

KPTM-TV, NE – 29 May 08

O! What a Lineup This Summer

You can catch a game, hit the pool, or look to the sky. Omaha has an impressive lineup of events this summer. Some will bring hundreds of thousands of people to the metro.

After weeks of construction, the pool where the US Olympic Swim Team will be decided is ready for water. "The trials are just as exciting as the actual Olympic games," said former Olympic gold medalist Summer Sanders.

Wednesday, Sanders toured the Qwest Center arena. She said the atmosphere will add to the excitement in the water. "It's like an NBA arena or a hockey arena," said Sanders. "I can't imagine what the acoustics are going to be like in here."

Olympic hopefuls will make their splashes in late June and early July. It's one of several headlining events in Omaha this summer. "Omaha is the place to be this summer," said Dana Markel, executive director at the Omaha Convention & Visitors Bureau. "It gives us a great chance to showcase the city."

Crowds will pack Rosenblatt stadium once again for the NCAA Men's College World Series.

Perhaps the biggest event will hit Omaha's skies in August. "We're expecting record crowds. We have much more off site parking and shuttle service," said organizer Major Dennis Shook.

Offutt Air Force Base will host more than an air show this summer. People can expect an entire "Air Force Week" from August 9th to 17th. It's one of only 3 such events in the country.

"It's going to get Air Force members out in the surrounding communities and give people the chance to learn much more about the aircraft used in national defense," said Major Shook.

If a concert is your thing, Tom Petty, The Jonas Brothers, and Dave Matthews will all play the Qwest Center in July.