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NEBRASKA VS. BYU

9.5.15

NEBRASKA

GAME 1

- NEBRASKA ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS
- Q&A WITH NEBRASKA PRESIDENT HANK BOUNDS
- REMEMBERING FORREST BEHM AND DON BRYANT

HEAD COACH MIKE RILEY
FIRST SEASON



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SEPTEMBER 5, 2015

U.S. Cellular

MEMORIAL STADIUM

Q&A WITH UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PRESIDENT HANK BOUNDS

1) When you grow up on a small farm, raise pigs and cows and haul hay, does that help connect you immediately to all kinds of Nebraskans?

"I've seen many things during my travels across Nebraska that remind me of my upbringing. Growing up on a farm taught me a few important lessons. One, every member of the team has a role to play. Two, I learned the value of hard work – sun up until sun down. And three, I learned you can fix just about anything! I'm certain Nebraskans can relate to those life lessons – whether they live on a farm or not."

2) How did that background, plus having served in the Army National Guard to help pay for your college education, prepare you to run the four-campus University of Nebraska?

"Growing up, I never imagined I would have the opportunity to even go to college, much less become president of a great university. My military service was the reason I was able to afford my education, and I'll always be grateful, because college has opened doors for me that I never thought possible. I've dedicated my career to helping students change their lives the way education changed mine."

3) In Mississippi, you oversaw a system of eight public universities. What was the key to success there and how does it compare to your challenge to change students' lives?

"I see similarities between my previous job and the University of Nebraska presidency. Both involve complex education systems that include urban and rural institutions, STEM and liberal arts programs, health centers, diverse student bodies, robust research activities – and, of course, prominent athletic programs! With so many constituencies, the key to success is communication and engagement. I was fortunate to connect with many stakeholders in Mississippi and I'm excited to do the same in Nebraska."

4) Your timing to kick off your Nebraska career was perfect. When you were introduced to Nebraskans at Memorial Stadium during the Spring Game, did you feel like you were standing on fabled turf?

"Coming from SEC country, I thought I knew what a passionate fan base looked like... Until I was surrounded by 70,000 of my closest friends at a Nebraska football scrimmage! The opportunity to be on that field was incredible – a moment I'll never forget."

5) When you became president of the University of Nebraska, you spent your first 10 days traveling to and speaking at places across the state. Can you compress the essence of what you learned during that tour?

"My first week was a wonderful introduction to Nebraska. I visited 20 communities, saw the great work going on at university research and extension centers, and met so many Nebraskans – high school and college students, faculty and staff, farmers and ranchers, donors and alumni, community leaders, educators, business owners and others. I learned that people care deeply about the university's future. They're proud of the work we're doing to educate citizens, conduct research in areas like agriculture and medicine, and grow the economy. They want us to share our story as widely as possible. And they want us to do even more to help change the lives of people in Nebraska and around the world."

6) Four months after becoming University of Nebraska president, you found time to attend some of the Huskers' first football practices. What's your take on Mike Riley, who's being christened as a Husker just like you?

"It was such a treat for me and my family – my wife Susie, our son Will and daughter Caroline – to attend practice and meet Coach Riley. I love his philosophy on developing our student-athletes not only as outstanding players, but as outstanding young men. Our student-athletes are here first to get an education and prepare themselves for a successful life, and I believe Coach Riley will help our football players do that. I can't wait to see what his players accomplish on and off the field!"



To learn more about Hank Bounds' vision for the University of Nebraska, please visit www.nebraska.edu/president.

7) What's your take on Shawn Eichorst, Nebraska's Director of Athletics who researched, recruited and hired Coach Riley?

"Shawn is doing a terrific job building an athletic department that first helps student-athletes succeed in the classroom. I think he found a winner in Coach Riley and I've been counting the days until kickoff."

8) Nebraskans are uniquely tied into their athletic program. How can that passion benefit the mission of an entire university?

"My hope is that fans get to know more about the work happening across our four campuses. From UNL-led research that is helping feed the world's growing population, to UNMC's international reputation for treating Ebola patients, to a new health science complex at UNK that will serve rural needs, to award-winning community engagement activities at UNO, the University of Nebraska is on an impressive trajectory. What's more, I'm convinced our best days are ahead of us."

9) Every entrance to Memorial Stadium says: "Through These Gates Pass the Greatest Fans in College Football." As a Mississippi native in the heart of the SEC, have you found that "boast" to be true?

"I better be careful, because I have family and friends in Mississippi who would put their passion for their teams against anyone's! I have found Nebraskans to be passionate, warm and gracious. Part of the reason my wife and I decided to move here was because we felt Nebraska would be the right place to raise our children, and we feel very good about that choice."

10) What's the most fascinating thing you've discovered about Nebraska, and what's the greatest idea that's come your way over the last five months?

"I was blown away by the beauty of the state. The change in topography as you head west is incredible! I'm still listening and learning from Nebraskans, but I am even more excited about the University of Nebraska presidency than on the day I started. I think we have the potential to be a real giant in higher education, serving students and people in our state and beyond. I look forward to working with Nebraskans to build a strong future for our university and the state."