Kyle Peterson will be looking for curve balls at Nov. 20 ‘Face on Barroom Floor’

Are you a College World Series fan? Got your eyes and ears glued to sports channels? Then you won’t want to miss the roasting and toasting of ESPN’s Kyle Peterson as the next “Face on the Barroom Floor” on Friday, Nov. 20, at the Omaha Press Club.

Peterson provides expert analysis for ESPN on regular season and postseason college baseball game telecasts, including the College World Series. The soon-to-be honoree is also the lead studio analyst during the “Bases Loaded” coverage of the NCAA Baseball Regionals and is the lead voice on the ESPNU “Thursday Night SEC Baseball Game of the Week.”

The Omaha native will find the bases loaded when he faces roasters like Ben Fogarty, a high school teammate and owner of Dundee Financial Services, Brian Fahey, president, Missouri River Title Company, and Trent Demulling, Chief Financial Officer, Kiewit. Emcee will be Jim Fogarty, co-owner of Legacy Preservation book publishers.

Peterson joined ESPN in 2003 after pitching for the major league Milwaukee Brewers. He was the Brewers’ first-round draft pick (13th overall selection) in the 1997 amateur draft. Peterson made his major league debut July 19, 1999, becoming the third player from the 1997 draft and first-ever Futures Game participant to play in the big leagues.

Peterson added to his role in 2004, serving as a field reporter and analyst on the network’s College World Series, Major League Baseball and Little League World Series game telecasts. He has appeared on the “College Baseball Selection Show” since 2004.

Peterson was named National Freshman of the Year in 1995 while playing collegiate baseball at Stanford University. He also earned recognition as the Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year in 1995 and 1997, leading the Cardinal to the College World Series both seasons.

Peterson graduated with a bachelor of arts in communications from Stanford University in 2002. In addition to his work for ESPN, he also serves as president/CEO of Colliers International/Nebraska, a commercial real estate company.

The Omaha Press Club Education Series Examines
BUSINESS IN OMAHA: A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

OK, so Omaha is losing its ConAgra headquarters. We may be down a little in the short term, but we’re not out. For a look at what we’ve got and what the future holds, join David Brown, the president and CEO of the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, as he speaks at the Nov. 19 Noon Education Forum. Under Brown’s leadership, the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership has successfully landed 535 projects representing over 27,000 jobs and more than $5.2 billion in capital investment since 2004.

Where do we go from here? Get Brown’s take on the future.

Thurs., Nov. 19, $15, Lunch 11:30 a.m. Forum at noon. RSVP 402-345-8008.

Creighton basketball will be topic for Nov. 17 Shatel Lunch

After a disappointing season last year, hopes are high that the Creighton Bluejays men’s basketball team will once again be a force in the world of college hoops. You can get the inside scoop by attending the Shatel Lunch Series on Nov. 17 when veteran Omaha World-Herald sportswriter Steve Pivovar will talk Bluejay basketball.

“Steve is a real pro,” said Tom Shatel, sports columnist for the World-Herald and host of the lunch series. “He knows the Bluejays like nobody else in town. It will be a great opportunity to get his unique perspective on what the season holds in store.”

During his 44-year career at the World-Herald, Pivovar has covered everything from high schools to Nebraska football. Since 2002, he has covered all sports for
Sellout crowd turns out for former governor, first lady

By Tom O’Connor
OPC Committee Co-Chair

They came from all over the state to pay homage to Nebraska’s longest-reigning first couple – Dave Heineman and Sally Ganem.

There were politicians galore, including two U.S. senators, the current governor, a couple of regents and a number of state senators. A sellout crowd of 250 packed the Omaha Press Club to watch as the 39th governor of Nebraska and his South Omaha bride of more than 40 years were enshrined as the 146th Face on the Barroom Floor.

It wasn’t easy, as Heineman and Ganem had to navigate through seven roasters and emerge Hal Daub before they could receive their place on the floor. Most of the roasters took aim at the former governor with one recurring theme — this was a man who knows how to pinch a penny.

It started with Sen. Deb Fischer, who recounted how the governor treated her to lunch once – “We drove through McDonald’s, and he used a gift card.”

Rex Fisher, director of corporate relations for HDR, Inc. and a frequent golf partner of Heineman, noting the governor’s “legendary cheapness and tight-waddedness,” said Heineman has worn the same pair of khaki Dockers for 10 years, never wears shorts and is using the same golf clubs he got as a graduation present in 1970 from the U.S. Military Academy.

“It’s sad,” Fisher said. “He thinks he’s still governor and people care.”

Carlos Castillo, former advisor to the governor, said, “He is very, very cheap, and I say that with all the affection in the world.”

Dr. Joann Schaefer, former chief medical officer for Nebraska, chided Heineman for his attention to every little detail, even down to the typeface she used on PowerPoint presentations.

KFAB “Good Morning Show” host Jim Rose brought down the house with his spot-on voice imitation of Governor Dave. Noting Heineman’s small-town Nebraska roots, Rose said, “He was born in a sink with a silver spoon in his mouth. Rose added, “Dave is so short. His boxers have cuffs on them.”

The man Heineman succeeded as governor, Mike Johanns, said that it became apparent Heineman had designs on becoming governor when he entered his office and found Heineman sitting in his chair.

Dr. Ken Bird, CEO of Avenue Scholars, hailed out a poster of Ganem as she rode in a convertible as the 1970 UNO homecoming queen. He noted that the Indian garb she was wearing was “a little inappropriate.” Bird said Heineman was “the self-proclaimed education governor…even though he never did a damn thing for funding the Learning Community.”

When the roasters were finished, even Ganem had her own barb for her husband. Noting that the state quarter came out during Heineman’s governorship, she said, “You could say we had a two-bit governor.”

She did, however, salute the governor for his incredible work ethic. “Dave never did take a vacation day,” she said. “He didn’t even go to the Great Wall when he was in China.”

Instead of slinging retorts back, Heineman opted to take the high road. He called it “an incredible honor to be governor of the best state in the country. I got to see Nebraska at its best every day.”

It was evident the governor who served for a decade (2005-2015) was held in high esteem by all in attendance. Schaefer summed it up well, as she said, “He was a tremendous boss, leader and governor.”

OPC Foundation’s annual fund drive kicks off

Every spring my wife, Trudy, and I look forward to attending the Omaha Press Club Foundation (OPC) Scholarship Dinner. Held at the Press Club, the event recognizes and honors our student scholarship awardees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Creighton University.

It’s gratifying to see the students walk to the podium and to hear them speak about what our scholarship means to them. They are so appreciative of the financial assistance, but even more, very honored to be recognized by the OPCF. To them, the scholarship is a confirmation of their skills and hard work in their studies, and toward their future.

The OPCF Annual Drive kicks off this month, and I ask that you consider helping fund these scholarships with your donation. You will be receiving a letter from us telling you about our scholarship program and requesting your support. Your donation will help us continue our longstanding tradition of supporting the education of outstanding journalism and communications students in our community.

Thanks for your consideration. Your gift will help us recognize the best of the best.
Opening of Baxter Arena is perfect timing for UNO hockey team

Mike Kemp speaks at Shatel lunch

By Tom O’Connor
OPC Committee Co-Chair

ou couldn’t write a better script. The University of Nebraska at Omaha – the No. 1-ranked college hockey team in the country for the first time in school history after a sizzling 4-0 start on the road – opens its new arena before a packed house.

“It’s all karma,” said Tom Shatel, sports columnist for the Omaha World-Herald and host of the Shatel Lunch Series. “It’s supposed to happen.”

Mike Kemp, UNO’s associate athletic director and a name synonymous with UNO hockey since 1996, entertained the crowd at the Oct. 20 lunch, three days before the Mavericks’ home opener.

Kemp called the Mavericks’ new home – Baxter Arena – an “amalgamation” of several hockey facilities that were visited around the country while UNO’s arena was in the design stages. Of all the arenas they saw, Kemp said, Baxter Arena is most patterned after Matthews Arena, “a majestic old barn” built in 1905 and the home rink for Northeastern University in Boston.

“It (Baxter Arena) has a very vertical feel,” Kemp said. “Everybody is right on top of the rink.”

The arena is a multipurpose facility, he said, noting that it hosted the Aksarben Coronation and will be home for UNO basketball and volleyball games.

“Arenas need to be heard – that’s what gives them soul,” Shatel said. “This one has it really figured out.” One of the fan-friendly amenities, Shatel said, is that “there is a beer stand about every five feet.”

Kemp said the new arena even includes some features that will provide a slight “home ice advantage” to the Mavs, such as the home team bench being closer to the penalty box than the visiting team bench.

He said having the hockey arena on campus is a “huge step forward” for UNO. It will help the Mavs be even more competitive in the difficult National Collegiate Hockey Conference.

Kemp said the NCHC is the “best conference in college hockey,” with six of the eight conference teams making the NCAA playoffs in 2014 and seven teams ranked in the top 20 this year.

Even though the Mavs are “a very young team,” Kemp said, “It’s going to be an incredible season…it could be one for the ages.”

Shatel said having hockey return to the Aksarben area (former home of the Omaha Knights hockey team) brings back fond memories for Omaha hockey historians.

“This is going to be magical,” he said.

New Baxter Arena opens doors to OPC Forum: Here’s what you missed if you did not attend the October Noon Forum.

By Don Summerside
OPC Copy Editor

he OPC Noon Education Forum hit the road in October for a tour of UNO’s “Palace on the Papio.”

Actually, “Ice Palace” might be the more precise description of the new Baxter Arena, where ice hockey will be the crown jewel of the $82-million multi-use building near 67th and Center streets (and the Little Papio Creek).

The OPC Forum began with lunch in the arena’s club lounge and presentations by Mike Cera, Baxter Arena general manager and associate athletic director, and Josh White, senior associate athletic director. White chronicled the evolution and growth of UNO athletics as it has transitioned into Division I competition.

The opening of the 7,898-seat Baxter Arena caps that transition, providing a campus site for a variety of university and community events. In addition to hockey, Baxter will be home to UNO volleyball and men’s and women’s basketball – a total of about 60 varsity sports contests during the school year. The arena also will host concerts, metropolitan-area commencements and other activities for an expected total of about 120 major events in a year.

And then there is the community ice sheet, one of the highlights of the tour conducted by Cera. The community arena provides practice ice for the Mavericks and much more. It will be open seven days a week from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., with at least a third of the hours reserved for community use. The ice will be available for open skating, youth and club hockey, figure skating groups, curling and campus recreation.

As for the main arena, “Black is the New Red” and the motto is “Wear Black. Get Loud.” From the seats to the curtains and backdrops, the dominant Baxter color is black, with hints of red and gray. The two-bowl design, with an open concourse between the two levels, puts spectators close to the action.
The Ron Sailors 14th Annual
Gourmet Extravaganza
Friday, Nov. 6, 2015 • 6 p.m.-10 p.m.
$50 RSVP 402-345-8008
Presented by the Omaha Press Club, Villamonte’s Cuisine and the Institute for the Culinary Arts at MCC.
Proceeds are donated to the Ron Sailors Jr. Culinary Scholarship Fund.
Buffets and no-host bar. Live music and silent auction.

Table I
Salmon Chaud Froid
Fruit Display • Continental Cheese Display
Antipasto • Stuffed Roasted Pork Loin with Sauces

Table II
Four Specialty Hot Hors d’Oeuvres

Table III
Pasta Station or Chef’s Choice

Table IV
Thunderbird Salad Sauté
With Chicken or Shrimp, Seasoned with Garlic, Kosher Salt, Black Pepper

Table V
Petit fours with Plate Painting Sauces Raspberry, Strawberry, Cream Anglaise
Chocolate Strawberries, Palmiers, Truffle, Napoleons

Table VI
Polenta with house longaniza sausage, mushroom crème and amaranth
Butternut potage crème fraîche and honey poached cranberries
White chocolate and cherry bread pudding with crème angaise

The Omaha Press Club
2015 PAST PRESIDENTS’ DINNER
Thursday, Nov. 12, 2015
5:30 p.m. Cocktails • 6 p.m. Dinner • $25

Soup
Lobster Bisque

Salad
OPC Thunderbird Salad with Parmesan Crisp

Sorbet
Raspberry Rosé

Entrée
Broiled Sirloin with Joel Gott Bordelaise
Three Cheese Twice Baked

Dessert
Hazelnut Chocolate Soufflé

RSVP 402-345-8008

Santa Brunch
Sunday, Dec. 13
Two Seatings: 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Price: Adults $20 Children $10
A new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Salvation Army would be welcome.
For reservations, call 402-345-8008

BUFFET
Steamship Round of Beef
Baked Ham with Maple Whiskey Glaze
Chicken Crepes Supreme
Baked Tilapia Citron
Garlic Whipped Potatoes & Gravy
Branded Carrots
Build-Your-Own Omelet a la Carte
Multi-Topping Belgian Waffle Bar
Salad Display
Including Salmon Chaud Froid, Fresh Fruit
Fresh-Baked Pastries, Tortes & Cheesecakes
Chocolate Driscoll Strawberries
Deep Dish Apple Strudel w/ Branded French Vanilla Ice Cream
Spiked Vanilla Ice Cream Eggnog

Professional Development
We’ll caucus at OPC before the Caucuses
A Professional Development session, titled “Social Media & Advertising in the Iowa Caucuses,” will be held at the OPC on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016.
Come & learn how to make sense of political reporting in the digital age.
The timing is great as the Iowa Caucuses are the following Tuesday, Feb. 1.
Cost is $15 and the event will start at 5 p.m. with a half-hour for hors d’oeuvres & a cash bar.
At 5:30 p.m. we will host a roundtable of speakers with a Q&A session following. Speakers will be announced in the December issue.
Please mark your calendars for Jan. 28.
Creighton. This marks his second stint on the Bluejay beat, having covered the Jays from 1992-97.

A 1974 graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Pivovar has covered the College World Series since 1980. During this 35-year span, he has covered nearly 500 consecutive games. In addition, he has written two books – one on Rosenblatt Stadium, the other on Creighton basketball.

Pivovar and his wife, Susan, have been married since 1973. They have three children and two grandchildren.

The Shatel Lunch Series is held on the third Tuesday of every month. Reservations can be made by calling 402-345-8008 and must be accompanied by an OPC member number or credit card for non-members. A 24-hour cancellation policy applies.

If you wish to be added to the Press Club’s blast email list for the Shatel Lunch Series, please email Jeanie Campbell at opcjeanie@gmail.com.

The menu for the Nov. 17 lunch will include meatloaf, garlic whipped potatoes and gravy.
**OPC EVENTS**

**Fri., Nov. 6**
Ron Sailors
Gourmet Extravaganza
6 p.m.

**Thurs., Nov. 12**
OPC Craft Brewers Happy Hour
4:30-6:30 p.m.

**Thurs., Nov. 12**
Past Presidents Dinner
Dinner at 6 p.m.

**Tues., Nov. 17**
Shatel Lunch: Bluejay basketball
Noon-1 p.m.

**Thurs., Nov. 19**
Noon Education Forum.
David Brown, Greater Omaha Chamber Lunch at 11:30 a.m., Forum at noon

**Fri., Nov. 20**
“Face on the Barroom Floor”
Kyle Peterson, ESPN
5:30 p.m. reception, 6:30 dinner & roast.

**Sun., Dec. 13**
Santa Brunch
10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. seatings

**Sat., Jan 28**
Professional Development Seminar:
“Social Media and the Iowa Caucuses”
5 p.m.

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“Face on the Barroom Floor”

Tom O’Connor

Judy Horan, Todd Murphy

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**OPC EVENTS**

**CLUB CLOSING DATES**

**November 11**
Veterans Day

**November 26 & 27**
Thanksgiving Holiday

**December 25 & 26**
Christmas Holiday

**January 1**
New Year’s Day

**January 18**
Martin Luther King Day

**February 15**
Presidents Day

**May 30**
Memorial Day

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**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

All reservations must be cancelled 48 HOURS in advance.

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**Hours of Operation**

**LUNCH**
Monday - Friday
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**BAR**
Tuesday - Saturday
4:30 p.m. to close

**DINNER**
Thursday - Saturday
5:30 p.m. to close

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Judy Horan .................. Coordinating Editor

Submissions for December issue are due on or before November 20.