

Out of the red: Athletic department cuts back

■ The department has tightened its collective belt to help counter a 250,000 overdraft last year.

BY DAVID DIEHL

If you're ever the last one to leave the basketball offices at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the athletic department has a message for you.

Don't forget to turn out the lights. Since the 1999-2000 fiscal year for the Nebraska Athletic Department saw unanticipated expenses drive its budget into the red, its programs are feeling some of the effects.

This includes shutting off every light in the basketball office, said Director of Basketball Operations Mike Broughton.

"The last person to leave shuts the lights off, too," Broughton said. "That

may be something people chuckle at, but it's a big expense."

Departmentwide and throughout several of the 24 athletic programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, modifications have been made to keep costs lower during the 2000-2001 fiscal year, which ends June 30.

NU Athletic Department's Director of Business and Finance Gary Fouraker said among other adjustments, minor renovation projects around UNL had been postponed, travel parties for teams had been reduced and teams had been warned to carefully watch every dollar to make up for last year's overflow.

Fouraker reported in September 2000 that NU's Athletic Department was \$250,000 over its \$39 million budget, mainly because of an asbestos discovery that cost \$200,000 to fix during renovation of the Bob Devaney Sports

Center. Less-than-expected revenue from men's basketball ticket sales in 1999-2000 also contributed.

"The directive came from Bill (Byrne, NU's athletics director)," Fouraker said. "We've worked with the coaches and heads of departments and in our own office. If we see something, we'll point it out to them, but a lot of it relies on the (coaches)."

The athletic department began modifying its spending practices last spring, Fouraker said.

The tighter budget has forced NU to put off improvements to facilities, mostly of minor proportions compared to the size of the overall budget, Fouraker said.

For instance, planned improvements to replace the lighting and bleachers and to paint the ceiling of the Devaney Center track area have been put off, said NU Director of Facilities

John Ingram. Smaller projects, such as replacing volleyball scoreboards in the NU Coliseum and a waterproof project in a portion of Memorial Stadium, have been put off until next year, he said.

The plan, Ingram said, is to have the entire department do just what is essential to stay within the demands of a tighter budget.

"There were some things we had the ability to put off that we did," Ingram said.

Hence, athletic squads now sometimes bus their student-athletes and coaches to events instead of chartering a plane.

Craig Busboom, business services manager, said teams were not being explicitly directed what to cut, it was just a department effort.

Pat Logsdon, director of football operations, said there was always an effort to keep costs down.

"We always make an effort to be as economically efficient as we can."

Pat Logsdon
director of football operations

"We always make an effort to be as economically efficient as we can," Logsdon said.

While she didn't mention any specific changes for the football team since the recent tightening of the budget, Logsdon said the Huskers travel by bus to their conference road games at Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State.

The Nebraska men's basketball team, according to Director of

Please see BUDGET on 9

Weather pushes practices indoors

■ Unlike Southern baseball and softball teams, the Huskers have the disadvantage of winter.

BY DOUGLAS SHEPPERD III

Baseball and softball go hand and hand with warm weather, but in Nebraska, warm weather doesn't always cooperate with the baseball and softball programs.

The cold weather state of Nebraska doesn't provide the best atmosphere for practicing baseball and softball during the first two months of the year, so the baseball and softball teams have to improvise.

"The cold weather gives our baseball and softball teams a huge disadvantage compared to some of the other universities," said Bill Byrne, Nebraska's athletic director. "They are getting a lot more practice outside than we are, and that gives them an edge."

With it being cold, the only option for the baseball and softball teams is to travel. Since Feb. 9th, the NU baseball and softball teams have been competing on the road with teams that have twice as many games under their belts.

Baseball Coach Dave Van Horn knows that his team is somewhat behind in practice time outside.

"We have excellent indoor facilities, but there is a major difference running down a flyball, hitting and throwing outside than there is inside," Van Horn said. "We just try to simulate the game the best we can with what we have."

Atmosphere change is the most important difference between indoor and outdoor playing.

Softball Coach Rhonda Revelle stressed the different field and weather conditions between practice time and game time.

"There are just some things you can do outside that are much better than doing inside," Revelle said. "Probably the biggest is having an open sky for a background, or being able to catch a flyball in the open sky, and being

We play a pretty competitive schedule, and we may be behind some of the teams because they have already had quite a few home games, but we just try to pick up any win that we can during February."

Dave Van Horn
NU baseball coach

able to run on the dirt."

While the baseball and softball teams practice inside throughout the cold weeks of Nebraska, most Southern opponents have had all of their practices outside.

Van Horn said another disadvantage to the cold weather was that most of the opponents the Huskers face were playing on their home field.

"We play a pretty competitive schedule, and we may be behind some of the teams because they have already had quite a few home games, but we just try to pick up any win that we can during February," Van Horn said.

The baseball team's first home game is March 9, while the softball team's isn't until March 30.

Revelle knows playing at home can give an extra boost to the home team.

"A large part of our schedule consists of away games due to the cold weather," Revelle said. "Once we begin playing at home, we can't dwell on home field advantage."

With both the baseball and softball teams facing tough opponents in the South while the weather warms, both coaches know that, come NCAA Tournament selection time, there are no excuses.

"I don't think a coach should ever make excuses because once she does, the players will have that kind of attitude and start to make excuses," Revelle said.



NUGGETS OF GREICHALY

Two sports, big hair and other assorted musings

Story by Samuel McKewon Photo by Derek Lippincott

"This is not just ... one of those things. This - please - cannot be that. No, these things happen all the time."

- Narrator, "Magnolia"

"Girl, I didn't know you could get down like that."

- Destiny's Child, "Independent Women"

When ambition goes wrong in the immediate, it's like that moment in "A Wrinkle in Time" when the string folds up and the ant creeps its way toward inevitable conclusion within nanoseconds.

Ambition usually travels to ambition's other, darker side - the destination of the two-lane cement paved with good, earnest, self-serving intentions. But when it goes

wrong - when the ambition serves toward an ill-fated project that isn't going to work, and wasn't going to work in the first place, well, it gets there faster. You look stupid.

How this brings me to Greichaly Cepero and her mushroom cloud of hair (which goes like this: ziiiiiiiiip! poof! tumbling down in paper confetti pasta) and what that means, I haven't the fog to fool you. In my slight and merely average reporting, which should at least have something of interest above and beyond "the common player feature," I was not able to adequately discern a need for you to know anything about her.

But, oh, the toil to deliver a story! You press on, seeking a chocolate nugget of truth that will melt in the brain. Writing is, after all, an exercise of subterfuge, a means of gliding the reader on a course unbeknownst to them

for as long as possible until that course has run out, at which a quote wraps the bow around the whole creation. A discernible, happy end.

They write books about how to do this. You know, having thumbed through a how-to-do-this book once or twice, that this story will not follow those conventional guidelines.

And so, with that, a collection of thoughts, if you will, the fragmented, unlikely way of approaching a narrative, the cop out supreme, the connection of a player to a program doing a spiral down the hole of mediocrity.

Just imagine a cheap hotel, nearly

Please see CEPERO on 9

Iowa State proving itself better than preseason predictions

■ The Cyclones have performed beyond expectations, shooting up from 25th to 6th this season.

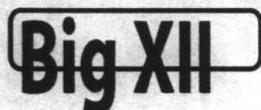
BY DIRK CHATELAIN

Underrated would be an understatement.

Iowa State was 25th in the preseason Associated Press poll. They were barely picked in the top third of the Big 12. They collected 32 wins a year ago and were a few questionable calls away from a possible national championship.

But that was with All-American Marcus Fizer. ISU wasn't supposed to be this good.

"To be honest with you, I think we're all a little bit taken back that they've remained on such a high plateau," said Kansas State Coach Jim Woodriddle, whose team lost to the Cyclones



two weeks ago in Ames.

Back in November, it appeared that 2000-01 would be a rebuilding year. About the time that conference rival Kansas was rising in the top five, Division II Morningside was taking the Cyclones to overtime. Iowa State wasn't even rated two months ago.

But, gradually, the pieces came together. Along the way came an exhausting four-overtime loss to Missouri that could have destroyed momentum.

ISU hasn't lost since. The turning point may have been the buzzer-beating win at Nebraska.

"I think our club did get a little closer together in their belief of each other (after the victory over

NU)," Cyclones Associate Coach Leonard Perry said.

The real eye-opener was the win at Kansas on Feb. 5. Iowa State, which is sixth in the latest AP poll, has dethroned the Jayhawks on the Big 12 pedestal when it appeared nobody ever would. They've defeated KU five straight times. They're now the team to beat.

Who knew?

The Cyclone roster looks like Jamaal Tinsley and the Ames names. They don't have the McDonald's All-Americans. Tinsley might be the only ISU player that would start for the Dukes of college basketball. But Iowa State wins games the old-fashioned way.

"They're my favorite team in the league," Woodriddle said. "They play well together. They're smart. They're tough. They're everything that coaches enjoy working with."

Cyclones Coach Larry Eustachy, suddenly regarded as one of the best coaches in the country, has ISU on a roll. And he's pushing all the right buttons.

Eustachy has handed the team over to Tinsley, the Brooklyn playground legend. And they are rising in the top 25 faster than the Hilton Coliseum decibel level.

"Tinsley does whatever he needs to do for them to win," Missouri Coach Quin Snyder said. Snyder said Tinsley was his pick for Big 12 player of the year.

"Whether it's score, rebound, defend, pass, whatever it is, he gives them what they need," Snyder said.

Tinsley, a finalist for the Wooden Award, hasn't been the only weapon. ISU, 22-3 this season, has found production where nobody knew it existed. On Saturday against Kansas, fresh-



Iowa State center Paul Shirley celebrates after the Cyclones' last-second win over NU on Jan. 20. ISU hasn't lost since and has all but locked up the Big 12 regular season title.

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