

# Women stay home this semester

By Janet Stefanski

With a new coach but almost the entire starting lineup returning, the Nebraska women's basketball season should prove interesting.

Coach Kelly Hill said her basic goal for the Huskers this season is to place in the top four of the Big Eight conference.

Hill, who served three years as first assistant coach for Nebraska, said the Huskers have one of the most experienced teams in the Big Eight. In addition, she said, she feels the upperclassmen help the other players and serve as leaders.

Quickness, a high intensity level and flexibility (many players, for example, can perform well both inside and outside) will serve as assets for the Huskers. In addition, Hill said the team has been showing a unified effort. She noted there is not any one star.

Another advantage for the women's team is that all of its first-semester play will be at home. Hill said they tried to set the season up that way so the players, particularly freshmen, do not become worn down from a lot of travel.

The Huskers have a few bad points which may hurt them this season.

"We're just a couple players short of being a really good team, and I mean that literally," Hill said.

Only 6-3 Heidi Keyes and 6-0 Angie Miller have promising height. Keyes, specifically, could work well inside for the Huskers. Paralleling her with the men's Dave Hoppen, Coach Hill said if Keyes progresses the Huskers will have the inside height to throw on the court. Hill said she feels Keyes is "coming along" so far.

The promising freshman is from a small high school in Nederland, Colo, Hill said. Mavis Washington, assistant coach, is working with Keyes to improve her offensive play.

Although Hill said she is not certain about the starting lineup, she noted some promising players who could earn themselves a starting spot. Besides Miller and Keyes, she stated sophomore Jacquie Shackelford has been displaying much improvement this year. Hill said the guard has been playing with more intensity.

"She and Crystal (Coleman) play well together," Hill said.

The Huskers, who will be staying with a full-court press again this season, will be facing tough Big Eight competition.

"Everyone had a good recruiting year," the Nebraska coach said.

Kansas State University should be the team's toughest competition because of their quickness, height and winning tradition. Last year UNL fared well against Kansas but lost in triple overtime, 103-102.

One of Hill's main objectives is to establish a sound recruiting system for Nebraska women's basketball. She said she wants to obtain a wide base of recruiting contacts, particularly among high school coaches within the state. The new coach stressed the importance of gaining support from Lincoln, Omaha and the rest of the state. With many native Nebraskans on this year's team, support from within the state should be prominent, she said.

"I don't see why we should go to Hawaii if the talent is here," Hill said.

Joining Hill and Washington on the coaching staff is Holly Warlick, an Olympian in 1980, the year the United States did not participate in the games. Warlick also played for a professional team in Omaha last year. Hill said Warlick is a tremendous help with the guards and defensive play.

Sunday, Nebraska will play an intersquad scrimmage at Wilber-Clatonia High School (Miller's alma mater) outside of Lincoln. This will be an opportunity for the Huskers to get out in the public before regular season play begins with the Nebraska Invitational, Nov. 25-26. The Huskers start off the tournament against South Florida at the Bob Devaney Center.

The women's coach said she hopes those who purchased basketball tickets will not only arrive in time for the men's basketball game because the fans have reserved seats; but come earlier for the women's games.

"I'm really happy for the men's team and I hope it rubs off on us," she said.

Hill added that "riding on the tail of the men's success" is okay in its own right, but the women want to establish their own accomplished reputation as a team.

"We have an equally exciting team," Coach Hill said.

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