

<http://www.MSCNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=15389>

Husker Balloon Tradition to be Grounded

Nebraska fans will have to find another way to celebrate the Huskers' first touchdown.

The Lincoln Journal Star (<http://bit.ly/MrVWnE>) says a nationwide helium shortage has put a 70-year tradition of releasing red balloons after the first score on hiatus.

There will be one last game for the balloons - the season-opener against Southern Mississippi on Sept. 1. Instead of 5,000 balloons, it will be 2,500.

The university's helium provider doesn't have a supply, and when helium is available, there are more important users like hospitals.

Nebraska's athletic department has a few tanks from last year that will fill the balloons for the first game. After that, Nebraska plans to hold one tank back and come up with a way to symbolize the tradition for the rest of the season.

Associated Press