

Sam's Salvos

By Bob Samuelson

It is hard to be optimistic about an eighteen point defeat, but it's not impossible. As a matter of fact, the Monday night defeat of the Huskers by Missouri happened to be by an eighteen point deficit, and I'm optimistic.

For one thing I'm optimistic about Fred Hare's emergence as a fine all-around basketball player. Hare came off the bench midway through the first half Monday night, and made several mental errors—bad passes and traveling violations.

But in the second half, Hare bounced back and played some of the finest basketball of his career. He only tallied fifteen points for the evening which is mediocre for him, but his defense and hustle was, in a word, superb. Late in the game when it became quite apparent that Nebraska was simply not going to make the big comeback, Hare kept the team hustle and spirit up with his fire and desire. His desire was not based on accumulating a high point total for himself, although as always he worked diligently for his shots, but rather for notching a couple more tallies for the Huskers.

I fail to see how coach Joe Cipriano can keep a man of Hare's caliber on the bench. Hare is the leading rebounder on the team with 139 rebounds—Coley Webb is second with 124. Hare is the leading scorer on the team with 307 points—Grant Simmons is next with 218. Hare is third in field goal percentage with a mark of over 40 per cent—only Willie Campbell and Nate Branch top him. Hare is leading in free throw percentage among those who have shot twenty-five or more free throws.

I have never thought Fred Hare's defense was as bad as it is supposed to be, and Colorado's press writers, unaware of Hare's 'bad' defensive reputation, commented several times in game write-ups what a fine job Hare did on defense in the game at Boulder. Hare has often been lax and unaggressive on defense which has given rise to comments on his 'bad' defense, but if Hare has learned the importance of that phase of the game, his natural ability cannot help but make him proficient at defense as well as offense. The Missouri game showed that Hare has learned that defense is important.

Another point for optimism about Missouri's drubbing of Nebraska is Coley Webb's fine showing from the foul line. Webb hit on thirteen of sixteen attempts from the stripe and collected eleven for eleven in the second half of play. The Huskers on the whole were twenty-two for thirty-one which is quite respectable. Such a showing in most of the other games the Huskers have lost would have changed the final complexion of the game.

A couple of things disturbed me, though. For instance, I was hard pressed to find Cipriano's logic in remaining in the full-court zone press after a few minutes in

the first half made it quite obvious that Missouri was an extremely fast team thanks to Gary Garner, Charlie Rudd, and Ronnie Coleman. These 'little' men were fine shooters, ball-handlers, and fast breakers, and among the three of them accounted for sixty of Missouri's points.

As everyone knows, nothing can break up a zone press as fast as getting the ball down the court fast. Missouri continually hustled the ball down the court for lay-up after lay-up, and almost always was awarded with a three-on-two situation. Jerry Spears played a great portion of Monday night's game. Spears had done an outstanding job against Kansas State and Colorado in the two previous games, but against Missouri, his lack of speed was painfully apparent. He garnered seven rebounds, but against a fast-breaking team, Spears is at a natural disadvantage. It would seem, then, that against a slower ballclub Spears is invaluable for his defense and board work, but against a fast team:

Now I'd like to advocate a bit of poor sportsmanship. The fans who witnessed the basketball game Monday night were too polite, and the end result of the game may slightly have suffered for it. Missouri shot MORE free throws than Nebraska did which is quite unusual for an away team in college basketball. The more partisan the Cornhusker fans are, the more the referees will be pressured into giving the 'doubtful' calls, and the calls that could go either way to the home team—Nebraska.

How do I justify booing? I do so on several accounts. Number one: this is not high school basketball, and the purpose is not, repeat not, to 'build character', but to win games. Most of the athletes are getting 'paid' to play in the form of athletic scholarships—tuition, room and board, books. Often, without the scholarship, the athlete would not even be able to attend college. Basketball is serious business to them.

Number two: the University treats basketball as a business, as well, and the more games the team wins, the more fans are likely to attend, and the more income for the University.

Number three: the other schools in the Big Eight Conference make it virtually impossible for another team to win away from home. Monday's opponent, Missouri, for instance, has lost at home only once this year, and that loss was to unpredictable Iowa State just last Saturday.

Another thing the Coliseum regulars are prone to do is to boo a move made by Cipriano, or even to boo a Nebraska player as he comes onto the floor. That type of booing is inexcusable, unfair to the coach and the team, and an unnecessary boon to the psychological status of Nebraska's opponents. I should hope that Nebraska's wonderful fans will use both their lungs and their heads in Nebraska's remaining home games.

Hot Mizzou Shooting Rips Nebraska Defense

The University of Missouri basketball team disheveled the Husker press and proceeded to a convincing victory at the Coliseum Monday night.

Never headed, the Tigers held margins of up to 22 points despite every effort of the cold shooting Cornhuskers.

Coley Webb's fine post play and quick moves kept Nebraska in the game for the most part of the first half.

A rally engineered by Grant Simmons and Willie Campbell brought The Huskers to within one early in the second quarter, but the enthusiasm of the crowd was soon squelched.

The next burst of points came at the Missouri basket, with Ronnie Coleman and Gary Garner accounting for ten of their next fifteen points to widen the Tigers lead to 14 points.

From this point on it was all Missouri as Nebraska could not put together another serious threat.

Garner, Mizzou's sparkling 5-11 guard, dumped in shots from almost every spot on the floor seemingly at will, and Coleman was the other anchorman in the dazzling outside shooting display which confronted Cipriano's squad.

That wasn't all Nebraska had to focus their efforts on, however, as a well organized fast break and brilliant feeding gave the Bengals many easy layups and a 13 point lead at halftime.

In the second half Husker fans had to focus their attention on Webb's freethrow shooting (11-11) and Fred Hare who started potting his usual soft shot. Webb ended up high scorer for Nebraska with 23 with Hare second at 15.

These two could only keep the winning margin from growing entirely out of proportion, as Missouri played more for the sure shot and connected on 58% of them in the second half.

Missouri's two big men, George Flamank and Ned

Monsees, managed to foul out, but it did not seem to make any difference in the effectiveness of their team.

The loss knocked Nebraska out of a share of fifth place in the Big Eight.

The Husker freshmen fared decidedly better in their encounter Monday, as they blitzed Clarinda (Ia.) Junior College 110 to 68. Stuart Lantz led the well rounded yearling team with 29 points as six of the seven scorers were in double figures.

IM Cage Tourney In Early Stages

The intramural basketball tournament got underway on a winning note for the Beta Theta Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon "C" teams Monday.

The Betas handily disposed of Sigma Chi "C" by a score of 42 to 29. The victors successfully blended defense with offense, and were paced by game high scorer Spencer Davis who had 16 points.

Sigma Chi fell behind at the beginning and needed an 18 point fourth quarter to finish as close as they did.

In the second game The Sig Eps downed Phi Delta Theta 43-38. The winning margin was provided by the taller Sig Eps board men. The Phi Dels couldn't get more than one or two shots off before they would lose the ball on rebounds.

The game was always within a few points until the final spread of five points was potted by Jim Adams, who finished with game honors of 22 points.

SPORTS PAGE

Daily Nebraskan

BOB SAMUELSON—Sports Ed.

Coach Dick Klass Leads Tankmen's Western Assault

Nebraska's tankers take to the water again this week-end after a two week lay-off. Friday, February 19, the swim men invade Wyoming for a dual meet. On Saturday, February 20, it is on to Boulder, Colorado, for a triangular clash with the Buffaloes and Air Force.

Tom Nickerson represents the Huskers in the 100 and 200 yard free-styles, and a leg of the free relay. Other triple stokers will be Dave Frank (200 yard individual medley, 200 yard back stroke, free relay), and Ron Gabrielson, (50 yard free style, 100 yard free style, free relay). Dale Parker rounds out the free relay team and combines with Jon Burchill, Mike Jackson, and Doug Sutton in the medley relay.

Coach Dick Klass carries a five year record of 10 wins 3 losses against this week's

opponents, but seems anxious for more. Klaas' chant, "We want three victories" is sending his squad off to the western waters.

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