

Bo Pelini Just Close Enough To Nebraska To Get A Good Heckling

BY ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

VERMILLION — With a black-and-white photocopied picture of Bo Pelini's snarling mug slapped on the side, Dave Zimbeck's motor home served as the unofficial, ahem, welcome wagon for the deposed Nebraska football coach at the DakotaDome.

Pelini brought his new team, the Youngstown State Penguins, to this town seven miles north of the Nebraska state line to play the South Dakota Coyotes on Saturday. Zimbeck's tailgate party was up and running hours before kickoff, and the return of Pelini was the theme.

Under that uncomplimentary picture of Pelini was a list of "Bo Knows" categories that Zimbeck came up with on Friday night: "Anger management, how to slam a revolving door, the 'N' doesn't stand for knowledge (or nice)."

This area lies deep within the Cornhuskers' sphere of influence, and fans like Zimbeck were lying in wait. They haven't forgotten Pelini's signature sideline meltdowns, his dour demeanor and the leaked audio recordings of



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D
Youngstown State head coach Bo Pelini, left, yells at an official during a stoppage in play during the Penguins' Missouri Valley Football Conference matchup at South Dakota on Saturday in Vermillion.

him ripping the fans and famously using vulgarities to describe the athletic director in his final meeting with players.

The Youngstown bus pulled up two hours before kickoff, and Pelini stepped off and never looked up as

he descended a ramp into the dome. As Pelini disappeared, a college-aged man who might have consumed an adult beverage or three stood at the top of the ramp and yelled unpleasantly at him. "Just missed him," the man said to a friend, turning

around to go back to tailgating. "I was hoping to have a word with him."

Pelini told reporters in Youngstown this week that he saw no significance in his coaching a game so close to Nebraska, where he never won fewer than nine games in his seven years but left as a polarizing figure nonetheless.

Pelini typically doesn't publicly discuss his experience with the Huskers. A Youngstown athletic department spokesman said during the week that Pelini would do no interviews about topics outside the game against the Coyotes.

Asked after his team's 31-3 victory if he noticed the reception from the sign-toting fans, Pelini said: "No, I could care less."

With the Youngstown bench flanked by the student section, Pelini was right at the center of the part of the stadium that houses the "Coyote Crazy's." They joined right in the heckling. Among their signs: Bo as "Dr. Evil," Bo alongside "Harry Potter" villain Lord Voldemort, topless Bo holding a cat, Bo getting pecked by penguins, Bo in a bad Christmas sweater. Crazy's director Mac-

kenzie Huber, a junior from Vermillion, said her 500-member group began planning a month ago for Pelini's appearance. Fans and alumni contributed \$400 for the professionally printed signs, many of which played off a meme originating with a picture of him holding a cat on a parody Twitter account.

Before the game, Huber yelled: "Bo, did you bring your cat?" Pelini turned and gave her a quick look. She was happy.

"Our goal is to get in the head of the other team. So this is our kind of stuff," Huber said. "I wouldn't call myself a 'Bo-liever,' but I'm not against him, either. He's perfect for heckling. That's why we love him."

Then there was Joni Freidel of Vermillion and her poster of Pelini with devil's horns superimposed on his head. The poster was displayed on one of the homecoming parade floats a few hours before kickoff. As she walked into the dome, she said it was inspired by Batman and the Penguin — "good vs. evil." On the flip side was the "good" in the form of a smiling USD coach Joe Glenn.

Zimbeck, the fan who

brought the motor home, is an attorney from Sioux Falls has been a South Dakota season ticket holder for about 25 years and calls himself a casual observer of Nebraska football.

"I knew he was coming into an environment in Vermillion where there are a lot of Cornhusker fans. The fan base didn't appreciate Bo, so I knew this was going to be a hostile environment all the way around," Zimbeck said.

A year ago this weekend, Pelini was getting the Cornhuskers off to a 5-0 start in their Big Ten opener against Illinois in front of 91,000 fans in Lincoln. Saturday, there were about 10,000 in the stands as he coached a game in the Missouri Valley Conference, the toughest in the Football Championship Subdivision but a steep drop from where he once was.

His separation agreement with Nebraska requires the school to pay him \$128,009 a month through February 2019. Youngstown pays him an annual base salary of \$213,894.

Zimbeck figured Pelini could take some ribbing.

"His standard of living hasn't suffered," Zimbeck said.

Rapid City Forms Civic Center Comm.

RAPID CITY (AP) — Rapid City's mayor has assembled a 17-member advisory committee to study the future of the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center after voters rejected a \$180 million proposal to expand and upgrade the facility.

The Rapid City Journal reports Mayor Steve Allender formed the committee to figure out what to do next with the aging facility, which needs \$73 million in upgrades to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards and other non-compliance issues.

The committee has met twice already.

Residents in March voted against the project, which would have replaced the facility's 9,400-seat arena with one that could seat up to 19,000 people.

Expansion supporters considered it a wiser investment than upgrading the existing facility, while opponents questioned the cost of what would have been the costliest project in city history.

Omaha Police Investigate Two Deaths

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Police are investigating the deaths of two people after their bodies were found in different northeast Omaha homes.

Police said an adult woman was found Friday inside a home at 2210 N. 39th St. after an anonymous tip came in about the body.

Few details were released about the woman or her identity.

On Saturday, a 54-year-old man was found in the basement of a home at 5309 North 35th Street. That man was identified as Roy Jennings.

Police have not said how the victims died, and no arrests had been made as of Sunday morning.

Neb. Project Could Hamper Motorists

GERING, Neb. (AP) — A pavement project could hamper travelers on a stretch of Nebraska Highway 71 in the Panhandle later this month.

The Nebraska Roads Department says concrete will be lifted and stabilized in the Gering area. The work is scheduled to begin the week of Oct. 12 and be finished by late October.

Traffic will be maintained, but there will be lane closures and reduced speeds.

S.F., USGS Surveying Groundwater

SIoux FALLS (AP) — The City of Sioux Falls and the United States Geological Survey will begin conducting a state-of-the-art groundwater survey this week.

The city has contracted with CGG Canada Services to be flying a helicopter over the Big Sioux Aquifer to collect, record and map its geophysical measurements.

Officials say the study will determine groundwater, soil, and sand characteristics to help in the future planning of water access points.

South Dakota Documentary Wins Emmy

HILL CITY (AP) — A documentary about the battle over a dino discovered in the Black Hills over two decades ago has won an Emmy.

"Dinosaur 13" earned the Emmy for Outstanding Science and Technology Programming Monday at the 36th Annual News and Documentary Emmy Awards. The film premiered on CNN in December.

The documentary details the discovery of "Sue," a Tyrannosaurus rex that was more than 90 percent complete when it was discovered in 1990 near Faith. Federal agents seized the fossil in 1992, alleging paleontologist Pete Larson and his Black Hills Institute of Geological Research took it from federal trust land.

Larson was later charged on four unrelated counts and sentenced to two years in federal prison.

The documentary spurred South Dakota lawmakers to pass a resolution pushing for a presidential pardon.

Huron Man Killed In Motorcycle Crash

HURON (AP) — A 44-year-old Huron man has been killed in a motorcycle crash with a semi-truck.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Jimmy Delozier Jr. was driving his motorcycle west on U.S. Highway 14 about 5:30 p.m. Friday when he crossed the lane divider into the left lane and collided with a semi-truck's trailer heading east. Delozier died at the scene.

The truck driver, 49-year-old James Johnson, of Clark, was not hurt.

The crash closed both westbound lanes for a short time as traffic was diverted around the crash scene.

The Highway Patrol continues to investigate.



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