

State Tourney: Phillips, University Favored In Opener

by GARY PETERSEN
Sports Staff Writer

Play in Nebraska's forty-seventh annual High School Basketball Tournament gets under way Thursday at 7 p.m.

The first games in the tourney will pit University High of Lincoln against Madison in Class B and Phillips against Weston in Class E. Other Thursday action finds Chadron playing Geneva at 8:30 p.m. and Byron going against Cody. Action in all other classes—AA, A, C, and D—starts Friday.

Many of the top ranked prep teams in the state faded in district tournament play. Fremont, a team which had won 15 games during the year and only lost one, lost out in first round district play. They were beaten by Omaha Benson, a team which had won only two regular season games. Hold-

rege, a fine Class A team, failed to qualify for a state berth.

Lincoln Northeast lost its chance for glory when they were upset by lightly regarded Grand Island. Other high ranking teams losing out in district and regional play were: Cozad in Class A, Wayne in Class B, Lincoln Southeast in Class A, Omaha Central in Class AA, Scottsbluff in Class AA and St. Cecilia of Hastings in Class C.

Boys Town in Class AA is the only defending champion back. Geneva, winner in Class C last March, has earned a ticket in Class B this year. Last year's champs, Falls City in Class A, Wayne in Class B, Brady in Class D, and Holstein in Class E, all lost out in district play.

All Class AA, A, and B games will be played on the varsity court. Class C, D, and E games will be played on the freshman court ex-

cept the finals which will also be played on the varsity court.

The tournament teams in Class AA and Grand Island, Hastings Omaha Benson and Boys Town; in Class A are Columbus, Lexington, Ogallala and Omaha Holy Name; in Class B are University High, Madison, Chadron and Geneva; in Class C are Oakland, Alma, Waverly and Arnold; in Class D are Verdon, Utica, Elwood and Center; in Class E are Phillips, Weston, Bryon and Cody.

There is a fairly even matched field in Class AA. None of the teams possess an outstanding record; Boys Town does have the edge with a (13-5) record. Grand Island and Hastings both members of the tough Big Ten Conference finished two and three in the eastern division of that conference. Benson finished last in the Intercity League. Boys Town is an independent team.

Columbus seems to pick the field in Class A. Although owning only a (13-6) record, their play has been impressive.

All four teams in Class B show fine win-loss records. Chadron has won 22 games, Geneva 16, Madison 18 and University High 16.

There are three conference champions in Class C; Oakland won the Husker Conference Eastern Division, Alma is the Republican Valley champ and Arnold is the Custer County Champion.

Utica, in Class D, (13-0) is the only unbeaten club in the tourney. Utica is coached by former Nebraska Wesleyan star, Jack Wood.

Phillips in Class E has won the most games of any team in the state tournament, 28. They are the Central Nebraska Conference champions.

Now, out to the edge of the limb to pick the winners in the Thursday and Friday games. Boys Town over Benson in a breeze. Grand Island to take the rubber game from Hastings. Holy Name to take Ogallala. Columbus to edge Lexington. University over Madison. Geneva to handle Chadron. Alma to beat Oakland, Waverly over Arnold. Utica to whip Verdon. Center to rap Elwood. Phillips in a thriller over Weston. Cody to edge Byron.

Lopez: Third Base Main Worry For Chisox

By BOB WIRZ
Staff Writer

One of the big problems facing Al Lopez when he became Chicago White Sox manager this winter was finding a good third baseman. The White Sox are a fair team and could improve vastly if a few spots like third are improved. Last season with a Mrty Marion at the helm the Chicago squad finished in third place in the American League 12 games behind the champion New York Yankees.

This season they are expected to be in the battle for second with Detroit, Cleveland and Boston.

The third base job could belong to any of four men by the time the regular campaign opens. Right now it looks like John (Bubba) Phillips has a good chance of winning the job.

The addition of Phillips would give the White Sox more speed to go with Luis Aparicio, Jim Rivera and Minnie Minoso. Minoso appears set for a good year in the left field and Rivera will be in right. The outfield will be completed by ex-Indian Larry Doby. Ron Northey will provide the Sox with a good pinch hitter.

Nellie Fox and Aparicio seem ready for another good year performing as the key stone combination for the Comiskey crew. Walt Dropp will probably be back at first base unless someone like ex-bonus boy Ron Jackson can improve.

Catching shouldn't provide much of a problem with Sherm Lollar doing the No. 1 job. Also around are Earl Battey and Les Moss.

The starting pitchers also are pretty well set. Billy Pierce, Jack Harshman and Dick Donovan are three regulars eager to start firing. The fourth starter may possibly be Jim Wilson. Gerald Staley and Bob Keegan are also around for spot starts and middle men in relief while Dixie Howell, Paul LaPalme and Ellis Kinder can handle the late inning relief chores.

Pitchers who could surprise include: Jerome Dahlke, James Derrington, Bill De Four, Bill Fischer, Tim Flanigan, Russ Heman or Don Rudolph.

It is possible the Sox could surprise but until then it looks like a fifth place finish.

Stars Of The Week: Staff Names Ekwall, Reimers, Parsons, Smidt, Nannen, Arwood For Award

By STAN WIDMAN
Staff Sports Writer

Rex Ekwall, Don Smidt, Gary Reimers, Lyle Nannen, Ron Parsons and Jim Arwood, the six who led the Cornhusker basketball team to an upset victory over the Iowa State Cyclones have been chosen as Stars - of - the Week.

These six played their most outstanding game of the year and it was only through their united team effort that the game turned out the way it did.

Ekwall who is making his third appearance as Star-of-the-Week, played his finest game of the year in leading the Huskers who wanted to win it for him. His 19 points were high for both teams and raised his seasons total to 307, and his three year scoring record to 854. The previous high was 821 set by Jim Buchanan. As a final tribute Rex was carried off the floor on the backs of his teammates.

Reimers likewise played his most outstanding game of the year. Gary was always getting in the way of the Cyclones causing them to pass wildly and shoot hurriedly. He intercepted several passes and led the famed Husker fast break. Gary collected 17 points which raised his seasons total to 298 only nine behind team leader Ekwall. Reimers wound up with a 12.9 point average per game, good enough for ninth place in the Big Seven scoring chart.

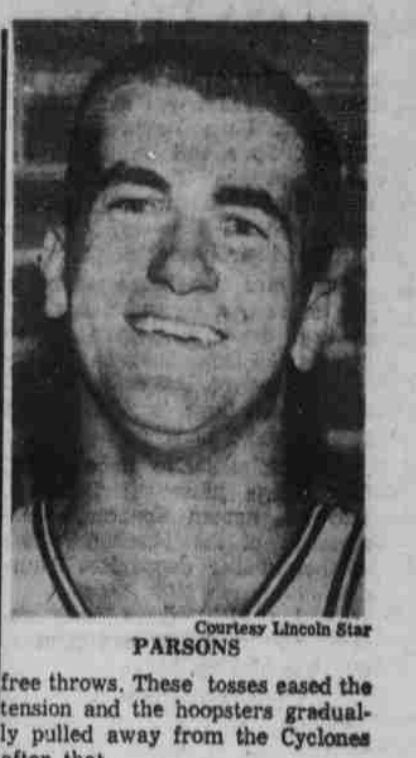
This marks the second time this season that Reimers has been chosen for the Star-of-the-Week award.

Smidt was the rebound leader of the game along with Ekwall. Time and time again, Don pulled rebounds away from the taller cyclones and passed off for Husker scores. The junior from Helena, Montana found time to collect 13 points of his own and raise his total for the season to 230. His average per game is ten points on the dot which earns him third spot among Husker scorers. Smidt was also chosen Star-of-the-Week earlier this year.

Nannen whose deadly passing netted the Huskers several valuable scores showed the fans why he took over a starting position in the middle of the year. He consistently rebounded and added points to the NU total. This gave him 119 points for the year, good for a 5.4 per game average. The Syracuse, Nebr. Junior will be counted upon heavily by Coach Jerry Bush next year.

Parsons who left a sick bed to play in the game was the main Husker threat under the boards until he fouled early in the second half. While only scoring three points, he acted as the main feeder from his post in front of the foul line. Ron finished the season with 198 markers and average of 8.9.

Jim Arwood of Fostoria, Ohio took over for Parsons after the big man fouled out and helped pull the Huskers out of their small relapse by sinking three straight



free throws. These tosses eased the tension and the hoopsters gradually pulled away from the Cyclones after that.

Of the six chosen, five will return again next year to help the Husker cause along. Only Captain Rex Ekwall will be departing. With this nucleus, Jerry Bush should be able to fashion a Husker team with speed, scoring power and fight.

Tournament Pairings

CLASS AA
Varsity Court, Friday
1:30—Boys Town v Omaha Benson
8:30—Hastings v Grand Island
Finals Saturday 8:30

CLASS A
Varsity Court Friday
12:00—Ogallala v Omaha Holy Name
7:00—Lexington v Columbus
Finals Saturday 7:00

CLASS B
Varsity Court, Thursday
7:00—University High v Madison
8:30—Chadron v Geneva
Finals Saturday 2:30

CLASS C
Freshman Court, Friday
12:00—Verdon v Utica
1:30—Elwood v Center
Finals Saturday 11:30

CLASS E
Freshman Court, Thursday
7:00—Phillips v Weston
8:30—Byron v Cody
Finals Saturday 10:00

(All final games on Varsity Court.)

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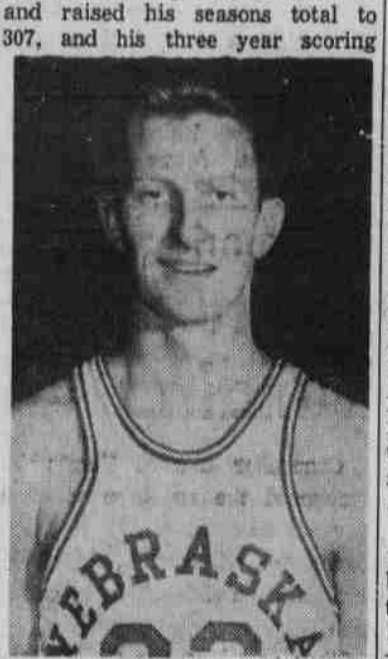
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Stilt To Go? Basketball Goons Raise Rules Furor

Wilt Chamberlain, most publicized figure in the world of athletics at the present time, has become the controversial figure in the national basketball argument now raging among the top echelons of that sport and of number will happen to basketball if The big query seems to be, "What

ous coaches around the country. huge giants continue to use their superior height to dominate the sport?"

The only aversion to the Wilt's status is that the big man is sole owner of a giant seven foot figure, and that seems to be reason enough for the proposed discrimination.

Various coaches have submitted solutions to the problems at hand. These solutions have ranged from eliminating all "goons" to the dissolution of foul shots. From the ranks of the basketball coaches and other sportsmen around the country come these answers to the raging problem: Johnny Jordan, Notre Dame's coach . . . "put a height limit on players because there can't be more than 30 top-notch players 6-8 or over."

Howard Cann of NYU . . . "I'd go for raising the basket to 12 or 13 feet . . . a higher basket wouldn't hurt the smaller men, but it would lessen the value of the seven footers."

In an answer to the Johnny Jordan solution, Frank McGuire, coach of North Carolina is against limiting the height of players because "the ideal team is three big men for the rebounds and two smaller players" to direct the offense.

Bill Haarlow, supervisor of Big Ten hoop officials, thinks basketball could be improved by "increasing the diameter of the ball just one inch. You'd be surprised how much difference that would make in shooting."

Moose Krause, Notre Dame's athletic director, suggests that no foul shots be taken during the game but simply that they be kept track of and then the various players could shoot them after the game.

Another suggestion to the problem is that the team who would presently earn a foul shot be given the ball to take out of bounds. Honey Russell of Seton Hall who states this solution to the problem says, "That's penalty enough and you wouldn't have all that business on the foul line."

The coaches and sports enthusiasts contacted seem to think that Kansas will have a tremendous advantage as they engage in NCAA competition with the talents of Wilt and that the cagers of the Seattle team, which committed the least number of fouls in the nation, or Memphis State, the fifth best foul shooting team, will have the best chances in the competition for the NIT.

The outcome of both tourneys (NIT and NCAA) will probably determine the amount of action taken by the proper officials, if any is to be taken. Perhaps the cries of the basketball critics will fall on deaf ears and the big men will continue their domination of the sport, but on the other hand maybe Wilt will be "wilted" before his eligibility is used up.

The Sports Slant

By GARY FRENZEL

The optimistic plans of the sport's magazines of a few years ago which would blanket the country with major league baseball have effectively been killed for the present by the major league team owners. In the past ten years, the many systems envisioned have varied from expanding the two present leagues to twelve teams to the extreme of four sprawling leagues which would include a team in every metropolitan area of one million population from coast to coast and in Canada and Mexico.

Since then, however, the Boston Braves, St. Louis Browns and the Philadelphia A's, have swallowed whatever pride their owners may have had in fifty years of baseball tradition and have blissfully followed the lure of the paying customer to Milwaukee, Baltimore and Kansas City.

Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and San Francisco are still clamoring for a franchise. Brooklyn's Walter O'Malley is using the threat of moving to Los Angeles as a prod to force the city fathers to build for the Dodgers an all-weather, dome-inclosed sports stadium. The taxpayers of California are eager to build the stadium in Los Angeles. The mayor promises major league baseball by 1958.

This leaves Giant proxy Horace Stonham the unhappy decision of whether to move to San Francisco, Minneapolis or to stay in New York. Minneapolis seems to have the inside track if the Giants decide to move. The city is putting the finishing touches on its new sports center which includes a baseball stadium seating 50,000, and the land of sky blue waters has proved at Milwaukee its ability to enrich a team's bankroll.

Although the dream of three major leagues has faded, this solves the problem of how to hold a three team world series.

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