

# Hoppen gains confidence

By Kevin Warneke

If the predictions of three Big Eight basketball coaches come true, Nebraska's Dave Hoppen could be a premier center in the college ranks.

Colorado's Tom Apke, Oklahoma's Billy Tubbs and Nebraska's Moe Iba all said that Hoppen has the potential to be a dominating center.

"I think Dave is not only one of the top young centers in the conference, but also one of the top centers in the nation," Apke said. "He's an outstanding player and an outstanding young man."

Tubbs agreed. He said that Hoppen should be playing for Oklahoma instead of Nebraska.

"I'm still mad at Dave Hoppen because he said 'no' when we asked him to come to Oklahoma," Tubbs joked. "We have a couple of guards that we'd like to trade for him."

"Seriously," Tubbs said, "He's an outstanding player. I think he may one day play in the NBA."

Although Hoppen is outstanding, Iba said there also is room for improvement.

"He'll be one of the better centers for sure," Iba said. "He's improved a great deal and he has more confidence. But David will be treated different by other teams. Now he'll have to be better."

Hoppen set the conference on fire last year as a freshman when he earned second-team All-Big Eight honors while averaging 13.9 points and five rebounds a game.

But Hoppen said he isn't about to rest on his past laurels.

"I hope to be one of the top centers in the league," he said. "I've improved on my rebounding and my defense."

Even if his statistics aren't as impres-

sive during his sophomore season, Hoppen said, it wouldn't matter as long as Nebraska wins.

"I don't set those kind of goals for myself," he said. "I have enough pressure on me without the pressure of having those extra goals."

Hoppen said that along with David Ponce, Eric Williams and Stan Cloudy, he will probably be one of the team leaders.

"Coach Iba said the new guys will probably be looking up to me on how I work," he said. "So I'll have to watch what I do."

Although Nebraska has been highly touted for this season, Hoppen said the non-conference season will determine just how good the Huskers really are.

"We play some awfully good teams," he said. "So we're going to have to play well."

But after the non-conference season, the "tough" part comes.

"There are easily four or five teams in the Big Eight who could win it all," Hoppen said.

Although he is looking forward to locking horns with Creighton University's Benoit Benjamin again, Hoppen said the matchup is blown out of proportion.

"The media makes up more than needs to be," Hoppen said. "But he's one of the best out of high school and we both had good freshman years so it should be a good matchup."

What Hoppen said he is most happy about this season is the rebounding help he will get from Ronnie Smith, John Matzke and James Moore.

"I hope some of the pressure is taken off me," he said. "But I'll still have to do well."



Daily Nebraskan file photo

Dave Hoppen

## Future now for ISU

By Jeff Korbelt

Johnny Orr has been at Iowa State for three years now and has yet to have a winning basketball team.

Records of 9-18, 10-17 and 13-15 have shown steady improvement though, and this could be the year Iowa State puts it all together, especially since they only lost three players to graduation, and only one was a starter. The future is now for the Cyclones previous rebuilding years.

"We have a good team, better than any team that we had in the last four to ten years," Orr said.

Looking at the Big Eight, Orr said it is going to be very competitive.

"It will be a very unpredictable season," he said. "The team that can win on the road will be the team to beat. A 5-6 record could win the league."

Orr added that Iowa State's tough non-conference schedule which features Vanderbilt, Texas, Arizona and a trip to the Hoosier Classic in Indiana, will prepare the Cyclones for league play.

Iowa State's top three scorers return from last year's squad: Forwards Barry Stevens (16.8) and Ron Harris (14.3), and guard Terrance Allen (10.2).

Stevens, also the team's leading rebounder, was named Sports Illustrated player of the week after he scored a career high 40 points in an upset win over Missouri. Harris has started every Cyclone game since 1982 and currently ranks as the school's eighth all-time leading scorer.

Allen moved from his point guard position last year to make room for 6-3 sophomore Jeff Hornacek, who tore up the court in the second half of last season.

"Jeff is a very good player — one of the better guards in the league," Orr said. "He could be the best. He is a good shooter, a good passer and a good rebounder. I'm very high on Jeff Hornacek."


The only weakness in the Cyclone starting lineup is at the center position where they lost Ron Falenschek, starter of 27 games.

Orr said that 6-8 sophomore David Moss may start or one of three freshmen: 6-9 John Culbertson, 7-1 Brad Dudek, or Lafester Rhodes. Orr doesn't know who will start in their season opener against Brandon University on Nov. 19.

"If our big men develop in a hurry and get better, we could have a really good basketball team," Orr said.


Experience and quickness, he said, will make the difference in this year's team.

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