki Soba. It's stir-fried Japanese noodles and veggies. I know soy sauce has an addictive element in it, but there is much more to the Yaki Soba than an affinity for soy. It is a light dish, but it's fun, fresh, and keeps you craving more. I'm almost a meatatarian, but I loved the crisp vegetables.

This should be a place that kids from Cather/Pound and Abel/Sandoz visit all of the time. It's right down the street, and cheap (extremely key). An added drive-

thru would be nice, just so you don't have to look at the painting of "The Last Supper" with Husker players instead of disciples. If the blasphemy doesn't bother you, the sheer stupidity of the art will. Between Scott Frost at Jesus' last meal and the framed jerseys of the

owners (just a little self-serving, even in Lincoln) the atmosphere is so tacky it's actually laughable.

If you go to Samurai Sam's, it will probably be a place you want to tell your friends about. But tell them about the food, not the Husker heritage.

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July 17: TBA
July 24: Canada's World Footbag (hacky sack) Championship
July 31: TBA
August 7: National Smile Week

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Every Thursday, Noon @ Broyhill Fountain, Nebraska Union Plaza. Enjoy live music, lunch, and the beautiful Nebraska summer, every Thursday this summer! Hot Dogs, Chips, and Pepsi for sale.

June 29: The Toasted Ponies
July 6: Pheromone Pholk
July 13: Baby Needs Shoes
July 20: Amy Williams
July 27: Nebraska Jazz Orchestra
August 3: Terri Jo Dahlquist and Molly Ruhlman
August 10: Nebraska Brass

Movies on the Green:
Wednesday nights this summer on the grass north of Kimball Recital Hall at Dusk (approximately 9:00pm). Free Pepsi and Popcorn! Come enjoy one of these Academy Award winning films under the stars this summer!

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