

Nebraska Meets Buffs

Huskers Go To CU For League Opener

By MAX KREITMAN
Staff Sports Writer

Basketball action swings into conference play for the Nebraska Cornhuskers as they trek westward to do battle with the Colorado Buffs Saturday night on the CU maples. It will be the conference opener for both fives.

Colorado, last years conference winner, will take a so-so 4-5 record into the contest. They opened up their season in winning fashion, downing Oregon State, Oregon, and Iowa before falling before the Brigham Young Cougars in two straight tilts. They then lost to Colorado A&M 66-65 before walking over the Oklahoma Sooners in the first round of the Big 7 pre-season tournament at Kansas City last week. They then went astray in the next two outings, losing to the eventual tourney winners Iowa State in the semi-finals and then losing a close 82-79 clash to Missouri in the third place battle.

The Buffs, co-champions with KU in 1953 and sole rulers last year, will have a long way to go in defending their title this year. Gone from the CU line-up is their one-two scoring punch, center Burdette Halderson and forward Bob Jeangerard. The former led the league in scoring two years in a row, scoring 256 points in 1954 and 287 points last year. Last year Jeangerard averaged 18 points a contest. Also missing from the Buff front line are guards Charlie Mock and Tom Harrold.

This left only Mel Coffman as the only returning regular. The 6-3 forward is joined by Jim Ranglos at the other forward, George Hannah, the big 6-7 senior at center, and Dave Mowbray and Wayne Mansfield at guards. All starters are returning letterwinners, with Ranglos, Hannah, and Coffman each earning two. Mowbray and Mansfield are juniors. The other possibility in the starting quintet may find senior Bill Peterson, a 6-4 letterman at guard in place

of Mowbray or Mansfield. Re-serves Bob Helzer, Dick Nicholson, and Jim Jochems will be called on for much duty for coach Bebe Lee's five.

For the Huskers, they will be taking a disappointing 3-7 mark into the game. The Huskers have downed Texas Tech 69-66, UCLA 71-65, and Cornell 70-69. They have bowed to Iowa 60-51, Michigan 77-71, Wichita 71-46, Wisconsin 71-52, Vanderbilt 66-48, Missouri 71-65, and Kansas State 79-51. They met the Buffs three times last year losing to them twice 77-66 and 89-47. They beat CU here last year 84-77. Nebraska finished with a 6-6 conference mark last year and an overall 9-12 record. CU had an 11-1 league mark and a seasons score of 19-6.

Starting for the Cornhuskers will be Don Smidt and Chuck Smith at forwards, Rex Ekwall at center, and Jim Kubacki and Gary Reimers at guards. Ekwall is currently leading the Huskers in scoring percentages with an 14.0 average. Chuck Smith has scored the most points, however, hitting 137 for a 13.7 average.

The Nebraskans have actually played a much better brand of ball than the record indicates. Their trouble seems to lie in the fact that they jump out quickly and then lose their poise for about 10 minutes which puts them in a hole. They downed UCLA, a team that went all the way to the finals of the Holiday tournament at New Yorks Madison Square Garden.



Hannah ... Nebraska Photo

THE NEBRASKAN

SPORTS

Minor Sports Programs Start Into Full Swing

By WALT BLORE
Staff Sports Writer

Minor sports at Nebraska swing down the main road between now and finals as the wrestling, swimming, and gymnastics teams open their seasons.

The tankers and gymnasts have one meet each under their belts but they start their Big Seven contests this month. The swimmers have one victory, a 53-31 conquest of Grinnell college. Junior lettermen Gene Cotter, Wyman Kenagy, Bill Tagney, and Captain Tom Houchen. These four are the nucleus of the crew which includes sophomores Steve Gaines, Carl Bodensteiner, John Holeman, Paul Schorr, and Doug Thorpe. Bodensteiner was a double winner against Grinnell while Schorr picked up one first against the Iowa college.

Don Strasheim has five returning letter winners to his wrestling squad. The grapplers face an eight-team schedule and hope to improve on last season's record that shows no wins as a team. Team captain Arnold Morton and John Crancer are two-year lettermen

while Jack Bryans, Marshall Nelson, and Jim Owens are trying for their second letter. Morton is from Oberlin, Kans., and Crancer and Owens are from Lincoln. Bryans picked up his high experience at Omaha Central and Nelson hails from Kimball.

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- Winners will be judged on beauty and poise only. No talent required.
- Semi-finalists will be chosen on the basis of applications and photographs mailed to Auto Show Headquarters. Studio pose or snapshot must accompany application.
- If chosen for semi-finals, entrants must appear in Omaha, Saturday afternoon, January 21, 1956.
- Finalists must appear in formal or party dresses and in Catalina Swim suits on January 28, 1956.
- Applications must be postmarked not later than January 15, 1956.

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Cage Pace Set By Two

Rex Ekwall, Holmesville's gift to the Huskers, dominates the Nebraska basketball chart after ten games. Though he has missed two games due to illness Ekwall leads NU in shooting percentage with a torrid 44 per cent, free throw percentage with 76 per cent, and points per game average with 14. He is second to Don Smidt, sophomore forward, in rebounds. Ekwall has grabbed 79 to Smidt's 80.

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Sports Shorts

bob cook
sports editor



The Nebraska Athletic Department staged their long awaited open house for new football coach Pete Elliott this morning in a press conference. After finishing his term at Oklahoma in fine fashion at the Orange Bowl, Elliott is now available for full time devotion to his new position. Spring practice will open April 1, ending with All-Sports Day April 27.

Elliott hasn't announced his assistant coaches yet, but who knows, maybe he'll bring Bud Wilkinson. We can dream can't we?

FROM THE LAND OF SUNSHINE

While on an excursion to Florida attending my usual business (I wrestle alligators in the off season, being of Seminole Indian descent) I was fortunate enough to view one of the most spectacular performances in the way of football to occur this season. Although the North-South game was greatly overshadowed by this year's sensational bowl games I don't believe there was a better example of pro-caliber quarterbacking than took place in the Yankee-Rebel fray.

ANYONE FOR JAI-ALAI?

After hearing the news of Nebraska's showing in the pre-season tourney at Kansas City I began to wonder if it would be practical to start a crusade for a Nebraska Jai-Alai team. The coliseum would be about the right dimension for such accommodations. The problem of getting a coach might be a bit difficult but think of all the thrills sports writers could have on the recruiting program and think of the trip the Athletic Department could make each year . . . Spain, Cuba, Mexico. And think of the sportscasters pronouncing the Basque and Cuban names.

Seriously, the Husker cagers seem to be a sort of unique squad. They fluctuate on sort of a hit and miss proposition, at times they seem capable of assuming the role of a giant killer. Coach Jerry Bush's squad however, is a little short in the way of much needed height, and have been somewhat hampered by injuries and illnesses. But, despite their 3-7 record, the Huskers are capable of playing some class A ball, and should prove to be a threat at home. So, put away the elevator shoes Jerry, there will be better days ahead.

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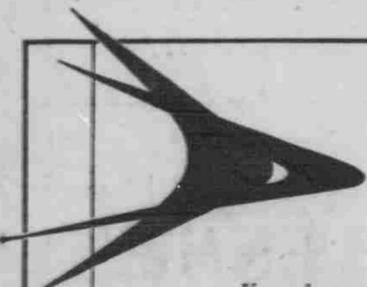
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