

Johnson The Best

Hastings Plays Brilliantly In Winning Class A Title

By GARY FRANSDEN Sports Editor

Well, it's all over for another year, until the month of March reappears on the calendar. The 44th annual Nebraska State High School Basketball Tournament, which attracts more state-wide interest than any other single sporting event came to another noisy close Saturday night after four days of solid basketball.

When the standing-room-only crowd of over 11,000 started to inch their way out of the Coliseum, four new class champions had been crowned, all four winning the coveted titles for the first time. The new cage kings of Nebraska are Hastings, Class A; Lincoln Teachers, Class B; Syracuse, Class C; and Western, Class D.

Hastings and Syracuse both looked very impressive in rolling to their respective championships, but Coach Earl Applegate's Class A Tigers were the team that really caught our fancy. No mistake about it, the Orange and Black was one of the finest squads to win a state tournament crown in years.

The Tigers had surprising speed to go along with their excellent height plus some well-coached basketball savvy and plenty of rugged aggressiveness. With all of these factors, the Tigers would be hard to knock off by any team at any time.

CAL JOHNSON, our vote for the most outstanding player of the tournament, was undoubtedly the key man on the Hastings squad. The 6-5 senior center drove hard, played a rugged and smart brand of ball and had a fine assortment of shooting ability.

Johnson, who broke Chuck Stichel's season-scoring record at Hastings this year, climaxed his prep ball career in the finale with Omaha Benson by coming through with a nifty 32-point performance that was just too much for the Bunnies to cope with.

In the semi-finals against a strong Lincoln High aggregation, Johnson didn't go on any scoring rampage; but his number one assignment called for the stopping of Allen Graves, the 6-8 Link pivot who burned up the nets with a 40-point avalanche against Boys Town the night before. Graves got 17 points, far short of his opening accomplishment.

Everyone on the Big Six of Applegate's came through with extra-fine performances at one time or another during the tournament. Larry Deiter, who was also an extra-hard driver, led the Tiger scoring against Scottsbluff with 19 points, added 12 against the Links and displayed excellent defensive ability and floor play in all three games.

John Swanson, a 6-5 redhead, carried the Tigers past Lincoln with a fine 24-point performance while Jack McCleery came in as a substitute in the Scottsbluff clash and promptly pumped in 17 points.

Dick Kleiber, another big boy and probably the most underrated player on the Hastings team, didn't do anything astonishing in the scoring column; but did do a tremendous job in the rebounding department for the champs in all three contests. It was the best job of clearing the boards in the tourney.

Tom Osborne, who alternated with McCleery as a starter, played a good floor game from either the forward or guard position.

SYRACUSE, PACED by another great tournament performer in Lyle Nannan, staged somewhat of a surprise in whalloping highly-touted Franklin as easily as they did. The tussle was rated a near toss-up before game time with the Franklin crew receiving the nod of most.

But the Rockets threw up a defense that stopped the Flyer offense cold with the lone exception of Forward Russ Peterson who managed to get 16 points. Center Al Stout, a Flyer ace in earlier games, was chilled without a field goal. In fact, the Syracuse defense was so tight that Stout could get only a few shots at the bucket. Most of the team's shots were sets from far out.

For a while in the semi-final clash with Chadron Prep, there was a time where Syracuse's chances of reaching the finals was definitely not too good. Nannan, the all-important figure in the Rocket attack, picked up four fouls in the opening quarter; but he failed to draw number five and Coach Joe Moss's team rallied to win.

The big unexpected came with Western winning the Class D laurels. The tall team from southern Nebraska wasn't figured to do too much in the pre-tourney evaluating. Instead, Palmyra, Millard and Edison were the squads that looked like championship material.

In the Class D, finals Millard, a short team who picked up most of their points from out-court, started red hot and it looked like dead-eye Gary Reimers and his mates were in. But the Western height finally paid off as big Don Hinzmann and Boyd Thomas scored from close in as well as grabbing most of the rebounds.

JIM THOM, the 6-7 center for Lincoln Teachers, was just too tall for the other Class B clubs to halt. When Thom was out of the lineup, the Teachers' offense sputtered. This was plainly evident in the Tecumseh skirmish when Thom fouled out early in the fourth quarter and Tutors nearly lost the game after blowing a sizable lead.

In picking a tournament team we would have a first five something like this: Cal Johnson, Hastings; Al Graves, Lincoln; Lyle Nannan, Syracuse; Erik Olsen, Benson; and Gary Reimers, Millard.



Courtesy Sunday Journal and Star

New Class A Champions

Coach Earl Applegate's tall ting Tigers defeated Benson in Huntley, John Crabtree, Rich Swanson, Mike McGrath, Rob-Hastings Tigers are the new Class A champions. The hustler, Jack McCleery, Maynard Kleiber, Cal Johnson, John

Sig Eps Take Frat Crown; Dubbers Independent King

Brandon, Engel Pace Sig Eps Past Cold Phi Deltis; Lee Dobler Leads Dubbers Over Frosh Dent Team

By FRANK SORENSON Sports Staff Writer

Sigma Phi Epsilon and the Dubbers were among the champions crowned in the Coliseum Saturday. Phi Delta Theta and the Dental Frosh were the victims of a scoring barrage that saw both of their unbeaten records go by the boards.

The Sig Eps took advantage of a cold Phi Delt team to romp to a 52-32 win. Meanwhile, the Dubbers were having no trouble at all with the Dents by coming out on the long of a 52-30 count.

Jim Walsh opened the Sig Ep scoring parade with a charity toss and the Phi Deltis' Joe Carter tied it up with another toss. Bill Giles put the loser's ahead with a gift shot only to have Corky Engel hit a side shot for a 3-2 margin.

Giles again put the contenders ahead for the last time with two tosses from the line. Another two-pointer by Engel, two by Duane Schmelling and one by Dave Brandon gave the winners an 11-5 first quarter lead.

THE HAPLESS Phi Deltis could could manage only three field goals in the second stanza while Schmelling, Walsh, Engel, Brandon and Don Peters connected to give the Sig Eps a 26-12 halftime lead.

In the last half the losers found the range a little better with the third frame ending 37-19. In the final quarter the winners outscored the Phi Deltis by only 15-13 to bring the score to the final count.

Engel and Brandon led the winners with 13 points apiece while teammate Walsh and Schmelling garnered 11 and 9 respectively. Giles was high for the Phi Deltis with 10.

Sigma Phi Eps' (52) Phi Delta Theta (32)
Engel 6 1-2 9 3 4-5 4
Peters 2 2-2 7 Carter 2 2-3 3
Walsh 3 3-6 5 Fillion 3 1-4 2
Brandon 5 3-5 4 Ross 1 0-0 1
Schmelling 3 3-8 1 Sommers 1 0-0 3
Uehling 0 0-0 0 Cotterhall 1 1-1 1
Benedict 0 0-0 0 Sloan 1 0-0 3
Kensani 0 0-0 0 Beechner 0 0-0 2
Mastin 0 0-0 0

19 14 23 9 12 8-13 20
GOOD PASSING and shooting featured the Dubbers 52-30 conquest of the Frosh Dents for the Independent title.

Bob Pelligrino opened the scoring with a fielder and a charity toss for a 3-0 lead. Then Lee Dobler hit three straight buckets followed by fielders from Pelligrino and Phil Haas for an 18-6 first quarter lead.

The Dents, who just couldn't do anything right, did not score a field goal in the first half while the winners hit 12 from the floor for a 21-9 halftime lead.

The count went to 33-12 before the Dents found the range. Then, on baskets by Bill Shainholtz and Bill Ellison, the losers trailed by

39-24 entering the final stanza, outscoring the winners 15-8. In the final quarter the scoring just about reversed itself with the champions hitting 13 to the runner-up's 6.

The Dubbers scoring was very balanced with Lee Dobler hitting 13. Bob Baker and Shainholtz led the Dents with 8 markers apiece.

The Dubbers earned their ticket to the finals by downing the NROTC 47-34 while the Dents overpowered the Ramblers 47-34. The Dubbers and the B Champions, Alpha Gamma Rho, are the only two unbeaten teams in the University leagues now.

Dubbers (52) Frosh Dents (30)
Clouse 16 8 21 Shainholtz 2 4-7 7
Dobler 3 3-4 3 Allen 0 2-2 2
Dobler 5 3-6 2 Baker 2 4-6 2
Haas 4 2-6 2 Ellison 3 1-1 1
Pelligrino 2 2-8 2 Heinze 1 3-8 3
Andrews 2 1-2 2 Barlow 0 0-0 0
Jensen 2 0-0 1 Pinks 0 0-0 0
Lantz 2 0-0 4 Nyberg 0 0-0 0
Woods 0 0-0 0

20 11-16 16 8 14 22 14

Johnson, Matzke Honored Recently

Bill Johnson and Stan Matzke, two University of Nebraska basketball stars, were honored during the half of the Friday night clash between Hastings and Lincoln High.

Johnson, a senior and starting center on the basketball team, received a chest of silver for being nominated as the Huskers' most valuable player during the 1953-54 season. A poll of the conference coaches decided the honor. Johnson was this year's high scorer on the Husker team and also was third high scorer in the Big Seven. Fred Seger received last year's award.

Matzke received the Joe E. Brown Sportsmanship Award. The honor was decided by a vote of Matzke's teammates, Mrs. Brown presented the trophy.

Matzke, a junior forward, will be back next year. Last season the honor went to Joe Good, a senior guard.

Scarlet Fourth In Big Seven Swim Affair

Fourteen records were smashed as the Oklahoma swimming team splashed their way to an impressive Big Seven Title. The powerful Sooners finished with 154 points compared to second-place Iowa State's 119 points.

The Sooners and the Cyclones won every first in shattering four national collegiate records and 10 Big Seven marks. Iowa State's Mike Lamair hurried through the 100-yard breast stroke finals in 1:01.1 to cut one tenth second off the collegiate mark he set in the preliminaries Saturday morning.

The Cyclones also had the only triple winner of the meet in Jim McKeitt. McKeitt broke the collegiate mark in winning the 120-yard individual medley in 1:11.9.

Kansas was third with 26 points, Nebraska had 23 and Colorado managed 20. Missouri and Kansas State did not enter.

2-Meter Diving—1. Earl Hallum, Oklahoma, 393.05; 2. Tom Gilbert, Oklahoma, 353.0; Ernest DeJong, Oklahoma, 346.0; 4. Jerry Jester, Oklahoma, 344.25; 5. Wally Snow, Colorado, 337.55; 6. John Nichol, Iowa State, 304.1.

100-Yard Back Stroke—1. Lynn Melina, Oklahoma, 2. Loren Braucht, Iowa State, 3. Melvin Van Heidsdine, Oklahoma; 4. Joe Wilson, Iowa State; 5. David Raush, Oklahoma; 6. John Green, Oklahoma, Time: :59.5. (New Big Seven record of :57.5 set by Melvin in preliminaries.)

100-Yard Breast Stroke—1. Mig Lamair, Iowa State; 2. Julian Dwyson, Oklahoma; 3. Bob Best, Iowa State; 4. Jim McKinnor, Oklahoma; 5. Bill Thompson, Iowa State; 6. Roger Koepcke, Oklahoma, Time 1:01. (Better National Collegiate and Big Seven record of 1:01.1 set by Lamair in preliminaries.)

100-Yard Free Style—1. Jim McKeitt, Iowa State; 2. Sandy Stewart, Iowa State; 3. Gerry DeJong, Oklahoma; 4. Maurie McCullen, Iowa State; 5. Bob Hollowell, Iowa State; 6. Dick Storti, Oklahoma, Time :53.4. (Big Seven record of 53 seconds set by DeJong in preliminaries.)

440-Yard Free Style—1. Graham Johnson, Oklahoma; 2. Peter Duncan, Oklahoma; 3. Jack Hudack, Oklahoma; 4. CALVIN BENTZ, NEBRASKA; 5. Charles Tomes, Colorado; 6. Leigh Stratton, Kansas, Time :8.4. (New Big Seven record, Old mark by Duncan of Oklahoma 4:47.7 in preliminaries.)

120-Yard Individual Medley—1. Jim McKeitt, Iowa State; 2. Melvin Van Heidsdine, Oklahoma; 3. Bob Best, Iowa State; 4. Jim McKinnor, Oklahoma; 5. DICK HILL, NEBRASKA; 6. Hal Donnelly, Colorado, Time 1:11.9. (New national collegiate record, Old time 1:12 set in preliminaries by McKeitt.)

300-Yard Medley Relay—1. Iowa State (Loren Braucht, Mig Lamair, Jim Valtoski); 2. Oklahoma; 3. Kansas; 4. Colorado; 5. NEBRASKA, Time 2:53.7. (New Big Seven record, Old mark 3:01.5 by Iowa State in 1951.)

Main Feature Clock Varsity: "Beat The Devil," 1:42, 3:41, 5:40, 7:39, 9:38. State: "The Joe Louis Story," 1:00, 3:54, 6:48, 9:42. "Captain Scarlet," 2:39, 5:33, 8:27.

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ATTENTION All basketball team managers are urged to turn in their All-University team ballots before Wednesday, March 17. Please turn them in to Room 106 in the P. E. Building or to the sports desk at The Nebraskan office.

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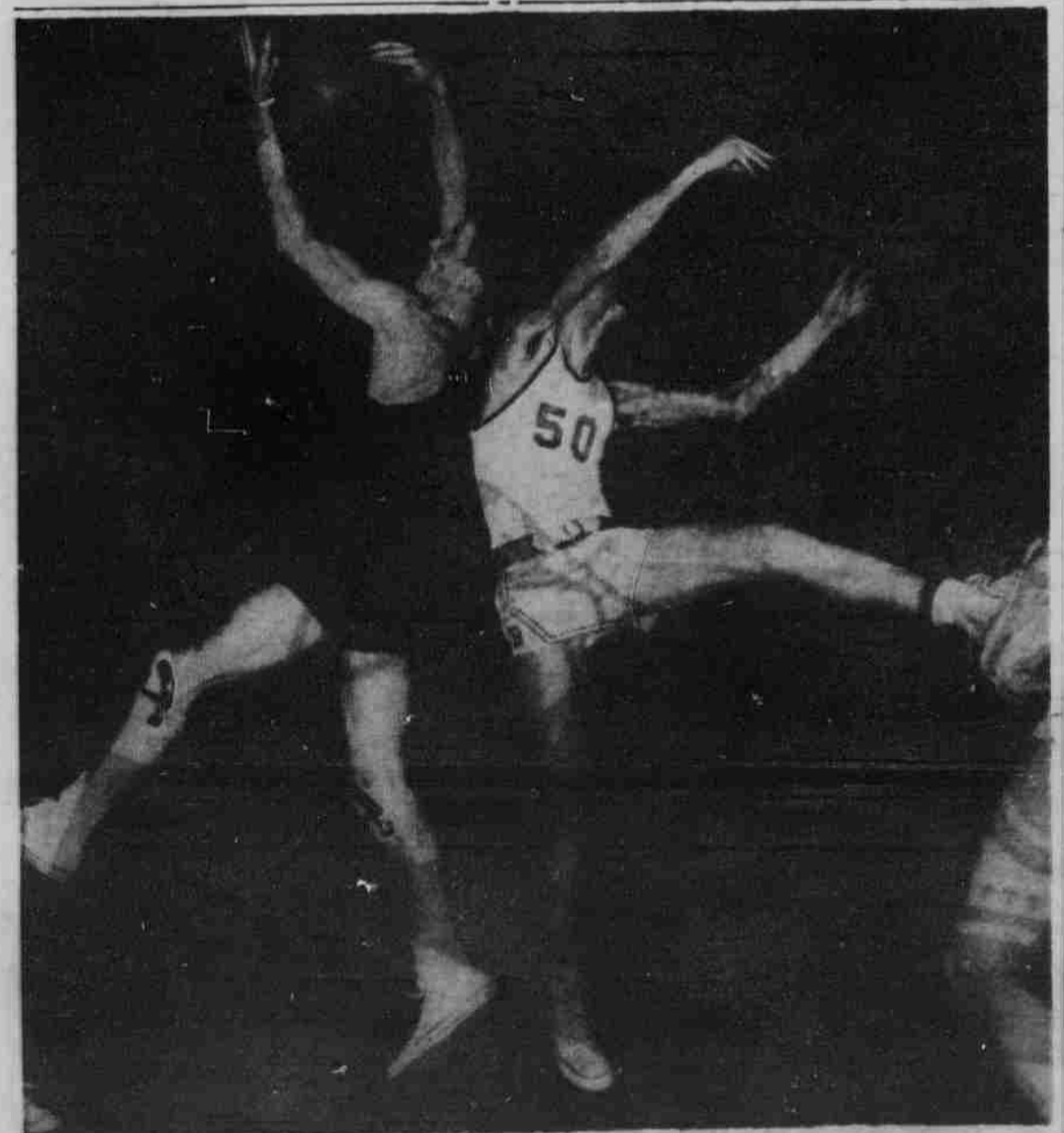
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Courtesy Sunday Journal and Star

Two Small Men Meet

In this instance, Jack McCleery (12), smallest man on the Hastings squad wins the battle for

the ball with Omaha Benson's smallest regular, Alex Grant (50). All the action came in Saturday night's battle between the Bunnies and Tigers for the Class A title.

Advertisement for Spalding Synchro-Dyned TOP-FLITE golf clubs. It features illustrations of golfers and text promoting the clubs' performance and availability through golf professionals.