

What's NU In Sports?

Cage Upsets Frequent; 1954 Predictions Astray

Ironic as it seems, the 1954-55 basketball season is following in the exact footsteps of its predecessor, football. If you can recall the 1954 grid campaign, it was filled with upsets from the opening game to the final gun. Not to be outdone, the cage season has started on the same order. Just last week Kentucky, rated No. 1 in the polls, met unheralded Georgia Tech. If being the national kingpin wasn't enough to convince the cage fans that the Wildcats would have little trouble against the Engineers, then playing on their home court would without a doubt clinch the argument. The Kentuckians, for many years the top team in the country, hadn't lost a home tilt in 129 games. This string went all the way back to 1943 when Ohio State dumped the Wildcats 46-43. Since then UK couldn't be touched on their home boards. Last week found the Georgia Tech five disregard all odds to defeat them 74-71.

I am using this game only as an example of the current campaign. Even the unknowns have a fighting chance this year. I believe that two contributing factors are the new free-throw rule and the two halves system. Unlike the campaign of a year ago, the games are now played under two 20 minute halves instead of the four quarter method. The big factor, however, is the newly employed bonus free-throw rule. Under this plan, any player fouled under a one-shot violation will receive a bonus shot if he makes the first throw. If he should miss his first toss, however, then the ball goes into play immediately. This could be the main stem for the number of upsets already in the young season.

A good example is the Iowa State-Kansas clash at the Big Seven tourney in December. The Cyclones were able to down the Jayhawks in the last half, because of the new rule. This is just one game, but the others were under similar circumstances.

Skipping basketball for the moment, lets turn our thought to the sporting events of a year ago. In the recent issue of the Sporting News, there appeared an article on the predictions that went astray for 1954. In January, coach Frank Leahy made the statement that he would remain at Notre Dame as long as the school would have him. He retired at the end of the month. In that same month, Eddie Stanky, manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, made the statement that his ballclub had improved so much that they could go the whole way. The Cards finished 25 games behind the New York Giants. Kid Gavilan, the Cuban flash of the boxing world, predicted he would knock out Bobo Olson, fight for another year, then retire from the ring to become a dancer. Olson turned the tables on the Kid. Gavilan also lost his welterweight title to Johnny Saxton. In the all-star

NU On Road

Wrestlers, Swimmers Open Skeds

University of Nebraska's wrestlers will make their debut this week-end with two matches on foreign mats. The Cornhusker matmen meet Mankato State Teachers at Mankato, Minn., Friday night and go against the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis, Saturday.

Coach Don Strasheim believes his grapplers face the roughest schedule in Nebraska history. Three of his matmen, Marshall Nelson, Kimball (123 pounds) Jim Owens (130) and Don Beck, Fremont (137) will be wrestling for the first time in competition.

John Crancer, Lincoln, junior letterman, will wrestle at 147; Arnold Morton, Oberlin, Kan., junior letterman at 175; Jerry Stark, Loomis, junior, 167; Charles Bryant, Omaha, senior letterman at 177 and Larry Goll, Blue Hill, senior letterman will wrestle in the unlimited division.

University of Nebraska's swimmers meet Kansas at Lawrence Saturday in a dual meet. It will be the Huskers' only meet in a 20-yard pool.

Swimmers making the trip will include Hugh Barnard, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Calvin Bents, Hastings; George Boomer, Lincoln; David Gradwohl, Lincoln; Richard Hildek, Omaha; Tom Houchen, Lincoln; John B. Johnson, Holdrege; Wyman Kenagy, Lincoln; David Lynch, Lincoln; Gordon Peterson, Auburn; Robert Sandstedt, Lincoln; Dean L. Stoneman, Lincoln; William Tagney, Omaha; Richard Hill, Hastings.

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Cagers Set For Kansas After K-State

PROBABLE LINEUPS
 Kansas—Maurice King 6-2, F. 6-4 Rex Ekwall, Gene Elston 6-3, F. 6-11 Chuck Smith, Lew Johnson 6-8 1/2, C. 6-5 1/2 Willard Fagler, Dallas Dobbs 6-11, G. 6-2 Stan Matzke, John Parker 5-11 1/2, G. 5-10 Duane Buel

The hustling Huskers of Nebraska, with two conference victories under their belts, are now preparing to meet Kansas University Saturday in the Coliseum. The Huskers' second Big Seven win was a 69-59 upset of favored Kan-

sas State Tuesday night. The Cornhuskers, whose victory was no fluke, were clearly superior, holding the lead throughout the game except for a short time at the beginning of the game and early in the second half.

Kansas State grabbed a quick 4-0 lead in the first two minutes, only to relinquish it later. Trailing by 27-19 with five minutes remaining in the first half, the Wildcats were

able to knot the score 31-31 at halftime. With a minute and a half gone in the second half, K-State went ahead, 35-34, but the Huskers soon climbed back on top to stay.

The predominant factor in the Nebraska victory again was hustle. Another important factor was the tremendous job the Huskers did in keeping the ball from being thrown to the Wildcat centers. This

almost completely nullified the Kansas State offensive pattern.

Rex Ekwall, Willard Fagler, Chuck Smith and Gus Renzelman were very effective in keeping the boards clear despite the Wildcats' superior height. Ekwall came up with a total of 17 rebounds, while Fagler got 10.

It was strictly a team victory, as was evidenced by the even scoring. With Stan Matzke, Duane Buel, Ekwall, Smith and Fagler all hitting in double figures, the Nebraska attack was very well balanced.

The Huskers hit 21 of 57 field goal attempts for a 33 per cent average, while K-State hit 20 of 73 attempts for 27 per cent. At the free-throw line, Nebraska made 27 of 36 attempts, Kansas State 19 of 29.

Kansas will be trying for their first Big Seven victory of the season. The Jayhawks are now trailing with a 0-2 record. The probable starting lineup will be: Maurice King, 6-2, and Gene Elston, 6-3, forwards; Lew Johnson, 6-6 1/2, center; and John Parker, 5-11 1/2, and Dallas Dobbs, 5-11, guards. All these starters are sophomores except Dobbs, who is a junior. Dobbs, the leading scorer

for the Jayhawks, has been sidelined by an injury, but is expected to be ready for the Nebraska game.

Slight Change
 Coach Jerry Bush has juggled his lineup slightly.

The five who carried most of the load against Kansas State will be present for the opening tip. However, Stan Matzke has been shifted to guard and Chuck Smith to forward.

Rex Ekwall, Holmesville sophomore, paces the Huskers in both scoring and rebounds. He has averaged 14 points per game and has a total of 140 rebounds.

Stan Matzke with a 12.2 average for 10 games is next in point making and Willard Fagler third with 11 points per game in 11 starts.

After 11 games, the Huskers have a 39.9 percentage in field goal attempts with 270 out of 676 tries.

Pass And Hustle
 Jerry Bush, University of Nebraska basketball coach, has a way of forcing his players to pass the ball in practice.

He stuffs a basketball with rags. It won't bounce so the only thing possible to do with it is to throw it. Improved ball handling, which has marked the Huskers' recent games, has resulted.

Tumblers Tumble Today

Gymnastic Team Opens Competition; Gophers, 'Cats In Triangular Meet

The University of Nebraska gymnastic squad will open its 1955 season today at 4:30 in the Physical Education building. The tumblers will meet Minnesota and Kansas in the opener. No admission will be charged for this event and all are invited to watch the gymnasts in action.

Coach Jake Geier has announced the six starters for Friday's meet. Danny Fogel, senior and captain of the squad, is beginning his

fourth year on the team. Don Hodge, senior, is also starting his fourth year of competition. Fogel and Hodge began tumbling while freshmen were still eligible for the varsity squad. Bruce Riley is a junior letterman entering his second year on the team. Bert Linn, also a returning letterman, has been with the gymnasts for two years. Two sophomores, Erv Krist and Wayne Strickler, are newcomers to the varsity squad and

will be experiencing their first conference action tonight.

A standout on this year's team, Bruce Riley, attended last year's YMCA "Athlete of the year" award dinner, where he was nominated as the best tumbler in the State of Nebraska.

After a successful season last year, and with four returning lettermen, Coach Geier is looking forward to an even better season this year.

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