



Pavelka 'Face' Still Smiling After Friendly Fire

By Don Summerside

Communications Committee

Got it!!!

Kent Pavelka's signature exclamation for a successful Cornhusker basketball shot took on new meaning on Sept. 13 when the longtime broadcaster "got it" from an all-star trio of roasters.

Of course, Pavelka had to know what he was in for when he selected Matt Davison, Tim Miles and Larry the Cable Guy to roast and toast him as the Omaha Press Club's 158th "Face on the Barroom Floor."

So it was a sign of his fun-loving nature that he invited the barrage of barbs from longtime broadcasting partner Davison, Nebraska basketball coach Miles and comedian-actor Dan Whitney, aka the Cable Guy.

All three, along with emcee Gary Sadlemyer, were on their game. And as might be expected, it was the professional funny man in the sold-out room who delivered the sharpest zingers.

A couple of the Cable Guy's best shots: "With his signature bow tie, the older Kent gets, the more he is starting to look less like an announcer and more like a peeping tom.

Kent actually is starting to look like the guy on an Easter egg hunt, hiding in the bushes naked."

"I'm not saying Kent's getting older, but at his last prostate check they found an arrowhead."

Highlights from the other roasters:

Davison, associate athletic director for football at NU: "Kent was a decent athlete at Lincoln Northeast, not overly talented but he tried hard. His father once told him: 'I can't believe that out of a thousand sperm you were the quickest.'"

Coach Miles: "Kent cheers for two teams – the Huskers and anybody playing Creighton."

Artist Jim Horan's caricature of Face No. 158 pictures Pavelka in his work outfit – headphones and microphone and a very colorful bow tie.

Arching over the top of the drawing is Kent's well-known football call: "Touchdown! Touchdown! Touchdown!"

The basketball portion of Horan's caricature shows a player bouncing a ball off Kent's headphones and into the basket, followed by a Pavelka "Got it!"

After presenting shirts with humorous sayings to his roasters (for the coach: "Miles vs. McDermott, 0-14"; for the comedian: "I lost 50 pounds, got 'r done"), Pavelka offered some remarks "from the heart:"

"In life, we too often don't say how much we mean to each other. That's what this is tonight – a public expression of our relationship. I really thank you for honoring me tonight."

Artist Jim Horan's Description of the Face:

Kent Pavelka, Husker Broadcast Legend – 158th Face on the Barroom Floor

I pictured Kent in his work outfit – headphones and microphone and a very colorful bow tie.

Arching over the top of the drawing is Kent's signature call, "Touchdown-Touchdown-Touchdown." And a Nebraska football player making – you guessed it – a touchdown.

I included two people who will always be linked to Kent's great play-by-play of Husker football – Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne.

Devaney is wearing his No. 1 hat, celebrating a victory over Oklahoma in the 1971 "Game of the Century" and his team's second national championship. He had every right to wear a red hat with a large No. 1 on it.

Osborne is wearing his coaching headphones and microphone. He looks happy – with 250 victories, 25 consecutive bowl trips and three national championships – who wouldn't look happy with that record?

Finally, a Nebraska basketball player is making an extremely difficult shot. He is trying to ricochet the ball off Kent's headphones and into the basket. When – amazingly – it goes in. It's worthy of another of Kent's signature calls – "Got it!!!"

That's my rendition of Kent Pavelka, the 158th Face on the Barroom Floor....and a guy who truly deserves a "Touchdown-Touchdown-Touchdown" call from the Omaha Press Club for bringing a sellout crowd out tonight.