

THE ANTELOPE

Volume 120, Issue 10 | 4.17.19 | www.unkantelope.com

STILL UNDER

CONSTRUCTION

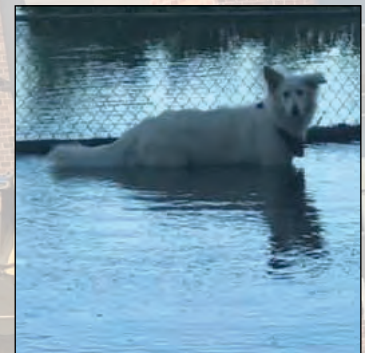
SEE PAGE 3 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CURRENT CONSTRUCTION



FIRST PLAYS

UNK athletes make moves in first games of the year

SEE PAGE 11



SUMMER DAMAGES

Students reflect on impact of July flooding

SEE PAGE 4



UNK PRIDE

Students attend first week of college events

SEE PAGE 6

THE ANTELOPE

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Enrollment continues to decline

Meeting held to discuss past issues, future actions

Haley Pierce
News Reporter

Total enrollment at UNK is down for the seventh year in a row. The numbers come at a time when UNK is developing its strategic enrollment management plan. A total of 6,279 students were enrolled at the time of the Fall 2019 head count on Sept. 3. When compared to the Fall 2018 head count of 6,327 students, this reflects a 48-person (0.8 percent) decrease.

The number of first-time, full-time freshmen is 844, down from 939 one year ago. Total undergraduate enrollment declined to 4,429, a loss of 55 students. In contrast, the number of full-time transfer students increased by 41 students to 266 total. Enrollment peaked in 2012 when 7,199 students were registered for classes according to the UNK Factbook. The decrease in first-time, full-time freshmen coupled with the increase in transfer students reflects a broader trend in higher education for students to attend a community college before transferring to a four-year institution. Additionally, a decline in the number of graduates from many Nebraska high schools is complicating recruitment efforts. “Competition for the traditional first-time freshman is incredibly fierce right now,” said Kelly Bartling, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment



Photo by Haley Pierce
Kelly Bartling leads an open forum for development of the strategic enrollment management plan. The plan should identify opportunities for increasing enrollment and steps to capitalize on them.

Management and Marketing. Bartling added that it will become increasingly important for the university to package its programs in ways that meet students’ time constraints and financial needs – emphasizing the importance of certificate and similar programs to the strategic enrollment management plan. Some of these programs are already taking shape. In the 2018-2019 school year, an official “transfer transitions” position was developed to aid in the recruitment and onboarding of transfer students. In addition, a partnership between Central Community College and UNK has allowed students to live and learn here when they would not have otherwise been eligible for admission. In addressing the challenge of recruiting students, staff will likely turn to other

markets as well. Bartling related that graduate students, international students and out-of-state students are areas to target improvement. Development of the strategic enrollment management plan began this summer with an open forum on Aug. 5 followed by a second forum on Sept. 5. In correlation with the development of this plan,

UNK has made marketing investments targeting high school students, and early data suggests a payoff. The challenge for the enrollment management plan, scheduled to be completed this fall, will be to “position UNK as both the best value and student experience in the region with proof of student success,” Bartling said.

UNK Enrollment Since 2012		
Year	Headcount	Change
2012	7199	
2013	7052	-147
2014	6902	-150
2015	6747	-155
2016	6788	-41
2017	6644	-144
2018	6327	-317
2019	6279	-48

Highway construction continues

Alana Kellen
News Reporter

As students made their way back to campus they likely noticed the ongoing construction surrounding the university. Despite hopes of it being done by the time school started, weather and the approval process for the construction delayed the project from being completed in time for students' arrival.

Lee McQueen, UNK facilities director, stated that these road changes were made for the safety of everyone.

"One of the things that the Nebraska Department of Transportation or NDOT did was reset the crosswalk along Highway 30 that was on the east side of the Fine Arts Building to approximately the west side of the building," McQueen said. "The traffic signal that was there was also relocated to make it easier for cars to see the traffic light and pedestrians crossing."

There are three ongoing projects and a fourth one that is still in the planning stage. These are to improve safety and provide a new arrival destination on campus. The three projects in progress now include the construction on the intersections going from Ninth Avenue into Highway 30 and onward, the installment of a permanent ramp at Warner Hall's entrance, and an identity sign to mark the entrance into the east side of campus. The fourth project is a plan to widen the sidewalks running along Highway 30.

"We've known for some years that the construction from Ninth Avenue into Highway 30 was going to be happening, we just needed to get approval from NDOT



Photo by Alana Kellen

Progress of the construction happening on Ninth Avenue alongside Warner Hall.

and that's where we ran into some trouble," McQueen said. "There was a moment in time when UNK and the city approached NDOT to talk about the potential to develop a roundabout at this intersection. NDOT reviewed that concept, looked into traffic counts, and concluded they did not want to build a roundabout there."

Kent Washington, project manager for the Highway 30 construction, oversaw the progression of the construction throughout its entirety. Like McQueen, Washington said that the main reason for the road construction was to improve safety along the highway.

"We reconfigured most of the left turns to hopefully make it safer for both drivers and pedestrians," Washington said. "The left turn areas were unsafe because cars would stack up, making a left turn along Seventh and Eighth Avenue, so now we feel it is made safer for

drivers."

The Highway 30 construction is a \$2.06 million project with funds coming from the state, city, and federal levels. Washington says the construction is 99 percent done, unless they find other minor details to fix.

"There will probably be a few minor things like clean up and taking down signs that needs to be finished," Washington said. "Hopefully next week we can make that happen."

NDOT and UNK's goal was to make that intersection safer for the east side of campus than it originally was. Once NDOT was committed to the project, UNK then committed to making improvements in pedestrian flow and traffic in front of Warner Hall.

The construction on Ninth Avenue is designed to provide enhanced entry and enhanced arrival points on the southeast corner of campus. One thing students will start to see in

Fountain still not finished

Project delays continue to hinder campus plans

Cassie Sloan
News Reporter

Last fall the fountain by Copeland Hall was demolished so water lines spanning north and south across campus could be repaired. Although it was promised to be completed last fall, the current projection for completion lies within October of this year, said assistant faculty management director Micheal Cremer.

Other construction projects on campus include the STEM Building and the demolition of Otto Olsen. Completed projects include the Antelope Bookstore in the Nebraska Student Union and the Child Development Center located across Highway 30 by Village Flats.

"I'm really looking forward to the new students seeing the finished fountain and for everyone to be able to walk through what was once construction," said Nicole Kent, UNK student body president. "It's an exciting time to be at UNK and this construction will only further improve our campus."

Hausmann Construction began the demolition of the fountain because of a two-phase sanitary sewer project. The fountain needed to be removed in order to access the water pipes that run from the Student Union to Highway 30. Last year students witnessed the sidewalks and ground being torn

up through the center of campus as a part of phase one. Now, phase two is about to commence.

Hausmann Construction is operating as a separately hired contractor for the rebuilding of the fountain. The estimated installation date is this October. However, the water is not expected to be turned on until spring due to the cold weather that will accompany a fall completion.

The former green area between Men's Hall and the Memorial Student Affairs building is currently being used as a staging area for the construction team. Equipment and vehicles are able to be placed in this area for the time being. Upon the completion of the fountain, this area shall be reverted back into a green space.

The STEM Building, located just north of West Center, is projected to be finished in the spring or summer of 2020. This ensures that it will be ready for the next fall semester.

"Progress is going well [on the Stem Building] and is projected to be on time," said Cremer. "The dry wall is being put in on the upper floors and the windows will be in before the winter months. While it's cold, the interior will be finished."

As for Otto Olsen, there is no determined date for its demolition, but early 2021 is

Summer flooding disrupts community

Braydon Conell
News Reporter

Living in Nebraska — home to Tornado Alley — the first natural disaster we may suspect is a tornado. Possibly even a blizzard in the depths of winter. However, for many people living in and visiting Kearney, the natural disaster of real concern was the flood that struck in July.

On that Tuesday, July 9, Kearney and surrounding areas began experiencing large amounts of flooding due to local rivers breaching the flood stage. The prior week had been exceptionally wet and the ground was saturated. Beginning July 8 and going through the night, the local area received another thunderstorm that carried tornadoes and hail, as well as a tremendous amount of rain.

By Tuesday morning, reports came in of property receiving six to eight inches of rain

overnight, with some areas pushing ten inches. Coupled with ground saturation, this rainfall pushed the banks of local bodies of water including the Platte River, Kearney Canal, Turkey Creek Channel and Wood River past their flood stages.

“We started seeing evidence of flooding on the morning of July 9,” said Eric Hellriegel, assistant city manager of Kearney. “The first records coming in were between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.”

The effects were not seen immediately, as customers were still getting coffee at Dunkin Donuts and individuals were arriving at work in the hospitality district. However, by 8:30 a.m., flood waters had begun to accumulate.

The city was still thankful, granted that there were no flood related injuries or casualties.



Photo Courtesy Josie Minor
The view of Josie Minor’s and Mia Grant’s front yard looking out into an empty cornfield in southwest Kearney. Pictured is their large dog, Thor, who is “swimming” in nearly a foot of water.

“Dealing with that kind of recovering effort with swift water and the fact that we didn’t have any of those folks have injuries or casualties

with the water was great,” said Hellriegel. “Actions taken by people in that 12-hour period were really critical.”

Many of those that did get out of the flood area needed a place to stay. In response, the

————— **FLOODING, PAGE 10**

Residence Life, Facilities tackle flood damages

Ian Kahler
News Reporter

On July 9, the Kearney area experienced unprecedented flooding from 9 inches of rainfall during a torrential thunderstorm. The south side of Kearney was submerged in floodwater that resulted in the interstate exit and entirety of south Kearney to be closed for two days.

Even though campus is far away from the south end of Kearney, it was affected in numerous ways during the downpour. Multiple buildings including residence halls on

campus were damaged, these rain damages ranged from minor to severe leaks and material destruction.

LeAnn Jochum, the Associate Director of Operations in Residence Life, was on campus during the aftermath of the storm.

“There were unprecedented amounts of damages due to oversaturation of the ground and the high power of storms that came through the area,” Jochum said. “The ground was like a sponge and couldn’t be flushed immediately due to how much water was in the

ground.”

Nearly all residence halls on campus were negatively affected: namely Mantor, Randal and both Centennial Towers. Because of this, the facilities team was hard at work this summer ensuring that when the new wave of students entered their residence halls in the fall, that their buildings would be safe and secure from potential future inclement weather.

Michael Cremers, the Assistant Director of Facilities Management Planning in the Facilities department,

was intent on setting up a plan of attack during the flood damages and issues on campus.

“All of our staff works year-round to ensure the safety and stability of the buildings on campus, and they absolutely stepped up and helped with the repair efforts,” Cremers said. “I am very happy how we all came together, and all of the interactions and conversations have been nothing but positive.”

Residence Life and Facilities continues to come together to power through and plan for

the prevention of future flood damages.

“This Fall, Residence Life will have focus groups of a variety of students ranging from international students, upper-classmen and freshman that will help Res Life examine and plan accordingly for the future, which will begin in October,” Jochum said. “Surveys will also be sent out via students’ email in September for student feedback and safety, as student input is very important to us and we want all demographics and angles covered.”

What to expect from your freshman year at UNK



Keegan Franci

Freshman year at UNK is like going through middle school all over again.

It's exciting and awkward. You're moved out

of your previous home and surrounded by new and maybe even familiar faces. That girl on your high-school's rival volleyball team is now your new bff.

The dorm atmosphere almost feels like you're at summer camp: scrunched in small spaces with people who you see almost every day. They become your family and if you're lucky enough, the friends you make your first

year become your best pals through the rest of your college experience.

But then it's awkward because you find out that the classroom etiquette you learned in high school suddenly doesn't apply anymore. It turns out your professor doesn't actually care when or if you have to go to the bathroom.

Just go.

Or if you're like me, you find out that you've been ignorant about a lot of things and now you have to reassess your entire worldview.

Even worse, you leave your microwaved burrito in too long and now the entire dormitory is ordered to evacuate at 2a.m. There's nothing more humiliating than your colleagues seething at you through the fabric of their blankets while you're holding a

burnt Dollar Tree burrito like a guilty criminal - the criminal who stole their precious hours of sleep.

And what do you do about your roommate who slurps her smelly garlic mashed-potatoes at her bedside every night while watching Criminal Minds? Nothing in high school prepared you for dealing with someone who uses your shampoo without asking and turns the thermostat to 78 degrees. Patience, love, and compromise is key, my friends.

Nevertheless, you're excited! Finally, your campus offers clubs that relate to you! Study abroad! Naps without your mom yelling at you to clean the house! Freedom! Cafeteria food prepared at your convenience! Student discounts! Sorority and Fraternity life! Educators who actually care about and help

you!

My friend Madison and I were cooking fat steaks at Cottonmill park last night and reminiscing over our four years here at UNK. Madi was my freshman year suitemate and we've been close friends ever since. We are expecting to graduate together this December.

As we laid in the grass and got comfortable amongst the dead leaves and mosquitos, I asked Madison what she would change about her college experience, if she could.

It took her all but two seconds to reply, "I wish I would have gotten more involved".

I found her response ironic considering I begged her hundreds of times to go to club meetings with me because I didn't want to go by myself. Don't be like Madi and don't be

like me. Go with or without a friend. Either way you will find your 'tribe'. Your future party memories will never compare to times like the entire CTW 4th and 3rd floor willingly gathering in the small lounge to play cards together every night for weeks straight.

It is easy to slip in to the boring vortex of regrets and "I wish"s. Upon graduation you'll receive your degree, but then what? What else did you do? What do you remember?

Go join that club. Stay up late with your friends. Cruise Kearney at night. Play intramural sports. Start your own clothing brand. Write for the Antelope newspaper.

Famous poet Ogden Nash put it best when he said that, "it is best to not sin at all but if sin you must be pursuing, well, remember to do it by doing rather than by not doing."

Welcome back difference makers



Chase Harrison

Hello students, staff, and faculty. This is just a friendly reminder that summer is closed for construction. I was hoping

to present you with an exact completion date, but reliable ones have been hard to come by recently.

Don't let this upset you. The academic year is the best time of the year. It is great especially now, early in the semester, as classes have just

begun. Whether you're a new or returning member of the community, you've likely got some pep in your step. So, enjoy that while it's still warm enough to get anywhere. In college and in life, it's all about the little things. For example, getting to traverse, but not directly by any means, to the Student Union for food on any given day. That is, if Chick-fil-A being closed on Sundays really counts. Even then, Starbucks can raise your spirits and your heart rate when nothing else will. In other words, life is good, and appreciating those small things that make college life what it is can ensure that difference in how you view your time here.

Returning for another academic year is an exciting time. We get to see our closest friends and our professors, who are sometimes one and the same, and we get to keep learning and progressing together as a

community. Along with this, we are genuinely excited to be garnering so many difference-makers with

each passing year. UNK is a great home and we are proud to share it. So, welcome all students, to the best approximately four years of

your life. This is where you will build lasting memories and relationships, where you will leave your mark, and where you will take some of the most vital steps in making all endeavors pay off. So, to say it

is an exciting time is to say the very least. And if you're bored already, then

you're either incredibly efficient, or you're going about this whole college thing

incorrectly. There are countless ways to stay productive: take an extra class, get a part-time job, join a club, or even start a band. It isn't now or never,

but it really is the best time to make things happen for yourself, so take advantage of that.

So, here we are, day 12. Syllabi are lost for good, and you're already too tired to print off a new one. Still, you find the time for weekly, even daily trips to Walmart or Target - driver's choice. If you pull it together now, there's still a good chance of passing hopefully all of your classes.

There's still a great chance of making this semester a time you'll never forget. There's still an undeniable chance that the University of Nebraska at Kearney is where you are supposed to be, right now.

**ANTELOPE
EDITORIAL**



Getting back on schedule

Here are a few of the highlights of the first weeks of the school year





LOPERSSPEAK

How do you feel about the state of the construction around UNK's campus?

Billy Deardoff

Graphic design
and acting
Bennington



"It does not quite reach the potential that UNK offers, and it makes it harder to get to class."

Claire Rasmussen

UNMC
Nursing
Hastings



"It's inconvenient at times, but I do understand that they are trying to better the campus situation and improve things."

Max Baker

Business
Administration
Lincoln



"It can be a hassle walking around, but I'm really hoping that it will be worth it. I'm willing to wait and let it all play out."

Robert Huele

Recreation
Outdoor and
Event
Management
Hemingford



"It's definitely a pain because it's in the way, but at the same time I understand that they're trying to make UNK better."

SUDOKU

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Netflix Originals movie reviews

Novel inspires story that demolishes stereotypes

If you don't fit into the box society has for you, society had better find a bigger box.

Based on Julie Murphy's bestselling novel, the Netflix Original movie, "Dumplin'," underlines the courage it takes to go big, while telling the haters to go home. Willowdean Dickson (Danielle MacDonald), battles against the doubts of her ex-beauty queen mother (Jennifer Aniston) and enters into the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet beauty pageant. With her squad of misfits at her side, Willowdean, nicknamed Dumplin', blazes a trail of self-love and broken stereotypes, proving that "A swimsuit body is a body with a swimsuit on it."

Directed by Ann Fletcher, this 2018 film, set in Clover City, Texas, introduces a stream of diverse characters, such as cheerful Millie Michalchuk (Maddie Baillo),

ANTELOPE REVIEW

'Dumplin'

5 out of 5 Lopers



rebellious Hannah Perez (Bex Taylor-Klaus), and eccentric drag queens who certainly rock heels better than most individuals. Let's not forget, the iconic starlet, Jennifer Aniston, who perfectly portrays the embodiment of a hoity-toity, southern pageant matriarch and conflicted mother.

This mix of characters evokes thought, laughter, and tears from audience members, thanks to the realistic relationships broken and repaired throughout the movie. The bond between Willowdean and her best friend, Ellen Driver (Odeya Rush), shatters the standard of the "funny fat friend," with Willowdean



Grace McDonald

as the powerful protagonist. Meanwhile, Willowdean also butts heads with her mother in accepting the absence of her aunt Lucy (Hilliary Begley) and in embracing the "pageant spirit."

My only criticism is that the love blossoming between Willowdean and her coworker, Bo Larson (Luke Benward), seemed rushed and needed to progress further. Whatever opinions exist, the characters successfully send the message that love comes in all shapes and sizes.

Coming from someone who has studied the book cover to cover, the

movie undoubtedly nails the plot down to specific and important details. Various symbols are used to represent change in the characters' development, such as Aunt Lucy's bumblebee pin and the passion-associated color red. The gradual increase of red in Willowdean's wardrobe symbolizes her acceptance that curves can be sexy too! The attention to detail is impressive when examining the costumes, mood lighting, and camera angles.

Putting the talent and craftsmanship aside, "Dumplin'" suggests that the size of one's heart matters more than the size of their hips.

The dramatic components, entertaining montages, and moments of revelation, expose Willowdean and others to the truth behind Dolly's most valuable advice, "Find out who you are and do it on purpose."

'Falling Inn Love' a cheesefest



Mackenzie Krumland

ANTELOPE REVIEW

'Falling Inn Love'

2 out of 5 Lopers



When I opened up my Netflix account this past week, the first

thing that I saw was the photo advertising the newest Netflix Original: "Falling Inn Love". Immediately, from the name, I knew exactly what to expect. I knew that I'd be watching a movie about two people brought together by chance that after struggling would realize that they were

meant to be together. I'm not trying to spoil anything, but I'll just say that this movie did not exceed my expectations in any way. There were a few plot lines that caught me off guard, but overall, "Falling Inn Love" is one of your run-of-the-mill cheesy romantic comedies. Although I'm usually a sucker for these kinds of movies, this one left me disappointed by the lead up and ending of the story.

The first scene of the movie had a rough start. The main character, Gabriela, quits

her job because she won an inn, yet the inn is in New Zealand. Had I gotten this prize, I would've immediately assumed it was a scam and gone along with the rest of my day. But what did she do? Yes, she decided to uproot her life, leave everything and go to New Zealand for an inn that, surprise surprise, was a scam. Crazy, right?

She definitely didn't have the easiest start upon her arrival. Still, Gabriela makes the most of her day. While walking miles from the bus stop, her suitcase falls down a hill and runs into, expectedly, the car of a very attractive man. As the movie continues and Gabriela meets both her

new gay best friends and a woman who is out to get her, she repeatedly runs into this same attractive man she met in the street. Although this guy actually seems like a genuine person, Gabriela has a sour attitude towards him and gets upset every time they meet. The plot encircles the process that Gabriela goes through as she tries to make this run down inn into a place that a buyer would want.

My criticism stems from the fact that the writers didn't do a very good job at building up the obvious romance that the movie focused on. Gabriela shifted her feelings from disgust and annoyance straight into having romantic feelings for him. She was denying the fact that she felt something for him, and once it shifted, their romance scenes were

underwhelming. I like the fact that they spent the time getting to know each other by fixing the inn together, but I would've liked a better build up to them falling in love. After they were together for a short amount of time, their relationship gets ruined quite quickly. As romantic movie typically go, something splits them up, but resolves eventually. I won't say whether or not that happened, but I will say that I wasn't surprised as to how it ended.

Although "Falling Inn Love" wasn't the worst romantic movie I've seen, I was a little let down. There were a lot of things that could've been improved to make it more enjoyable. I think in the end, though, you may still enjoy the movie if you love cheesy romantic films.

CONSTRUCTION from page 3 ———
the fall is the development of an identity sign that is like the sign on the southwest corner of campus. This identity sign will have columns to indicate an entrance to campus. Colored pavers are also going to be installed to mark pedestrian access and crossing.

“The identity sign, the two columns, and the landscaped entry into campus are going to be a nice enhancement to campus,” McQueen said. “It’s a fun project that helps that space be a destination for us.”

FOUNTAIN from page 3 ———
a possibility, according to Cremer. Many of the classes that currently take place in Otto Olsen will be moved to the STEM Building, which will consist primarily of students affiliated with the College of Business and Technology. Classes in math, engineering, aviation, and industrial distribution, are a few expected to be taught there at that time.

Recent completed projects on campus include the Antelope Bookstore in the Union and the CDC building south of campus. The Antelope Bookstore had to be redone in spring of 2019 due to deteriorated pipe under the floor, which had to be replaced. The bookstore is now open for business this semester.

VOLLEYBALL from page 12 ———
In the fourth, the Lopers fired on all cylinders to take a 17-7 lead. The Oilers had no comeback in them as UNK went on to win the set 25-14 and the game 3-1.

“I am really proud of everybody,” said Maddie Squiers. “We had good preparation all summer and spring. I think we did awesome.”

FOOTBALL from page 12 ———
overcome it.”

The Lopers will have to play tough and smart again this week as they take on the University of Central Oklahoma in their home opener Thursday at 7 p.m.

FLOODING from page 4 ———
community of Kearney quickly stepped in to help and assist those in need. “At 11:00, I got a text that said ‘Get rooms ready, may need space for up to 200,’” said LeAnn Jochum, associate director of operations for Resident Life. “Nothing was planned ahead. Vans and bus loads of flood victims began to arrive. Everyone from a family of five from California to displaced Kearney families that could not get to their homes.”

UNK helped a total of 336 people that had been displaced and were looking for a space to stay until they could return to their homes or hotel rooms. “We served as an emergency shelter,” said Jochum. “When you serve as an emergency shelter, you address safety first. We accepted everyone – two or four legged. We had families with pets and babies, both of which we are not typically equipped to handle.”

Some of those who were grateful for the assistance provided by the community were students staying in Kearney outside of the academic year. Josie Minor, a senior criminal justice major from Lincoln, and Mia Grant, a political science major from Columbus, were renting a house southwest of the new Kearney High School at the time. “We woke up around 7 a.m. and our yard and road were already covered in over a foot of water,” said Minor.

The pair were not told to evacuate but could request a water rescue from the Buffalo County Sheriff’s Department. “If we didn’t evacuate, we would have been trapped at the house for probably a week,” said Grant. “It was nice to know there was somewhere to go because otherwise we would have been trapped and not been able to get to work.”

The two evacuated their home, and went to stay at the makeshift emergency shelter at UNK. “We were very welcomed at UNK. They let us bring our dog and even offered animal products like food and treats,” said Minor. “I was happy that UNK was so willing and welcoming to offer what they had available.”

THE ANTELOPE FAST RELIABLE NEWS

ON SNAPCHAT



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BE IN THE KNOW

Defense shines for UNK in opening weekend

Alex Eller
Sports Reporter

Defense was the name of the game for the Lopers women soccer team in the UNK Fall Classic last weekend. After not finding the back of the net, UNK had to settle for two ties.

In-game one against Minnesota State Moorhead, both teams never let the other get the edge and as a result, the game ended in a 0-0 tie after two overtime periods.

"They're a really great team, it's one of those games we knew was going to be tough from the start," said UNK Coach Chloe Roberts. "To show how mentally tough we are, go the full length in overtime and to stay disciplined and organized was great. There were a lot of positives that came out of that."

Right out of the gate senior forward Maddie Love had an opportunity for a goal from the edge of the Dragons goal box. In the end, the shot ended up not challenging keeper Kayleigh Sedlacek and went right to her.

The Lopers best opportunity to score came at the end of the first half. UNK possessed the ball deep in Moorhead territory for close to two minutes and couldn't score.

Throughout the contest Dragon goalkeeper, Sedlacek was challenged but never broke. The sophomore from Washington had a game-high nine saves.

UNK possessed the ball on Moorhead's side of the field for 57% of the game. The Lopers also had 11 shots and nine shots on goal to the Dragons four shots and two shots on goal.

"Piece by piece we are trying to put this together. With the

big freshman class getting use to what others are good at and what others like, whether that be playing the ball to their feet or playing the ball through. Sometimes we need to change up and not be so consistent in one area," Roberts said

One part for UNK that was consistent was its defense. Led by senior captain Molly Willis the group of one senior and three freshmen stifled the Moorhead offense before they could get to the goalbox.

"To stay so organized with high communication, that really helped. We did a really good job team defending with some fast forwards on the

other side. Now we just try and build on that for the next game," Roberts said.

Build on it they did, as the Loper defense pitched there second shutout in as many days. This time against in-state rival Wayne State.

UNK's offense improved from game one to game two with three solid chances to score on Sunday. The first two were called off due to offsides and then the last attempt was waved off because of a foul by the Loper defense on Wildcat goalie Rachel Grisham.

Wayne also had great opportunities to score, but couldn't capitalize. In the

second half, they had two near makes that left everyone at Cope Stadium on the edge of their seats.

Their first shot went high and off the post and the second shot was deflected in a one on one situation by Allie Prososki. The senior captain for UNK ended the day with nine saves to lead all players.

"It was tough there second half, we were getting pretty tired," said goalkeeper Prososki. "We kept fighting through all the through balls working as one unit and we thought we finished the half well."

On the season, UNK already

has more ties in two games than they had in eighteen games a season ago.

The Lopers now look forward to a solid week of practice as they get ready for the Western Colorado Invite this weekend.

"It's going to be tough to go to Colorado and play with the altitude, but we'll be back at practice working on the things that we learned from these games, Prososki said.

UNK will play Colorado Mesa first at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13 and then at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15 Western Colorado.



Loper Megan Merkel fights for possession while two Minnesota State Moorhead defenders rush toward the ball.

Photo by Alex Eller

Lopers hold off Lions late

JD Rader
Sports Reporter

Up 33-27 with 9:12 left in the fourth quarter, UNK made a big stop on fourth down to stop Missouri Southern State from scoring the go-ahead touchdown and then put together a fantastic drive of their own to win 39-27.

"A lot of the games last year, we were up at half and lost," said redshirt senior Rakid Hill. "We didn't lose this one."

The Lopers went into Joplin, Missouri, scored on the opening drive, and never trailed after that. Redshirt-Senior quarterback Alexis McGinnis (Crete) connected with Redshirt-Sophomore wide receiver Zach Blaschko (Kearney) from eight yards out to put UNK on the board first.

After a scoreless rest of the first quarter, it was the Lopers big in the second. UNK scored on all four of their possessions and accumulated 273 yards of offense. With two missed PATs from Sophomore Junior Gonzales (Corning, Calif.), the Lopers went into the half up 33-6.

However, as dominating as the second quarter was for the Lopers, it was all Lions in the third quarter. Former Georgia and Iowa State quarterback Jacob Park came out strong in the third quarter.

The South Carolina native threw two touchdowns in the third quarter, both over 20 yards.

Park is part of a Missouri

Southern State program undergoing a massive change. In addition to a new head coach, MSSU announced a 64-player signing class for this season. A good portion of these incoming players are JUCO or Div. 1 transfers. Last year the Lions went just 1-10.

He added to his stats two minutes into the fourth quarter when he threw a 93-yard TD pass to wide receiver Dwayne Lawson, making the score 33-27.

This is as close as the Lions would get, thanks to the Lopers defense stepping up. It was on MSSU's next possession that they made the critical fourth-down stop.

After getting the ball back on their 32-yard line, UNK put together their best drive of the second half. Relying heavily on the run game of Redshirt-Senior Darrius Webb (Allentown, Penn.), the Loper offense drove 68-yards in 14 plays over six minutes and 38 seconds. The drive was capped off by a two-yard run from McGinnis.

The Lopers realized the growth they showed as a program to be able to finish a game like this on top.

"At the end of the day, when you win on the road, no matter how that's a good day," said Assistant Coach Shayne Shade. "It's tough to win on the road. If you go back three years ago, it would have been a different story, but having a mature team, it was a different story. They were able to



Photo by Alex Eller

Mary Katherine Wolfe goes to spike the ball against Adams State on Friday in the UNK Preason Invite. She led all Lopers with 12 kills.

UNK rocks Loper Invitational

Jill Selinas Mews
Sports Writer

UNK volleyball kicked off its 51st year in program history by competing in the Loper Invitational last weekend. They won four matches in 48 hours to win the crown.

"It is kind of a grind to play four matches and so we will have to give our best if we want to get results," said Rich Squiers, UNK women's volleyball coach before the weekend.

In the first game on Friday against Adam State, the Lopers were in good shape and showed their depth. The

Grizzlies had no chance to find its rhythm against an energetic and sovereign UNK squad, falling in a quick three sets.

UNK took a little longer to find their stride, in the second game of the day. The Lopers were outmatched offensively by the University of Findlay and lost set one 22-25.

Set two was a complete turnaround from the first. UNK fought back hard, took control early and won 25-19.

The Lopers kept the momentum going in the third.

They took an early 10-3 lead, finished with confidence and grabbed the 25-19 victory for a 2-1 set lead.