

# The Sporting Life Husker Basketballers Roll; Gymnasts Look Ahead



by James Pearse

That's Ole Red helping me move in. The dust is still a bit unsettled, and the quarters a little cramped; but we will be operating at full tilt shortly.

Ole Red will be searching out the wide world of Nebraska sports. Anything that involves, effects, or interests sports and the sports fans at Nebraska is his prey.

The sporting life is a big one. "Sports gets into everything," says John Steinbeck. Our aim is to get into everything in sports.

Former Nebraskan sports editors will help along the way. Bob Samuelson will be here with "Sam's Salvos," a bit of a legend in its own time. Jim Swartz will offer up his bonanza of "Goal Dust." And Chuck Salem will aid in coverage of the many and varied sports of spring around the campus.

Intramural coverage is in the process of expansion. Each fraternity house and each independent organization will be asked to cooperate by appointing a correspondent to the Nebraskan. Joel Meier, we are again looking to you for aid in this area.

When the final points are totaled, however, the fan is the most important element in "The Sporting Life." It is our place to be responsible in reporting the sports. It is the place of the fan to keep us responsible, and burn us when we are not.

Ole Red is a tough hound, but nearsighted sometimes. That's when you have got to kick him—hard. So, come on fans.

Coach Joe Cipriano's speedy corps of eagles hustled from the first semester to the second unscared, and sit alone atop the Big Eight standings with a 5-0 conference mark.

**Tigers Mangled**  
Between semesters the hustling Huskers picked up four wins. On January 8, in Lincoln, Missouri fell victim to Big Red's press 82-60.

Nate Branch led Nebraska scoring with 21 points. The Tigers "garbage" style of play had Nebraska's smooth running game sputtering at times, but eventually Missouri wilted under the heat of the press.

**Wildcats Tamed**  
Nebraska met its toughest road test to date on the following Saturday in Manhattan, Kansas. Nick Pino and his Kansas State playmates provided the opposition.

A tight contest was broken open near the end of the first half by the pressure of the press, and gave Nebraska a 20-point lead at intermission.

The momentum of the game shifted after half-time, and before Nebraska could regroup the entire lead had been squandered away.

But 'Slippery Joe' was able to keep the fading Huskers together long enough to weather the Wildcats' fury. Nebraska pulled away in the closing minutes for an 82-71 victory.

**Jayhawks Lose Feathers**  
Three days later, back in the friendly confines of the Coliseum, Ted Owens brought Walt Wesley and the rest of his wily Kansas Jayhawks calling. The survivor would hold the conference lead.

Owens said the winner of the showdown would break the momentum of the other team. But protecting himself in case of loss, he added, "I don't consider it a two-horse race at all."

It turned out to be a good thing Owens did qualify his statement, because the Huskers hustled Owens, Wesley, and the rest right off the Nebraska campus.

The story of the game was again the perennial Nebraska press, Kansas, a slow moving, well disciplined machine, was never able to get into its game.

Delvy Lewis characterized



Branch . . . tips in two in 83-75 triumph over Kansas.

the defeat handed the Jayhawks as he left the Coliseum limping from exhaustion. Jim Damm led the press which continued with the same intensity all evening.

For the fourth game in a row Nate Branch headed Husker scoring with 18 points as Nebraska won 83 to 75.

**Sooners Silenced**

On January 22, Nebraska faced the only team in the conference that can match the Husker's speed, Oklahoma.

The Sooners threw up a zone defense that stymied Nebraska in the opening minutes, but Tom Baack cracked it with his corner shooting and the race was on.

Oklahoma, playing firehouse fast-break—which amounts to getting the ball and launching it down court in hopes someone is their to grab it—troubled the Huskers until after the intermission.

Coming out gunning, the

Huskers opened an 80 to 61 lead and coasted on to win 86 to 78.

**The Long Road**

Nebraska resumes conference action this week-end with the ever-rugged trip through Oklahoma.

Although the Huskers are back at full strength, with the return of Fred Hare to the line-up, and hold a perfect mark in league play, there is a long way to go to secure the title.

Iowa State has a certified star in sophomore Don Smith and can whip the best in the conference. Colorado's Chuck Gardner has returned. Kansas State keeps improving, and Kansas may have the speed they have lacked.

Jo-Jo White is eligible to play on the night of February 12 for the Jayhawks—just in time to greet Nebraska when the Huskers travel to Lawrence on Saturday, February 26.

Nebraska, with a record of three wins and two losses, will host a full day of gymnastics here on Saturday, reports Coach Jake Geier.

Over the semester the Husker gymnasts won a contest with Wichita State to boost their record for the season over the .500 mark.

Saturday will have an opportunity to watch one of the finest gym teams in the middle-west. Iowa State will be in Lincoln to take on Nebraska and Oklahoma in a double dual affair.

Coach Geier calls ISU "a

real slam-bang outfit. Just a great team."

Another note of interest is that this will be Oklahoma's first competition in the league, having only begun gymnastics last year. With the addition of Oklahoma, Missouri and Oklahoma State are the only remaining schools not participating in gymnastics.

Coach Geier says he hopes to win at least a couple more meets in this season of rebuilding. Some fine individual performances have been turned in to date by Allen

Armstrong, Pat McGill, Bob Santoro, William Reary, and Richard Beran, the workhorse of the team.

Two new members will be added for Saturday's meet. Vance Stone will work the rings and parallel bars, while Duane Strough will compete on the horizontal bars and parallel bars for Geier's Huskers.

Preceding the 2 p.m. double dual will be a morning freshman meet between Nebraska and ISU starting at 10:30 a.m.

## Swimmers On TV, Wrestlers Wanted

By Bob Flasnick

Cornhusker fans who have always wanted to see a Nebraska swim meet but feared getting wet will be able to watch one Friday night, live, on KUON-TV Channel 12 at 8:30 p.m.

The televised meet will put Coach Dick Klass's Nebraska team against Missouri in a dual match in the Nebraska Coliseum pool. A freshman meet at 6:30 p.m. will precede the varsity meet.

Klass described Missouri as a weak team in the conference because of their youthful swimming program, but said that Jerry Wiechman's squad will be a strong contender in a few years.

Saturday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. Nebraska faces Oklahoma in another home meet. Oklahoma has won the Big Eight championship since 1955 and will bring to Lincoln four of last year's Big Eight individual champions to bolster what Klass calls, "a very powerful sophomore group."

Nebraska stands with four wins and five losses overall this season and has two wins and one loss in the conference. Their Big Eight loss was to Kansas with the wins coming against Kansas State and Oklahoma State.

**Stith To Improve**

Wrestling Coach Orval Borgiagli has put up a "help wanted" sign to attract any male students between 145 and 167 pounds who are in-

terested in wrestling for Nebraska. To be eligible, those interested must report to Borgiagli before February 9.

Nebraska wrestlers will take a one win, seven loss record into a match with Colorado tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Coliseum. Indiana State College will be here at 1:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Borgiagli thinks that heavyweight Carl Stith, Husker football player who had a 14

win, 2 loss record last season, will improve now that he is able to concentrate wholly on wrestling.

Borgiagli tabbed 130-pounder Ralph Garcia as "showing improvement," but added that scrappy Rick Allgood will be out a couple of weeks with an ankle injury.

"The students we've got this year work their hearts out," said Borgiagli. "Two fairly equal freshman teams will really help us next year."

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