

Seven Lettermen Out For Baseball

By ED BERG
Sports Staff Writer

Fifty diamond hopefuls answered Tony Sharpe's call as formal baseball workouts began Monday. Under the bright lights of the University of Nebraska fieldhouse, the athletes began "spring training" activities designed to ready them for the Big Seven conference grind which gets underway April 15th.

Greeting Sharpe at the initial workout were seven lettermen, Bob Diers, outfielder; Bob Reynolds, second baseman; Dick McCormick, pitcher; Ray Mladovich, first baseman; Dale Bunsen, pitcher; Jack Shull, catcher; and Jerry Dunn, outfielder.

Also on hand were last year squad members John Leach, third baseman; Al Benjamin, pitcher; and Henry Mullen, pitcher. Jim Snyder, first baseman, is to report at the conclusion of the basketball season.

Glancing over the roster, Sharpe said "this year's club should be better than last seasons aggregation, which compiled a 10-5 record, although we might not win as many games." He pointed out that improved pitching and more all-around experience should make the difference. Sharpe did express a need for "a good catcher, the take charge type."

A problem facing Sharpe is finding suitable replacements for five regulars that were lost through graduation or service calls. Gone are Del Kopf, pitcher; Bob Lohrberg, catcher; Bill Fitzgerald, outfielder; Bill Jensen, shortstop; and John Rego, third baseman.

Kopf teamed with McCormick for the Husker pitching punch while Lohrberg handled the lion's share of the receiving duties. Jensen and Rego anchored the right side of the infield with some top-notch defensive play beside providing some timely base hits. Fitzgerald was one of the 1951 clubs leading swatsmen, compiling a lustrous .358 average.

While Sharpe named Shull, Murray Backhaus, Jim Cederdahl, Chuck Jensen and Gerry Sandbulte as outstanding candidates for the backstopping job, he stressed the fact that the position is wide open.

Backhaus caught for the State Legion baseball championship Millard nine. Cederdahl is a fine all-around frosh athlete from Lincoln. Jensen hails from Pawnee City, while Sandbulte comes highly recommended from Sioux Center, Iowa. Hard working Jim Oliver should give them all a battle for the job.

The Nebraska pitching staff lists eighteen candidates. McCormick, the ace of last years mound corps, should capture one of the starting jobs. However, a wild scramble could develop for the remaining pitching assignments. Besides returnees Bunsen, Benjamin and Mullen, an outstanding group of sophomore and freshmen pitching prospects.

Pat Mallette, through his performance on the freshmen team last spring, has indicated he will be a good bet to win a regular

turn on the hill. Ray Novak, versatile baseballer from Omaha, should also see plenty of action. Chuck Wright of Scottsbluff and Bill Falt of Omaha have shown enough in the past to warrant serious consideration.

Because of their hitting ability, Novak and Falt might be seen at first base or in the outfield.

The best of the freshmen chucks seem to be Bob Kremen, Millard hotshot; Don Muenster, Omaha Benson High grad; Fran Hoffmaier, Mission Hill, South Dakota lefty; and Bob Gleason, strong armed Fullerton right hander.

Filling the first base position for the 1952 Huskers is about as touchy a problem as the catching department. Possibilities, along



Courtesy Lincoln Star.
TONY SHARPE . . . feels confident for a good Husker season this spring. Fifty men have reported for early workouts, including seven lettermen.

with Novak and Falt, are Bill Giles, Jim Snyder and Ed Bartels. Ray Mladovich could win the post with some improved stickwork.

Sharpe has a wealth of talent battling for the infield jobs. Bob Reynolds has the inside track on the keystone spot. Competition may come from Dan Brown or Dick Christoph. Al Karle, Mladovich, Dirk Ralston and Leach will compete for the important shortstop position.

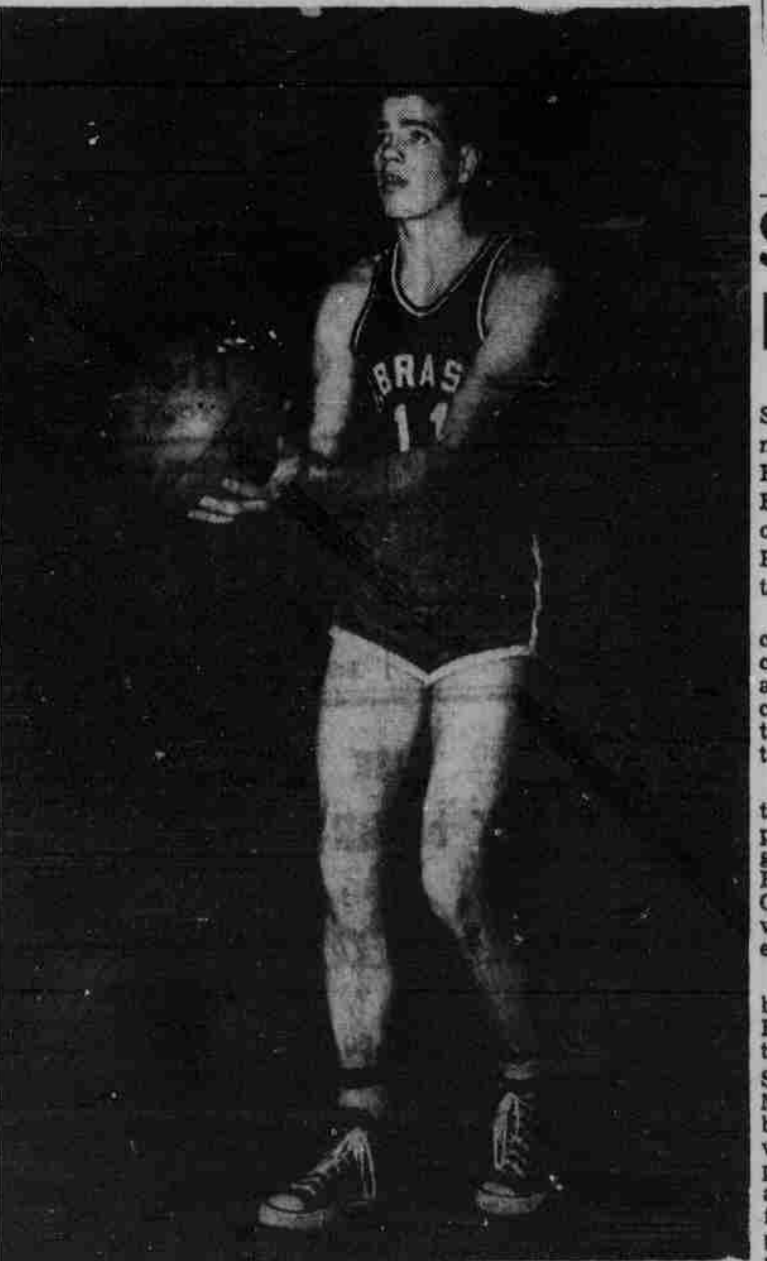
Karle, a freshman from Grand Island, showed up well in fall drills. Leach is a topnotch fielder who has failed to reach his potential at the plate.

The hot corner will probably be handled by Bob Decker, Omaha Holy Name three-sport star, or Fred Seger, varsity basketball standout.

In the Husker outfield, Diers, Dunn and Milt Frei will be difficult to lodge from regular berths. Diers, a third team All-American choice last year, and Dunn proved to be the leading sluggers of last season.

Frei demonstrated his ability with the bat in the summer Pioneer Nite league. Christoph or Cliff Hopp might earn a spot in the outer garden.

Important Role



Courtesy Lincoln Journal.
DON WEBER . . . Although not in a starting forward position since the early part of the season, this Estherville, Ia., sophomore has been playing an important role in Coach Harry Good's basketball plans for the future. (Courtesy of Lincoln Journal.)

The Benchwarmer

By GLENN NELSON
Assistant Sports Editor

Jim Buchanan, Nebraska's outstanding senior guard and captain of the Husker team, is coming dangerously close to the all-time Nebraska season record.

When he hit 11 field goals for a total of 22 points against the Oklahoma Sooners Monday night, he boosted his season total to 387 points. The present season standard was set at 384 by Bob Piepce a year ago.

Three games remain on the Cornhusker roster. The Big Seven cellar-dwellers will entertain Iowa State college Monday, Feb. 25, play host to Kansas State college Saturday, March 1, and finish the season on Monday, March 3, at Columbia against the Missouri Tigers.

With three games remaining on the Husker slate and a 17.0 points per game average, "Bucky" should have little trouble setting a new all-time scoring mark for a Husker flipper.

And the list of Nebraska record holders in that department shows plenty of classy Scarlet stars have held that honor.

Claude Retherford, who still holds the 3-year NU scoring record, was followed by Milt "Bus" Whitehead, now with the Phillips Oilers. Retherford wore the scarlet jersey during the 1947, '48 and '49 seasons, and Whitehead shone as a top Husker scoring power 1948-1950.

Buchanan, often spoken of as "Nebraska's All-American candidate," has been the sparkplug and playmaker of the club throughout the entire season. The lone senior on the starting five, Jim has been the team's backbone in every contest.

Standing only six feet even, "Bucky" has the disadvantage of being the shortest member on Coach Harry Good's squad.

Yet he leads the team in rebounds. Following the Colorado contest on Feb. 11, official figures showed Buchanan to be Nebraska's top rebounder with a total of 82. Bill Johnson was close behind with 90, followed by Fred Seger who had 86.

A 40 for 66 free throw accumulation by "Buc" places him close to the lead in that department, also. His gift toss percentage is .606.

In field goal averages, Jim led the squad with a hefty .372 following the Buff contest, with 140 buckets for 376 attempts. This average has gone up since the Kansas and Oklahoma contests.

Jim's difficult shots deserve some consideration, too. Being much shorter than the average Big Seven player, he must confine his shots to jump shots, running shots, or set shots from backcourt. Seldom have his points been scored on easy shots.

Coach Good will have a number of returning lettermen on next year's squad, but his big problem will be the replacement of Jim Buchanan.

Tallest Man Shows Improvement



BILL JOHNSON . . . Made a good showing on defense against Colorado Monday night while scoring ten points. He will face Iowa State's big Jim Stange next Monday night on the Coliseum mat. The tallest member of coach Harry Good's squad, Johnson has shown great improvement during the season.

Squash, Volleyball, Water Basketball Tournaments Set

Entries for the all-University squash championship tournament must be submitted to the Physical Education building by Tuesday, Feb. 26. Pairings will be posted on the bulletin board in the Phys ed building soon after entries are received.

Games will be scheduled according to times the handball courts in the Coliseum are available. Two out of three games will constitute a match. Winners of the match will advance in the tournament.

A trophy will be awarded to the championship Fraternity on point basis, and a medal will be given to the individual champion. Rules will be posted on the Coliseum basement squash court walls, and players may check out equipment daily and practice.

Entries for volleyball will not be accepted later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 26. Rosters must accompany the entries.

Schedules will be announced on Monday, March 2. Official volleyball rules will govern all matches, which will determine the championship. A trophy will be awarded to the champions of the fraternity groups, and the independent champions will receive medals.

Teams are expected to provide their own officials as in softball. Leagues will be set up in single round-robin style, with each

Warriors, Alibis, Shortys Advance

By BILL MUNDELL
Intramural Sports Writer

The Pluggers found their play-off chances a little slimmer Monday night after the Warriors in general and Marv Lawton in particular sent them reeling to a 43-46 defeat.

The Pluggers had romped past the Warriors in their first outing of the year, blasting them 55-36, but they were entirely different in this contest.

Lawton reigned supreme during the entire contest, dunking a grand total of 29 points and doing a lion's share of the rebounding. Mighty Marv hit his peak during the second period by sinking 15 counters and probably would have gone well above the 30 mark if the Warriors had not adopted a stalling game throughout the entire fourth quarter.

The Pluggers, seeking their win to clinch their playoff berth, took command during the first quarter and led after the first ten minutes 15-12, holding Lawton to six.

The second quarter was all Lawton as the big boy grabbed all but five of his team's points in that stanza and the Warriors held a 32-29 halftime lead.

Ten points to the Pluggers' three in the third frame gave the Warriors a comfortable ten point cushion going into the final ten minutes and the Warrior stall was dominant.

The Pluggers came close, but the margin was too great and the Warriors had a coveted victory.

Behind the Lawton machine came Jack Mankameyer with seven points and Scott Cast with six. Rod Pope topped the losing scorers with an 11 total followed by Ron Powers with ten counters.

The Dorm A Stars and Shortys clinched their playoff berths from league X by dropping NROTC and Dorm B-C, respectively.

The Stars wound up their regular season in a 25-24 squeaker over Navy. The Stars, leading most of the way, had to fight off a determined Middle rally in the final period and stall most of the game out.

The quarter scores were all in favor of the winners, reading 12-6, 20-10 and 25-21. The Stars went scoreless throughout the fourth period, ball control being more to their pleasure.

Keith Kohrs and Bill Kennedy led the way for the victors with ten points apiece. Vondrager with seven and Jim Clark with six were tops for Navy.

Shortys got an unexpected battle from Dorm B-C all the way before ending up on the long end of a 49-44 tally. Only an early fourth quarter spurge gave the winners breathing room from where they coasted to the win.

Charlie Bush topped all scorers with 23 counters while teammate Al Karle added another ten for the winners. Chuck Huestis led the Dorm men with 19 points followed by Don Lindberg with 15.

Two Platoons Cuts Iron Men

Football's sixty minute iron men, not only don't exist any longer under the two platoon system, but never were, according to a sports article in the current issue of People Today. Titled, "How Much Actual Playing Time In a Football Game?" the article quotes, as source of authority, George Allen, once Fritz Crisler's fireball assistant at Michigan and currently head coach at Whittier College in California.

Coach Allen conducted an astonishing experiment during the 1951 season by having two men with stopwatches assigned to all games. The stopwatch, however, was not started until the center had snapped the ball and it was stopped immediately upon the referee's whistle. Only the actual time of body contact was recorded, with time taken in huddles, approaching the ball, calling signals, time exchange of the ball and penalties, all discounted.

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A free-throw by Bill Apking after the end of the overtime stanza gave the Alibis a 26-25 victory over Delta Theta Phi. With five seconds to go in the extra period and the score knotted at 25-all, Apking drew a foul and dunked his winning loss.

Both teams had scored a goal in the overtime to set the stage for Apking's gratis shot after the lawyers had rallied in the final quarter to gain a 23-23 tie at the end of the regulation time. In pushing the contest into overtime, the shysters had to overcome a seven-point third quarter deficit.

Coe Kroese of the Alibis topped the evening's scorers with 11 while mate Hubka tallied seven. Otto Kovar and Bevin Bump each garnered six for the losers.

Unbeaten M-Street Boys rolled to their ninth straight win by dropping the Pill Rollers, 57-31. The Pharmacists kept the score close for the first half but wilted under the M-Street power in the final 20 minutes.

Bill Thayer with 14 and Jim Evans with ten led the way for

the victors while Dick Doering potted nine and Jack Donnellson and Maurice Russell each garnered seven for the Pills.

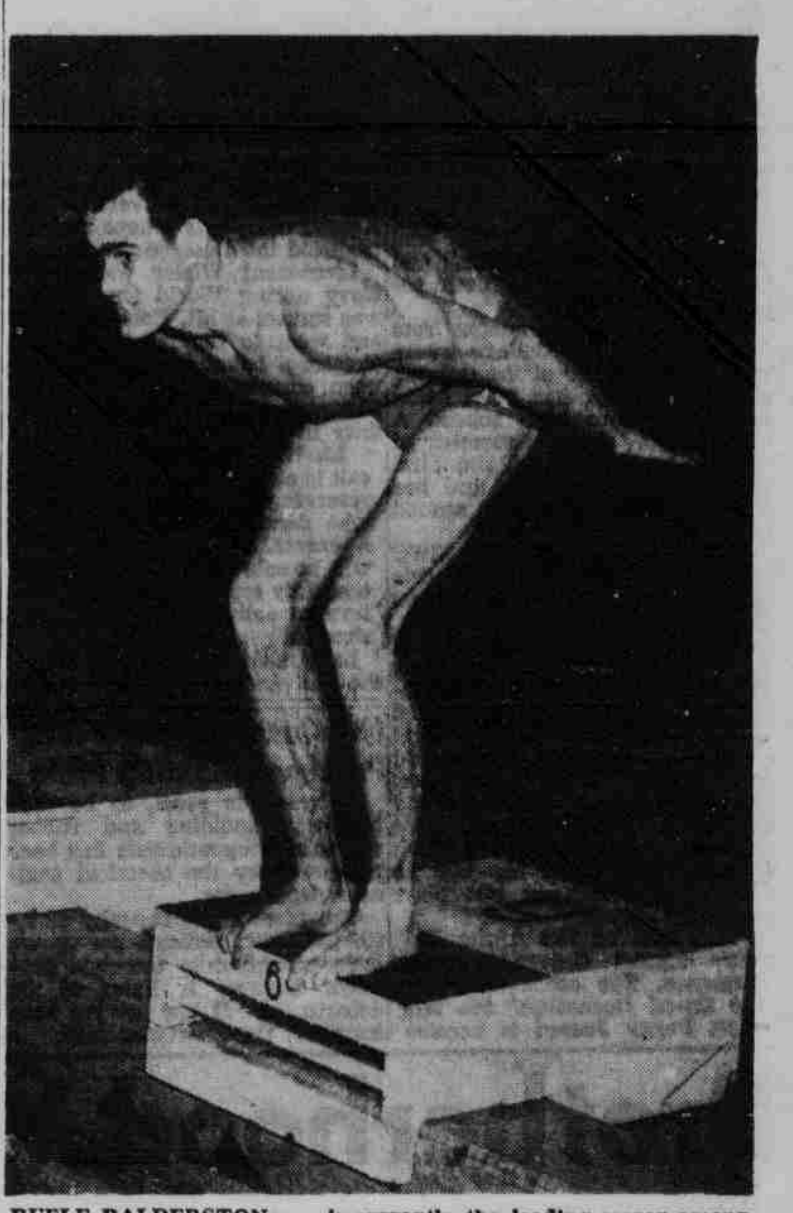
The Methodist clipped Inter-Varsity, 29-16 in their final game of the season. The Methodists led throughout the game, but the outcome was never certain until they fashioned a final seven-minute scoring burst.

Forrest 5th was the scoring leader as the Methodist potted a 12-point total. Daryl Bohl helped with another six. Ed Nelson topped the I-V scoring with eight points.

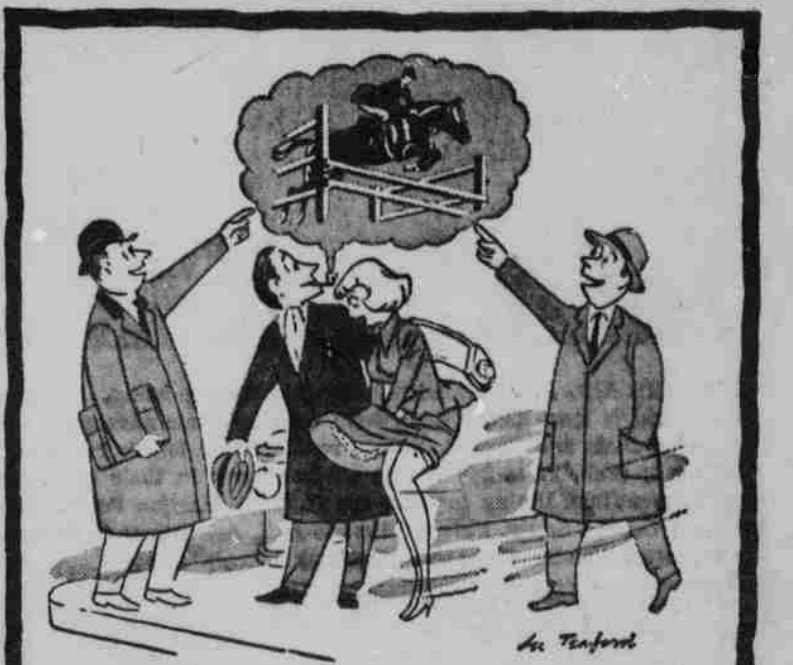
The Bearcats spurred in the first and fourth periods to romp past the Ramblers, 44-29. With Verl Claussen and Doug McPherson leading the way, the Cats rolled up a 16-4 first period margin and then teamed with Ray Svehla in the final period to stretch a 29-24 margin into victory.

Claussen's 14 points with McPherson's 11 and Svehla's eight led the Cat scoring charts. Jim Worth topped the Ramblers with 12 while Gene Bishop added another seven.

Leads Nebraska Swimmers



BUELE BALDERSTON . . . is currently the leading scorer among Nebraska's swimmers and will lead coach Hollie Lepley's team against Grinnell college in the Coliseum pool Friday, Feb. 22. The Huskers are hoping to forget their string of defeats and gain a needed victory.



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