College starts drug testing

By James O'Neil
Managing Editor

With the start of the football and volleyball seasons less than two weeks away, Natai
has adopted a drug testing policy for all of the athletes involved in the six intercolle-
giate sports.

"We have adopted a policy which will test all of our ath-
letes for the specific drugs of marijuana, cocaine, and
methamphetamine," said Mike Barlow, head athletic
trainer at Natai. "We can change the test for other sub-
estances as we go along. All athletes must have to do is complete our testing tab and sign up for testing.

"Basically, we are admin-
testing the test only to athletes right now because the athletic department is paying for the test. Each test will cost $20. This is a no tolerance level which means they will detect any trace of drugs in the subjects system. With this type of test, any amount of sub-
estance will turn out a posi-
tive test result," Barlow said.

Once each sport has established a roster, every athlete on the roster will receive a drug test. Then, once a month, a random test of athletes will be admin-
tered.

According to the written policy, the first time an athlete fails the test, he or she will lose seven days of participa-
tion immediately, parents will be notified, and the student must meet with the trainer, the athletic director, the head
coach and the vice president for student affairs. The ath-
lete must also participate in a counseling session.

"It may not be a big deal for an athlete who's sport is in the spring, but this is a three-
strike-and-you're-out pro-
gram and that would count as the first strike. If the student does not go through counsel-
ing, then it counts as the sec-
ond strike," said Barlow.

"If we come back and test
the athlete again in January and a positive result is
received, then the athlete would forfeit their scholarship
and no longer be eligible for the academic year and the
counseling would be more aggressively oriented toward
a short deactivation pro-
gram.

The drug testing policy does not start over at the beginning of each academic
year. So that if a freshman receives two positive tests his
or her first year, then return
with two strikes and a third
positive test would result in the loss of eligibility and
scholarship."

"If an athlete tested posi-
tive a fourth time, they will
never be allowed to partic-
pate in sports at Natai again.

So an athlete could get caught four times in one year and lose a year of eligibility
and scholarship," said Barlow.

Before his policy was pre-
sented and accepted by the
OSU and A&M Board of
Regents, Barlow met with the
head coaches from the six
intercollegiate sports to gain
their approval.

"Not only were all of our coaches in favor of adopting the
policy, but several local businesses were in favor of the
college creating such a program. Natai has always been a leader in all aspects of
athletics like this and we hope other two-year colleges will follow suit," Barlow said.

Red Cross sets visit
of annual Bloodmobile

By James O'Neil
Managing Editor

Give the gift of life and join the
American Red Cross in their
annual blood drive, Wednesday,
Sept. 3.

The Bloodmobile will set up
operations in the Bruce G.
Carter Student Union Balamo
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"with the Labor Day weekend
ending soon, we know there will be a shortage of blood once the holiday is
over," said Barbara Reeves.

"Students at the college
are always so willing to partic-
ipate and do their part to
ensure that we have an ade-
quately blood supply."

"In years past the students have come out and really done their part to help the
Red Cross. We need that effort to continue," Reeves said.

Not only will donors be give-
ging the gift of life, but they will be receiving a gift as well. The Red Cross will be pass-

looking out for free tee-shirts to those willing to give blood.

The doors of the Carter
Student Union Balamoo will
open at 11 a.m.

LOOK AT THIS

Jery Davises, chair of the agriculture division and head coach of the Livestock Judging Team, puts members of the college judging team through some swine judging exercises during the 78th annual Ottawa County Free Fair last week.
Labor Day observance is important

Written letters can be used to voice opinion

Editor requests responses from newspaper readers

name of Peter J. Maguire started the first labor day parade in New York City in September 1882.

In 1887 Oregon became the first state to adopt Labor Day as a state holiday. In 1894 President Grover Cleveland signed a bill that declared it a national holiday.

The weekend people ponder not on what the day really means, but on what television programs will be on during the day.

There is a positive side to this story. People who work 40 or more hours a week will be able to enjoy a day off to relax before hitting the grindstone once again on Monday.

There is indeed more behind the story of Labor Day than what meets the eye.

So, while you sit on the couch watching Days or a ball game, take the time to recognize the fact that hard working americans deserved that special day set aside for rest.

So have a safe weekend, and be ready to come back to this fine institution for only 14 more weeks.

Editorial

James O'Neal
Managing Editor

O'Neal requested that letters to the editor be written in a polite manner. He specifically mentioned that one letter was too harsh and told the writer to soften their language.

Editorial staff must be signed. The staff reserves the right to edit all copy to conform jargonatically.

Published every Friday, except on holidays, at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami, Oklahoma, 74354. The Norse Wind office is located in room 204 of Dyer Hall.

Third class postage paid at Miami, Oklahoma. Members of the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association.
Center provides tutoring

OWLS cater to needs of older students

By Henry Gann

Students interested in finding a place to study, socialize, or just "hang out" should check out the facilities offered by the OWLS organization located in the Bruce G. Carter Student Union building. Although OWLS stands for older, wiser, learning students, the center actually was created for the non-traditional student.

"We classify anyone over the age of 20, or anyone under the age of 20 but who has children, as a non-traditional student," said Dave Johnston, coordinator of the program.

But if there are study groups going on in the center we're not going to exclude anyone," Johnston said.

Open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, the OWLS Center holds weekly meetings noon on Friday. Membership dues are $1 per year.

"Last year we had a total membership of about 250, and we usually average between 50 and 60 at our weekly meetings," said Johnston.

The club's first meeting is today and nominations for members to the five-person Leadership Council will be accepted.

We don't have officers like a president or vice president. Instead, we have a five-member Leadership Council that organizes and coordinates our events," Johnston said.

The center offers adult students a chance to work on computers which feature word-perfect programs.

"A lot of times our adult students don't like to go to the Learning Resources Center because of the crowds. Here they can work on their projects and receive tutoring help if they need it," said Johnston.

"We also have laser printer that give the student a quality printing job."

Because of a change in the grant which funded the OWLS program, the tutoring offered by the center was redone.

"In the past we had tutors in math, science, and English. But because we changed the descriptions of the tutors we now have a college level skills specialist, a business area skills specialist, and a tutor that works with the GEO program," Johnston said.

"For the average student just coming into the center, the two skills specialists monitor tutoring groups. Each group will be led by students that have a 4.0 grade point average in a specialized academic area."

"Our priority with the study groups is to service our TANF students. TANF, which stands for Temporary Aid For Needy Families, replaced the Aid For Dependent Children."

The center observes quite hours from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

"We don't have quite hours 24 hours, so we want to encourage students to come in and see the microwave in our kitchen area and watch television or use the VCR," Johnston said.

Other services offered by the center include a jobs listing board, daycare referrals, and assistance in finding apartments.

Throughout the school year the center will sponsor potluck luncheons, a celebration day, an appreciation day, a Halloween "boo-buddies" and a Christmas gift drop, secret pals, and a homecoming breakfast and queen candidate.

"We want to involve everyone in coming over and visit with us," said Johnston.

Tuition increases started yesterday for state colleges and universities

By Henry Gann

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have approved tuition rates for the 1997-98 academic year beginning August 1997.

A "blended rate" tuition plan for the fall semester beginning August 28 was approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Under the plan, the portion of the semester before Aug. 28 will be charged at last year's rate and the portion on or after Aug. 28 will be at the 1997-98 rates. Approved by the State Regents in May, both rates will be blended into a per credit hour rate.

As a result, rates for courses beginning prior to Aug. 28 will be slightly lower than the rates approved by the State Regents in May.

The rates for courses beginning after Aug. 28 will be 17 cents per credit hour.

Courses offered during the spring 1998 and summer 1998 semesters will be at the rates approved in May.

The new rates are the result of a provision in the state constitution dealing with how acts by the legislature go into effect.

The provision specifies that legislative acts are effective 90 days after the adjournment of the legislative session in which the act was passed, unless the act specifies an emergency clause that makes the act effective immediately.

A "blended rate" tuition plan was approved new tuition limits.

For the 1997-98 academic year, the bill establishing the limits did not have an emergency clause.

As a result, the new limits will go into effect until Aug. 28, although many classes on the state's campuses begin prior to Aug. 28.

The State Regents, who set tuition rates within the limits determined by the legislature, established the blended rates.

Blended rates vary from college to college, even among the same types of colleges or universities, because these institutions start the semesters on different dates. However, the average per credit hour rate for lower division (freshman and sophomore) courses beginning prior to Aug. 28 at Oklahoma's two-year colleges will be $29.43 compared to $29.50 for courses beginning on or after Aug. 28.

At the regional universities, the lower division rate will average $45.83 prior to Aug. 28 and $46.00 or on after that date.

Comprehensive university per credit hour rates for freshman and sophomore courses will be $66.38 prior to Aug. 28 and $66.50 on or after that date.

Pawhuska University has one rate for all undergraduate courses, freshman through senior level. That fee will be $54.96 per credit hour prior to Aug. 28 and $55.00 on or after that date.

Other Oklahoma universities have similar blended rates for upper division (junior and senior) level courses and all universities have blended rates for graduate level offerings.

"Oklahoma students who were aware of the tuition rates approved in May will notice a slightly lower change than they had expected for classes beginning prior to Aug. 28."
LIFESTYLES

Instructors selected for prestigious honor in classroom work

By Henry Gann
Features Editor
Two faculty members of NEO were honored last week as they received the Teacher Excellence Award for their outstanding dedication to the college and community.

The award was given to Virginia L. Myrick, English and Honors instructor, and to Carol Smith, English and Science instructor, during a special recognition ceremony held in the library.

The two instructors were selected by a committee consisting of previous winners, administrators, and fellow faculty members.

TEACHING AWARDS

Photo by Tim Ingram
Selected as Outstanding Teachers for the 1996-97 school year were, from left, James Grover, computer science instructor, and Carol F. Smith, English instructor.

Arthritis sufferers benefit from class

By Henry Gann
Features Editor

Approximately one out of every seven Americans has some type of arthritis according to data from the Arthritis Foundation. Because this problem affects so many area residents, NEO is offering a special recreation program to help people who suffer from arthritis keep their flexibility and reduce stiffness.

NEO physical education instructor Carol Calcagno wanted to address the special needs of arthritis sufferers within our community. After attending several workshops conducted by the Arthritis Foundation, Eastern Oklahoma Chapter, Calcagno implemented a recreational water program for those who have arthritis.

As a member of the Arthritis Foundation Aquatic Program, NEO offers the recreational swim classes as a way for those with arthritis to be involved in a regular exercise program without causing pain by stressing their joints. All exercises are designed to be within the capabilities of most people with arthritis.

Calcagno, who is a certified American Aquatic Exercise instructor, said the courses are good for those with or without arthritis.

"Each person works at his or her own pace and ability," Calcagno said.

"The water and air are temperature controlled so as to aid in the comfort of the muscles and joints. You don't even have to know how to swim since all the exercises are done in shallow water," Calcagno said.

The classes meet two to three times a week each semester. Interested persons can call Calcagno at 540-6326 for times and cost for the classes.

Counseling center offers career testing options

By Tommy Flanagan
News Editor

Offering a helpful form of testing for students with undecided majors, the college Counseling Center has three tests to evaluate students' occupational needs.

Located on the first floor of Dyer Hall, the Counseling Center has a new test called COP's or (Career Occupational: Preference: Systems).

The test was designed to measure areas of values, interests, and abilities.

"Following the test, the results are submitted to a computer which matches the student's interests to a certain profession," said Cheryl Butler, coordinator of the Counseling Center.

"After the test is completed the student would then go to the Learning Resources Center to view the different states concerning their demand for jobs and pay for each profession," Butler said.

NEO acquired this form of testing in the spring of 1997 to give the students some kind of direction.

"This test is free of charge and takes about two hours. We offer the test from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The Counseling Center also offers two other computerized programs entitled Discover and Soggy ( plug). "These programs offer about the same thing as COP's. They are for students with a little free time on their hands," said Butler.

If anyone has any interest or questions about this program contact Cheryl Butler in Dyer Hall.
Four assistants join staff

Patterson realigns coaches

By Josh Masson

Patterson enters the second season as head coach of the Norsemen football program. Only Patterson has made so many coaching staff changes. Gone from a coaching staff which guided the Norsemen to a 5-4 overall record are running backs coach Joe Jefferson, offensive line coach Rick Simpson, receivers coach Tyson Phillips, defensive line coach Chris Wilson, and defensive secondary coach Scott Harmon.

Simpson, a five-year veteran of the NEO staff, and Harmon joined the coaching staff at Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College. Wilson is an assistant coach at Indiana State University while Jefferson has joined the staff at Langston University.

"When I took this job, I was not at all to hire four full-time assistant coaches," said Stuey. "I really need to hire assistants and this is the way it was in the past," said Stuey. But, with the cooperation of several university programs, we are able to create a situation where we'll have a head coach and three full-time assistants which was the way it was in the past," said Patterson. 

The duties of offensive line coach will be taken over by Chris Fancher. Last year's offensive line coach Jeff Fancher served as an assistant coach at MIdwest City High School. He had served two years as an assistant coach at claremore High School and one year at Claremore High School.

A graduate of Duncan High School, Fancher started three years as a center for the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane. After receiving a bachelor of science degree in 1991, he earned a masters of education degree from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Joining the Golden Norse staff as defensive coordinator is former NEO standout Charles "Chet" Thomas. Over the past six months, Thomas has served as defensive coordinator at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Prior to joining the Arkansas staff, Thomas had served as head football coach and athletic director at Atton High School from 1994 to 1997.

Before joining the staff at Atton, Thomas coached three years at Midtown High School and one year at ladox High School. Thomas also served as an assistant coach from 1984 to 1990 at Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

A graduate of Fairland High School, Thomas received an associate of arts degree from NED in 1975. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa, Thomas joined a master's degree in 1984 from TU.

While Fancher will teach courses in the business division, Thompson will serve as a physical education instructor. 

"Not only does this allow us an opportunity to have four full-time assistants, but it also allows our coaches in the classroom which helps acclimate our student body to our football program," said Patterson.

Joining the staff as coach of the receivers is Brad Black of Claremore-Ballard. Black will assist in career and passing records for the Claremore-Ballard football program.

Lady Norse work hard in scrimmage

By Josh Masson

A young lady Norse Volleyball team returns only three sophomores for the 1997 season. Independence (Kan.) Community College comes to town Thursday, Sept. 4 to open the 1997 season. Coming off a 14-8 season a year ago, Head coach Jan Stuey is looking for some leadership.

"We're looking for sophomores to provide some leadership on the court immediately," said Stuey. The only returning sophomore to play a key role is Michelle Horta (5-7, Broken Arrow).

Other sophomores include Latisha Pierce (5-8, Skiatook) and Amy Purkey (5-5, Sand Springs). With the lack of sophomores, the Lady Norse will have to count on freshman to assume starting positions.

Leading the charge in the middle is freshman middle hitter Randi McCracken (5-10, Wheaton, Mo.)

"Tandi is the hardest working player I have and if she is showing, she gives her all every single minute," Stuey said.

The setters for the Lady Norse are freshman Anna Horsley (5-6, Edmond North) and Emily Troubou (5-8, Winchester, Ind.).

Other freshman include Ruth Beal (5-6, Wyandotte), Leslie Berumen (5-10, Putnam City West), Angela Gentry (5-4, Jasper, Mo.), Kristina Smith (5-7, Picher City, Mo.), Abby Cox (5-5, Bilver, Mo.) and Lissa Eckst 5-5, Skiatook).

The Lady Norse kicked off with two losses against regional Kansas City teams.

"We're really learning a lot as a team in these tournaments and we are getting tougher both physically and mentally."

"Overall I am pleased with the way we are playing, were executing or playing well."

"Our defense is really playing well. They will keep us in a lot of matches this season," said Stuey.

September 4, Independence, Kan., 6-6, at Cowley County, Kan., Tournament. 8, at Redlands Inn meet, 12, at Coffeyville Inn meet, 15, Allen County, Kan., 25, Labette, Kan., 30, Longview, Mo.

October 1, at Redlands Inn 12, at Cowley County, Kan., 9, at Allen County, Kan., 11, at Independence, Kan., 13, Coffeyville, Kan., 17, at Longview, Mo., 27, at Kansas City, Mo.
GOLDEN NORSE OPEN SEASON AT HOME

By John Finnell

After an upswing loss of missed opportunities in last year's battle with Kemper Military College, the Golden Norse football squad has a chance to redeem themselves in the season opener. Thursday, 7 p.m., at Robertson Field.

Before last season's upset with Kemper, the Golden Norsemen had dominated the Yellowjackets in the 1992 and 1993 seasons. In 1992 the Golden Norsemen received touchdowns from nine different players defeating them 69-0.

Traveling to Boonville, Mo. in 1993 the Golden Norsemen received 70% touchdowns each from Larry Hawkins and Rodney Mitchell en route to a 72-6 win of the Yellowjackets.

Ranked 20th in pre-season polls, the Norsemen hope to improve on a 5-4 record from last year.

Returning to engineer the NEO offense is veteran quarterback Andy Coller (5-10, 155, Midwest City). Last season Coller completed 107 passes for 1,428 yards with nine touchdowns.

Expected to join Coller in the backfield at tackle will be either sophomores Deshawn English (6-1, 195, Pensacola, Fl) or Cody Sorensen (5-10, 195, Sand Springs), or freshman Kevin Prosser (5-11, 182, Aurora, Co).

Senior Chris Gibson (6-0, 235, Wind) is expected return to anchor the fullback position.

Probable wide receivers are Allen Carroll (5-10, 155, Tulsa); Paul Jones (6-3, 185, Wewoka); or Tejan Lockett (6-2, 196, Ponca City).

Looking to contribute at the tight end will be Bryan Davis (6-4, 225, Moore). Starting tackles will be Josh Kay (6-3, 274, Wynewood); Kendall Zebry (6-3, 262, Bethany); at guard will be Bill Dagey (6-4, 310, Midland), and John Vandell (6-2, 264, Tulsa), and at center will be Ben Bowler (6-5, 260, Jenks).

Starting at defensive ends will be Edrick Brooks (6-4, 247, Houston, Texas), Jasse Thomas (6-3, 212, Houston, Texas), or Matt Hanson (6-2, 212, Tuttle),

Starting at defensive tackle will be Reese Travis (6-2, 267, Midwest City), Roman Richardson (6-4, 292, Broken Arrow), or Richard McGeeley (6-1, 258, Claremore).

Adding depth to the linebacking corps will be J.C. Thomas (6-1, 230, Stillwell), Donavan Lawness (6-0, 215, Midwest City), and Jeremy Anderson (6-3, 203, Catoosa).

Helping out in the secondary at corner will be Roshad Browning (6-0, 182, Oklahoma City) and Jesse Nelson (5-10, 176, Muskogee),

Norsemen look sharp during scrimmage

By John Finnell

Scrum Eater

Things went pretty much as planned for head coach Dale Patterson as the Golden Norsemen hosted the Independence Pirates in a pre-season football scrimmage last Saturday night at Robertson Field.

"The thing that stands out in my mind was that this was a typical first scrimmage," said Patterson.

"I thought we looked good at times and inconsistent at others. "Inconsistencies lined up in an offense that we hadn't seen and they hurt us a few times, but we adjusted and handled them pretty well as the scrimmage went on," Patterson said.

"NEO scored three touchdowns during the hour-and-a-half scrimmage.

Freshman quarterback Shermad Poselela connected with veteran wide receiver Allen Carroll on a 39-yard pass for the first touchdown. Sophomore cornerback Jesse Nelson returned an interception 38 yards for a 25-yard touchdown on the second series by Independence.

The final Golden Norse touchdown came on a 93-yard run by freashman tailback Kevin Prosser late in the scrimmage.

"I didn't see a lot of jumping off sides on defense, or penalties on offense, or fumbles, or missed snaps. "Those things were pretty encouraging Overall I was impressed with this test," said Patterson.

"It was kind of hard to get a true evaluation because we're not sure how good our offense was. We did not penetrate very deep into our end of the field and they seemed to be a little tentative on defense."

The Golden Norse will scrimmage Haskell College of Lawrence, Kan., at 6 o'clock tonight at Robertson Field.

"We're not sure what kind of test we'll get from Haskell, but it will be a different situation because we'll play two 15-minute halves, just like in a real game," Patterson said.

"We also use officials and the coaches will be on the sidelines. The scoreboard clock will be in use. So this should be a better indication for us as to where we are at this point."

Kemper Military College comes to Miami, Thursday, after opening their regular season Aug. 30, against Butler County, Kan.

"Our kids are looking forward to starting the season. They are emotionally ready and are working hard to get physically ready. We just need to strap on the pads and get down to business," said Patterson.
The Norsewind – the NEO A&M College Newspaper

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