

Common practice in state schools

Free tickets given to legislators

By T. C. GALLUCCI
and
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What does the University of Texas have that we don't have? Complimentary tickets worth \$50,143. What does Texas Tech have that we don't have? Complimentary tickets worth approximately \$37,800.

What does the University of Houston have that we don't have? They don't want to say.

Major universities across the country have made it a practice for years to promote good public relations. Giving away free tickets is one way to do it. Several Southwest Conference schools have been giving away thousands of dollars every sea-

son in free football tickets, in the form of both season and individual game passes.

Complimentary tickets to A&M football games were distributed up until two years ago. At that time the state legislature passed an ethics bill saying that gifts were not to be made to legislators, said System President Jack K. Williams.

"We interpreted free tickets as not money, but as having money value, so we discontinued it."

Southwest Conference regulations specifically permit the schools to provide football players with two tickets each. The colleges are given the options as to which players receive the tickets. Baylor, TCU and SMU provide tickets for every member of the team, while UH opted to give tickets only to those players who suit up.

A&M also provides tickets only to those players who suit up. Figuring six home games each season, this is \$4,200 a year worth of tickets.

A&M Assistant Athletic Director Wally Groff said approximately 500 tickets a game were being distributed in the past. With three to five home games a year, it came to an average of \$17,500 worth of complimentary tickets.

"It took a lot of courage for Dr. Williams to make the decision to discontinue that policy," said Groff.

"Our policy is not to give away complimentary tickets," said Roger Miller, assistant to the president.

"We do, however, try to make available tickets for purchase, if possible."

Although some seemed to be discontent the first year, said Miller, now they seem to understand.

Texas Tech does not distribute tickets to legislators, said John Conley, assistant athletic director at Tech. During the 1975 football season, however, approximately 900 \$7 tickets were given away at each of six home games. These tickets, said Conley, were divided between

former lettermen, the news media, the Athletic Council, the athletic staff and administrative officials.

Recently, however, in a copyrighted story to The Daily Texan, the Tech official was quoted as saying, "Texas Tech has never given free tickets to anyone. I think that's illegal. I think they ruled that out last year."

According to the University of Arkansas Athletic Business Office, 1,666 \$7 tickets were distributed for the school's homecoming football game. These tickets went to the news media, college deans, the Board of Trustees, athletic staff, former lettermen, the governor and state officials.

Although the number of tickets given for the homecoming game is higher, figures for other home games are comparable, said the Arkansas ticket manager.

Among those season and game complimentary tickets from The University of Texas were seven Texas Supreme Court judges, Senator Charles Schnabel, six members of the Legislative Budget Board, Attorney General John Hill, three members of the State Auditor's Office, State Treasurer Jesse James and three former governors.

Also receiving tickets were U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, U.S. District Judge Jack Roberts and U.S. Rep. J.J. Pickle.

Tickets to Texas home football games were given to 30 senators and 140 representatives. Two recipients of season tickets were Rep. Bill Prenzler (Bryan) and Sen. William T. Moore (Bryan). Prenzler graduated from A&M in 1953, Moore in 1950.

Except to say that A&M has, and always will receive their 35 complimentary tickets, The University of Houston refused to comment on their policy of distribution.

"We are very busy right now. We don't know what our policy is yet. We are in the process of reorganizing our policies and staff. We have a great deal to do here. We have the

same rules and regulations as every other school. I don't want to be giving out any information of this kind. We've just joined the Southwest Conference, you know," said Ned Thompson, UH athletic business manager.

Cindy Nelson gives U.S. another bronze

Associated Press

INNSBRUCK — Urban Hettich of West Germany won the silver medal and Konrad Winkler of East Germany finally took the bronze in the slalom after some confusion in the third-place standing.

Winkler originally had been awarded the bronze, but then Finland's Raimo Miettinen was moved to third. Officials later reversed themselves and gave the bronze back to Winkler.

The Nordic combines a 70-meter jump — which Wehling won today — and a 15-kilometer 9.3-kilometer race — which Hettich won in 48:01.55.

Jim Galanes of Brattleboro, Vt., was the top U.S. finisher in the slalom field, placing 17th. Mike Weeks of Bend, Ore., was 28th and Walter Malmquist of Post Mills, Vt., was 29th.

On Sunday, Cindy Nelson of Lutsford, Minn., gave the United States its second bronze with her surprising win in the women's downhill.

"I'm happy with the bronze medal," said the 20-year-old Lutsford native after finishing behind Rost Mittermaier of West Germany, and Austria's Brigitte Totschnig. "But I want to get a silver or a gold before I leave Innsbruck."

Miss Nelson could win medals in the slalom on Wednesday and the giant slalom Friday, she could come only the second American to win three medals. Sheila Young, the national speed skater from Detroit, took her third medal Saturday in the 1,000 meters.

The surprising performance by the young Philip Mahre and the young Philip Mahre went a long way in boosting the United States to its best total medal tally since the 1932 Winter Olymp-

pics in Lake Placid, N.Y. That year, the Americans won six gold medals, finishing with 12 — double their count so far in these Games.

The Russians won two more golds on Sunday as double gold medal winner Tatiana Averina won the 3,000-meter speed skating race and Nikolai Sajukov won the 15-kilometer cross-country event.


The only chance for the Americans to increase their medal count today came this evening when Colleen O'Connor and Jim Millns, both of Colorado Springs, Colo., pair in the finals of the ice dancing competition.

They enter the freestyle wudup of the event in third place. The freestyle is considered the best portion of their program, and they appeared sure of at least the bronze with a shot at the silver.

The Russian pair of Ludmila Pakhomova and Aleksandr Gorshkov has an apparent hold on the gold medal, but the second-place Soviet pair, Irina Moiseeva and Andrey Minenkov, are vulnerable.

Miss Mittermaier's winning time in the downhill was 1:46.16. Miss Totschnig was second in 1:46.68 and Miss Nelson clocked 1:47.50. Susie Patterson of Sun Valley, Idaho, finished 14th and Leslie Smith of Killington, Vt., was 26th in a field of 39.

The U.S. ice hockey team, appeared destined to a tough fight with Finland for the bronze medal, absorbed its second loss in two days Sunday, falling 5-0 to the powerful Czechs. They lost 6-2 to the favored Russians on Saturday. However, the American skaters looked surprisingly strong, despite periodic lapses, in both contests and battled the Czechs, expected to win the silver, to a near standstill in the first two periods, after which they trailed 2-0.



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