66 Wins
Lopers tie home win streak record, winning 66 straight
Climate change troubles Nebraskans

More chaotic growing seasons, increased risk of illnesses to be more commonplace

Elliot Gonnella
Antelope Staff

Climate change is often viewed as controversial when it should not be. There is not a global conspiracy of scientists coming to the same conclusion like some Ayn Rand Saturday morning cartoon. Due to carbon emissions, predominately caused by human actions, the average temperature of the earth is rising. With that change in temperature, stormy weather becomes more severe and frequent, and the conditions for animals change enough to upset their fragile ecosystems.

Of course, convincing people the world is in danger is hard because the world is a very large place. Unfortunately, climate change will not spare our nation or even Nebraska according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment published by the US Global Change Research Program. The report states that due to the increase of temperature across the globe, and unless drastic action is taken to avert such a change, the United States is expected to lose around 10 percent of its GDP by the end of the century.

Nebraska, the predominately agricultural state that we are, is expected to bear the brunt of such damages. Agriculture is a key part of state life in Nebraska, an estimated 91 percent of all land in Nebraska, about 45.2 million acres, is used by farmers or ranchers and agriculture accounts for 1 out of every 4 jobs in the state according to the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Nebraska is fortunate to have natural advantages such as the Oglala Aquifer and fertile land; unfortunately those advantages can be fleeting with climate change.

Weather has always been fickle in the state, which often leads to the joke of “if you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes and it will change.” With the increase of temperature, the weather conditions that make growing crops in Nebraska will change. Higher temperatures, drought, flooding and severe weather that make the moniker of ‘Tornado Alley’ well deserved will become common occurrences.

This will make growing constant large harvests next to impossible. The Climate Assessment estimates that the Midwest will produce 75 percent less corn then it does today during climate change. That corn is used for animal fodder and human consumption, which will be a gap that will be very difficult to fill as other crops will face similar changes in production. The heat will also impact dairy production through heat stress, which can also translate into reduced calf production for veal or cattle herds. Fewer goods produced will damage the state economy which has been firmly rooted in agriculture.

Now consider the non-agricultural costs of climate change for Nebraska. Severe weather and heat will lead to more deaths in the summer months. Climate change is expected to cause another 2,000 premature deaths by 2090 in the Midwest alone. The change in summer weather also leads to more mosquitoes that can carry West Nile or Zika.

Despite all of the dangers presented, the current tenant in the White House dismisses the claim because… of course he did. The man would rather trust his gut than the collective brain of some of the nation's best scientists. I think it a fitting irony that those who supported Trump are states, such as Nebraska, at risk for losing quite a lot due to his negligence. Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement to protect the interests of those in his circle of admirers who had something to lose in the dying industry of coal, which in turn is going to damage the larger and more vital agricultural industry.

This is not a problem that can be solved with more fertilizer or better pens for animals. Change needs to be rapid and deliberate. I trust scientists more knowledgeable than myself to come up with solutions that will avert or minimize the damage caused by the warming of the planet. I trust their brains, not Trump’s gut.
No boundaries for Savage Ruthless

Senior Van Dorn plans to start masters program while working on his business

Sydney Bartruff
Antelope Staff

As this semester comes to an end, students spend these couple of weeks finishing up assignments, studying for finals and preparing for the next chapter that lies ahead. For some, that next chapter involves graduating college.

“After graduation, I want to become a graduate assistant here at UNK while getting my masters. If not, I will try to acquire a full time job somewhere while taking my masters classes,” said Corey Van Dorn, an exercise science major.

A Jacksonville, Florida native, Van Dorn has accomplished many feats throughout his college career.

As a UNK wrestler, he is a four-time MIAA academic honor roll student and is part of a two-time National Wrestling Coaches Association All-Academic team.

Enrolled to start the Masters of Business Administration program in the spring of 2019, the 22-year old will finish his wrestling career in March.

“There are so many opportunities and possibilities in life, and you should never shy away from anything because you never know where it may take you,” Van Dorn said. “You should always have an open mind to new things.”

To add to his resume, Van Dorn started a business called Savage Ruthless, a clothing company, from a marketing class he took.

Starting from an assignment in marketing class, Corey Van Dorn began his own company called Savage Ruthless. The company has gained popularity around Kearney, as it has partnered with a local bar owner to create a “Savage Ruthless Night” every Thursday at JDs.

Ruthless, a clothing company, from a marketing class he took.

He filed for the trademark of his company in December 2017 and it was granted registration in August.

His product lines include hoodies and hats with Savage Ruthless written on them, sold for men, women and even kids sizes.

“I would like to mentor undergraduate students in business and entrepreneurship. I also want to start another business during 2019,” Van Dorn said.

In addition to Savage Ruthless selling products, Van Dorn said Savage Ruthless has sponsored amateur and pro fighters. The company has also donated to Breast Cancer Awareness, American Cancer Society and others.

“We have a website, social media, a staff of designers, and we just keep growing larger and larger, selling products across the country,” Van Dorn said.

While he said he never expected to start such a thriving business, Van Dorn knew he had to adjust when starting college.

“Being from Florida, coming up to UNK was definitely a different environment, but in reality I went from a high school kid living with my parents to a college kid living on my own and making all my own decisions, so everything was going to be different no matter what college I went to,” Van Dorn said. “I really made the best of UNK though.”

Continuing his future as a Loper following his undergraduate graduation, he chose the university for a reason.

“I think I have at least met half the town since I’ve lived here. Everyone here is extremely nice and there are lots of opportunities here on campus,” Van Dorn said.
Excitement rises as graduation nears

One UNK senior reflects on her past, discusses plans for the future

Alana Kellen
Antelope Staff

Graduation is right around the corner for the seniors leaving in December. Now is the time for them to finish up their final assignments and prepare to move on to the next steps of their lives.

Hannah Keen, a senior from Minden studying biology with a wildlife emphasis, is nearing the end of her time spent at UNK. Keen chose to come to UNK because she knew she wanted to go to a graduate school somewhere on the coast. This decision would help her save money for her future endeavors.

Keen has been interested in biology since she was in middle school. She has always loved being behind a microscope, but when her family took a trip to Hawaii, she truly realized what she wanted to do with her life.

“We took a submarine ride and that’s when I fell in love with the ocean and everything in it,” Keen said. “From that point on, I knew that the ocean was where I belonged.”

While at UNK, Keen has made some great memories that she will never forget. One of her memories is from a field trip she took in Ichthyology where they were practicing some techniques in the water.

“We were in chest high waters, and being the clumsy person I am, I slipped on a rock and fell full-body in,” Keen said. “I remember specifically dumping a ton of water out of my boots. It was super embarrassing, but it makes me laugh when I think about it.”

After graduation, Keen hopes to get a job she applied for with Alaskan Observers as a North Pacific ground worker that works on large fishing boats. If she gets the job, she will be following her dream and moving to the coast after graduation. Eventually, she plans to enter a graduate program to learn more about marine biology.

Keen is excited to graduate because she will be the first in her family to receive a bachelor’s degree.

“Many of my family members made sacrifices for my siblings and I so we could do anything we set our hearts on,” Keen said. “It feels awesome to give those people some gratification for all the work they did as well.”

The reason Keen went the biology route was because of her mom. Keen says this degree is for herself, but if it had not been for her mom, she would not be where she is today.

“My mom dreamed of going the biology route, but when she was in high school, one of her counselors laughed at her for wanting to do marine biology coming from Nebraska,” Keen said. “She is the one that her and I had to be dragged out of aquariums because we could sit there all day.”

Along with excitement, Keen is having nervous jitters about graduating in the next few weeks. She feels as if there is so much to do in the little amount of time she has to do it. Even though the end is stressful for Keen, she has a support system that continues to stick behind her: her family and her best friend Ciara.

“She is the one that would get ice cream with me when I was stressed, celebrate my accomplishments and say she was proud of me, and tell me things were going to be okay when I felt like they weren’t,” Keen said. “Even though I plan on moving away from Nebraska, she 100% supports me and wants what’s best for me.”

Though Keen is nearing the end of her time spent at UNK, she is excited to move on to her next steps in life. Keen says that she will miss the “home-feeling” of Kearney the most.

“I’m thankful I didn’t go to a school so far away in the beginning,” Keen said. “I’m grateful that I got to stay close to my friends and family that are here.”

UNK senior Hannah Keen installs one of her final projects to prepare for graduation. Keen’s future goals include moving to the coast to attend graduate school and becoming a marine biologist.
Serving up sweet competition

Twenty-six teams of students compete to build best seasonal gingerbread house

Brett Westfall
Antelope Staff

UNK students from all types of organizations, and also individually, signed up and attended the Loper Programming and Activities Council’s gingerbread house contest. Teams were allowed thirty minutes to assemble the best gingerbread house to present before the judges.

“We had 26 teams sign up this year,” said Emma Thede, a math education major from St. Paul, Nebraska. “After they are finished, whether in the 30 minutes or before, they will be judged by Abbi Hanson, a residence Hall coordinator, Brette Ensz with the First Year Program and Lisa Mendoza with student affairs.” Emma Thede is one of the heads of LPAC that helped set up this year’s competition.

During the judging process, students’ gingerbread house creations were judged by three categories. “The students are judged on creativity and originality, the overall affect and then the workmanship,” Thede said.

All products that the teams could use had to be edible, so hefty jars of peanut butter and marshmallow biproducts were used to have the graham cracker walls stand upright. Thede said that if a team used an ingredient that was not meant for eating, the judges would take off some points that would put the team out of the race. Each team in the competition this year used edible products.

“We are going to be building an oversized log cabin out of graham crackers, those longer pretzel sticks and an oversized jar of peanut butter,” said Brenner Keane, a junior at UNK. “We have four people on our team; it’s just my two good friends and my girlfriend. It looked fun, so we signed up,” Keane continued.

During the 30-minute building process, LPAC members walked around to glance at the progress teams were making, as well as to ensure that everyone used edible products. There was Christmas music played throughout the Ponderosa Room, and some LPAC members asked Christmas trivia to anyone who wanted to answer.

“$150 is what first place will get, and being college students, that would be pretty nice,” Keane said. Based on the rules, second place gets $100, and third place gets $50. All the money awarded is split among the team members.

“We added a blue frosting ‘UNK’ on the top of our little cabin and I hope that will probably help with our spirit points,” said junior Cy Cannon. Cannon’s team went on to win the competition and receive the $150 grand prize. LPAC had another successful year for the gingerbread house competition, and it will be held again next year.

Photo by Brett Westfall

Cy Cannon’s team won the LPAC gingerbread competition with a piece that showcased a sledding snowman and a log cabin. Cannon and his team split the $150 prize.
Loper twist on a classic play

UNK Theatre puts on production of Sarah Ruhl’s, Eurydice, November 14-18
Mary Joyce Storm played Eurydice in the UNK Theatre's production of Eurydice last week. The UNK senior from Curtis starred in the show which told the story of a young heroine and the events of her wedding day. The late father of Eurydice, Scott Unruh, contacts her from the underworld but is intervened by an Interesting Man, Tony Koetters, and his Chorus of Stones, Mary Dworak, Trisha Marie Miller, Kalee Reams, Hunter T. Scow.
Congress members are tackling an array of issues

Braydon Conell
Antelope Staff

Following the Midterms in November, the Democrats regained control of the House of Representatives with a 36-seat lead and majority. Some races are still too close to call, so the gap may still change.

In addition to a new Democratic majority meaning a change in leadership, this next Congress is set to be the most diverse group of representatives in the United States in the over 200-year history of the House of Representatives.

Of the 435 representatives, this will be the first year for 100 members. The first Native American congresswoman and the first Muslim congresswoman will be serving in 2019, in addition to another 42 women. In the House, women led the charge for a win for the Democrats because they won over 60 percent of the seats Democrats flipped. Further, 23 people of color will serve as new members to the House. Andy Kim, Democrat from New Jersey, will be the first Korean-American in Congress since the 1990s, and Rashida Tlaib, a Democrat from Michigan, will be the first Palestinian-American to be elected.

The ideological makeup of the next Congress will also be highly diverse, including 25 progressive Democrats.

Despite the large portion of freshmen-elects to the new Congress—roughly 1/4th of the House—and resulting legislative inexperience, policy measures and massive changes are not being sacrificed. Across the board, plans are already being drawn up to tackle America’s, and the world’s, most pressing issues.

Already, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) has proposed a resolution to stop American military involvement in Yemen. On Nov. 29, the Senate voted 63-37 to advance the movement, a clear rebuke to Trump’s militaristic intervention. Yemen has become one of the world’s worst humanitarian disasters, and the resolution is one step in reclaiming the Senate’s authority over matters of war and peace. Also, it would force Trump to dial back the U.S. military’s role in the distant conflict. If Congress does not see this resolution through, Sanders will undoubtedly propose it again in the next session.

In fact, national security in general will likely be an important topic addressed come January. One in five new freshmen members of Congress will bring national security experience to Capitol Hill. Additionally, multiple new veterans from recent wars such as Iraq and Afghanistan will bring a fresh perspective to military affairs.

Another top priority that has emerged is climate change. With the release of the recent federal government report on the climate, the nation has been shown that the consequences are real and are already taking place.

In January, Congress is set to start tackling this issue. To take a proactive stance now, however, Senator Sanders lead a national town hall called “Solving Our Climate Crisis” on Monday. The event was live streamed on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. The Town Hall was also facilitated by Representative-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, actress and activist Shailene Woodley and others.

Ocasio-Cortez is already going a step further and has joined the Sunrise Movement, a climate group led by young people. The Sunrise Movement recently held a sit-in at Nancy Pelosi’s office. Last Wednesday, the group said at least 15 Democrats are willing to sign onto supporting the formation of a select committee on climate change. Ocasio-Cortez and her supporters are calling it the “Green New Deal.” Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) voiced her support, saying “the Green New Deal is an important blueprint for us to fight this crisis on all fronts. Congress should not leave any thoughtful climate change solution unexplored.”

Pingree is a farmer from Maine and has seen the affects climate change has on the economy. The Green New Deal will also become a test for the Democratic Party as they grapple with the progressive shift in the party.

Sam Powers

Age: 19
Major: Psychology
Class: Sophomore
Hometown: Gering

Arianne Goode
Antelope Staff

Q: Why did you choose UNK?
A: I chose UNK because it was a lot cheaper than UNL. I was only able to get a full tuition scholarship at UNK. I really liked UNK’s campus, too.

Q: What is your personal mission statement?
A: My personal mission statement would have to be to do everything with love in hopes to better the lives around me.

Q: What inspires you?
A: I’m inspired most by people who are selfless are genuine and loving to everyone they meet. It really inspires me to be a better person to other people.

Q: How do you deal with failure?
A: I try to assess what went wrong and then I take a step back and look at the situation. I try not to dwell on my mistakes and focus on success in the future.

Q: Who is your role model in life and why?
A: Well, my faith is found through Jesus Christ, who is my ultimate role model. I’ve come to find that Jesus is not only a role model to look up to, but also a friend to confide in.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?
A: My superpower would be the ability to fly. That way I would never have to drive or walk anywhere. It would be more fun, like a rollercoaster everywhere you go.
Arianne Goode  
Antelope Staff

Q: Why did you choose UNK?
A: I chose UNK because I knew some people who went to my English school in Japan that came here.

Q: What is your personal mission statement?
A: I want to get certified with an athletic training license.

Q: What inspires you?
A: I’m always in the athletic training room, and I help the athletes with my taping job. I see their motivational work in there… it motivates me to get certified in athletic training.

Q: How do you deal with failure?
A: I’m always easygoing. I go to the gym and exercise to reduce my stress.

Q: Who is your role model in life and why?
A: There are certified athletic trainers in the athletic training room, and their work motivates me to want to be like them.

Q: What is your favorite comfort food?
A: Japanese food—karaage, a Japanese style fried chicken. Recently I learned how to cook. I tried to make it, and it was good.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Why?
A: If I had a superpower, it would be to talk with animals. I have three cats in my house, and I want to know who threw up on my seats.

Tomoki Kubo

Age: 24  
Major: Athletic Training  
Class: Sophomore  
Hometown: Kyoto, Japan

Antelope extends a special congratulations and thanks to our graduates:

Brandon Rojas  
Sports Editor  
Advertising & Public Relations

Sydnee Bartruff  
Copy Editor  
Journalism

Rachael Fangmeier  
Antelope Speaks  
Journalism & Agribusiness
Koster trades touchdowns for tipoffs

True Freshman leaves the gridiron to focus on mastering the hardwood

Chris Langin
Antelope Staff

From 2005 until 2017, all 19 winners of the Lincoln Journal Star boy’s athlete of the year award signed with a division I program. When Kanon Koster was announced the winner in 2018 after an incredible senior season at Kearney High School, that changed.

The last player besides Koster to win the award and not sign with a Division-I school? Danny Woodhead.

“Honestly (Woodhead) never came up and I wasn’t even worried about it,” said Koster.

All Danny Woodhead did during his career at Division-II Chadron State was run for more yards than any player in College Football History from the FBS, FCS, or Division-II. He topped that off with an NFL career that spanned over nine seasons and led to nearly 5,000 scrimmage yards.

Despite having the talent (offer from D-I McNeese St.) Koster decided to stay in his hometown and play at a lower level school in UNK. Additionally, he's given up football to completely focus on the sport he is most passionate about, Basketball.

“It was weird at first (not playing football) but it’s been nice to focus on one sport and be able to spend the Fall season getting better,” said Koster.

Koster also acknowledges the coaches and teammates as a reason for picking UNK over his other offers.

“I was more comfortable with the coaches and players already here at UNK and I didn’t want to be far away from home,” said Koster.

Koster has already gotten off to a strong start during his career, he is currently leading the team in points (16.8) rebounds (7.7) and assists (3.7) as a true freshman. However, while a high usage rate is partially the cause, Koster has also averaged 3.8 turnovers a game through the season’s first six games.

“The game is definitely faster,” said Koster. “You have to have more knowledge for the game, you have to be smarter than before.”

While Koster’s current goals are to simply get better and win games, he has some goals down the road in mind by the time his career is over.

“I want to win a conference championship and get to an NCAA tournament,” said Koster. “And when we get there, I want to be able to win games.”

Right: Koster poses in front of Kearney High School where he displayed his talent in Football and Basketball. During his senior year, Koster was chosen as the Lincoln Journal Star boy’s athlete of the year.

Far Right: Koster drives to the hoop on a pick and roll play as he draws a foul from his opponent. The true freshman currently leads the Lopers in points, rebounds and assists. UNK looks to build around Koster as one of their core players.

Courtesy Omaha World-Herald

Courtesy Lopers.com
Volleyball makes memorable season

Seniors make big impact on volleyball program, teammates

Alex Eller
Antelope Staff

Family, consistency, and resiliency are three ways to describe the 2018 UNK women’s volleyball team.

Coming into the season the Lopers had experience returning but lost a key performer in middle blocker Tara Ziegelbein to graduation. The Lincoln native was a four-year starter for UNK and a three-time All-American.

The loss of Ziegelbein and a lofty No. 3 preseason ranking didn’t faze UNK. To start the season, the Lopers went 12-0, winning the Cougar Classic in California, the UNK Fall Classic, and the California Vulcan Invite. During this time, they captured the No. 1 ranking in the country as well.

Tough five-set matches were another characteristic that defined the Lopers season. UNK was taken to the fifth set eight times in the regular season. In those matches, the Lopers were a perfect 8-0.

In conference play, Washburn was the only school to take down UNK. They defeated the Lopers at home, as well as away, at Buckle Court.

The second loss put the Ichabods in a position to win the regular season championship. To even have a shot at the regular season title, the Lopers had to win out and get help from Washburn.

UNK did just that, winning two five-set matches against Pittsburg State and Northwest Missouri State along the way. Washburn dropped two of three matches to end the season, making UNK MIAA regular season champions for the third straight year. In the conference tournament championship, the Lopers avenged their losses to the Ichabods, by winning yet another five-set match to claim the MIAA Conference Championship.

The fifth set magic ran out for UNK in the NCAA Regionals against Harding University. The Bison knocked off the Lopers 2-3, winning set five 15-9.

Accomplishments on the season include being MIAA regular season and conference champions, as well as making the NCAA tournament for the 20th straight year.

Senior libero Ellie McDonnell was named a second-team All-American. She was also a first-team MIAA selection along with Lindsey Smith, and Julianne Jackson. Second Team MIAA selections were Mary Katherine Wolfe, Kendall Schroer, and Anna Squiers.

Coming into next season UNK will have gaps to fill as they lose, libero McDonnell, middle blocker Schroer, and setter Smith. The Lopers look to be competitive in 2019 and aim for their fourth consecutive MIAA regular season championship as well as their 21st consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

Photos courtesy of Lopers.com
No Sweat

Season features two conference championships