

OSB ATHLETIC DIRECTOR TO COORDINATE PARALYMPIC AND OLYMPIC EVENTS

From Dept. of Rehabilitation Services

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Stephen Kearney, athletic director for the Oklahoma School for the Blind (OSB) in Muskogee, has been selected by the International Paralympic Committee to coordinate the sport of goalball for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympic Games.

The Paralympic Games are the country's second largest sporting event, bringing together over 4,000 athletes with disabilities from all over the world. The games have been held every Olympic year since 1960. This year, the city of Atlanta will host both the Paralympic Games as well as the 1996 Summer Olympics. The Paralympic Games are scheduled for August 15-25.

Kearney will work at both events; as competition manager for Paralympic's goalball and as an administrative staff assistant for the Olympiad's badminton games.

Goalball is a unique sport with a storied history. It was developed by two European men shortly after World War II as a way of encouraging recreational participation for the voluminous numbers of war veterans who were blind or severely visually impaired.

Goalball is played by two teams of three players each who wear eyeshades. It is played on a rectangular court divided in half by a center line. The object is to score points by rolling the ball past the players into a goal at the back of each court side. The ball itself is made of hard-textured rubber about the size of a basketball. Bells within the ball serve as auditory signals as the players roll and block the ball. With only eight seconds to put the ball into play, goalball is an intense game of offensive and defensive schemes and strategy.

"The game (of goalball) has progressed every year since then. Right now, it's being played in over 60 countries around the world. We started off with two pages of rules, and now we have 32 pages. It's become more structured and competitive, with different countries and teams developing their own coaching styles, personalities and strategies," Kearney said.

Kearney has served as an athletic director, teacher, wrestling coach and physical education instructor at OSB since 1972. The school, also known as Parkview School was founded in 1897 at Fort Gibson as a private school for children who were blind. Since then, the school has provided individualized education programs for thousands of stu-

dents with visual disabilities. OSB is a division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, a state agency serving people with disabilities.

Over his long career, Kearney has coached goalball and other sports for U.S. teams in international competitions throughout the world, including events in Germany, Spain, Australia, the Netherlands and South Korea.

"The U.S. team which will enter the stadium at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta will be 500 strong. We'll have 106 athletes in the track alone. You cannot imagine how many people with disabilities there are in this world. Athletic competition gives them and everyone the chance to participate and increase their personal opportunities."

OU-TEXAS GOVERNOR'S CUP NOW ON DISPLAY IN GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

From the Governor's Office

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma-Texas Governor's Cup, symbolic of the winner of the annual OU-Texas football game and presented to the winning governor, is now on display in Governor Keating's office it was announced Tuesday. The trophy has been in Texas Governor George Bush's office since October due to the fact that the Sooners and Longhorns tied 24-24 in 1995.

The trophy, over four feet tall with a large silver cup adorning the top, is engraved with the score of each football game played between the two rival universities since 1973. That year former Governor David Hall and former Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe decided that an annual symbol of the Red River rivalry was needed and hence the idea for the Governor's Cup came about.

Governor Keating said, "Unfortunately the Governor's Cup has been residing in Austin, Texas for five and one half of the last seven years, but I am happy to have it back in Oklahoma City until at least October when OU and UT meet again. I know Coach Blake and the Sooners would like to make the trophy a permanent fixture in the Oklahoma Governor's office. I know I would like that."

The Governor's Cup is on display in the foyer of the Governor's office at the State Capitol.

CLINTON DECLARES MAY LABOR HISTORY MONTH

From The White House

■(WASHINGTON) In the early 1900s, millions of Americans left their farms to begin new lives as factory workers. Sadly, many of these citizens found neither secure employment nor higher wages at their new jobs, and the industrial economy brought them exploitation, continued poverty, and the risk of injury and death. No student of American history can forget the images of filthy children emerging from mills and mines, the stories of terrible fires and explosions, or the grim legacy of the slums that grew up in factory towns.

Although child labor, sweatshops, and workplace disasters are largely horrors of the past, efforts to eliminate them began to succeed only after workers organized and spoke with a united, independent voice. The American labor movement helped the first generation of industrial employees to express their aspirations and insecurities, empowering them with the necessary tools to define the terms and conditions of their employment and to expand the role of labor in the larger society.

As we approach the 21st century, our Nation's economy is undergoing a transformation as momentous as the change that spurred the exodus from farms to factories 100 years ago. And in facing the challenges posed by global competition and rapid technological advances, the workers of the Information Age need the same effective leadership that allowed their forbears to succeed. Each new generation of workers must embrace the activism that has characterized labor's rich history, and all Americans should recognize the role that labor has played in the continuing progress of our democracy.

Now, therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 1996, as Labor History Month. I call upon Government officials, educators, the media, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with ceremonies, activities, and programs that encourage reflection on the labor movement's heritage and its many contributions to the creation and maintenance of a just America.

*"Comedy is tragedy — plus time."
Carol Burnett*