

The Sporting Life



State Dominated By Sophomores

"It is just something I like to do," says Nebraska's Tom Baack about his shooting. This shooting has carried Baack to sixth in Big Eight Conference scoring and field goal accuracy and to the top in free throwing.

More importantly, however, is that his proficiency has kept jumping up in the pressure games the ninth-ranked Cornhuskers played last weekend in Oklahoma. Regardless of where he's taking his pokes—from long range or the free throw line—he seems to get better in the close games, something unexpected of a sophomore.

Best example of his work was carved last weekend when he dropped eight of eight from the line and 17 of 31 from the field in the two four-point verdicts for the Nebraskans. This output pushed his per-game average up almost two points, to 16.6, during the southern sweep.

When the Huskers needed the points the most, Baack was there. Two came in the overtime against Oklahoma State, after scoring 15 during regulation time. Then he got 16 in the first half against the Sooners. When his teammates began to click in the second half, he went to feeding and still finished with 25, his seasonal high.

However, Baack is just one of three sophomores leading

individual statistical divisions this week. For the fourth straight week, Iowa State's Don Smith is the best of the rebounders with 122, an average of 13.6. This department is where the first-year competitors have had a chance to take over. Second is Oklahoma's Don Sidle (11.9). His teammate Willie Rogers is fifth (9.1). Nebraska's Stuart Lantz sixth (8.9), and Iowa State's Raul Duarte ninth (7.6).

Tops in field goal shooting is Colorado's Chuck Williams, who has hit 58 per cent of his tries. A sophomore, Kansas' Rodger Bohnenstiel, is second in this division, too. A relief center or forward, Bohnenstiel has hit 54 per cent.

The only top not succumbing to the sophomore blitz was Walter Wesley's scoring pedestal. However, Kansas' Big Walter is not having things easy. Sidle is moving in, being pushed by Rogers, both of whom are coming off their second straight big weekend. In the last four games, Sidle has hit for 88 points. Rogers, however, has outdone him with 96, pushing his average from 15.5 to 19.8. Still holding the buffer one between the upperclassmen and the sophomores in scoring is Missouri's Ronnie Coleman, who has a 20.7 mark. Wesley's mark is now 21.9.

Big Eight Statistics

All Games		Recent Game Scores	
W	L	W	L
Nebraska	15	2	285
Kansas	11	3	323
Colorado	9	8	329
Iowa State	10	9	326
Kansas State	8	8	290
Oklahoma	6	12	333
Ola. State	3	15	192
Missouri	2	15	119

Conference Games		Recent Game Scores	
W	L	W	L
Nebraska	7	6	1,000
Kansas	6	3	857
Colorado	5	4	967
Iowa State	4	4	596
Kansas State	3	5	367
Oklahoma	3	5	373
Ola. State	1	7	125
Missouri	0	7	900

Yates New Foundation Chairman

Burnham Yates, president of the First National Bank of Lincoln, was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University Foundation Thursday afternoon.

Yates, whose term is for two years, succeeds Ted Sick of Lincoln.

George B. Cook of Lincoln was elected vice chairman

and Harry R. Haynie of Lincoln was re-elected president, serving in a full-time capacity.

The Board of Directors also elected two new vice presidents, Gene Tallman and Edward J. Hirsch both of Lincoln.

Re-elected as officers were Herb Potter, Jr., of Lincoln, secretary and assistant treasurer, and Howard Hadley, Lincoln, treasurer.

Daily Nebraskan

SPORTS

Sports in Brief

Grell To Fight In Golden Gloves

Husker Guard Stan Grell would like to take some of the success gained with the N.U. football team into the ring this weekend for the Omaha-Midwest golden gloves.

Grell TKO'd his opponent in the Southeast Nebraska finals and hopes to offset his inexperience with aggressiveness.

Bob Gibson Is Hoop Star

St. Louis Cardinal pitcher Bob Gibson poured in 27 points Wednesday to help the Omaha Starlites beat the famed Boxholm Swedes, 100 to 95 in the Western Iowa Independent Basketball Tournament.

Gibson and his teammates will be back in Earlring Ia. Saturday to meet the Council Bluffs Silents.

Gail Cogdill Suspended

For the first time in their 31-year history the Detroit Lions have suspended a player.

Veteran end Gail Cogdill was given an indefinite suspension by the National Football League club Tuesday for remarks he reportedly made about the club's head coach Harry Gilmer, its management and about other players on the team.

At a meeting of the Flint, Mich., Junior Women's Club Cogdill reportedly said Gilmer "doesn't know how to handle men and he's not ready for a coaching job. If Gilmer comes back at all, he might be the only one who does."

The suspension was the first made by the Lions. Alex Karras, a Lion defensive tackle was suspended in 1963, but his was a league and not a club suspension.

Mays Said To Get \$125,000

Willie Mays, the Most Valuable Player in the National League last season, has signed his 1966 contract with the San Francisco for a record \$125,000 sports columnist Jack Hanley wrote Tuesday.

Hanley wrote that Mays signed his contract on Monday following a conference with Giant vice president Charlie Feeney at Candlestick Park. A \$125,000 salary would represent a \$20,000 raise for the All-Star center fielder.

Walt Wesley Spins Records Kansas University's 6-foot-11 basketball star Walt Wesley stayed in touch with Kansas even while football held the spotlight last fall.

Wesley, nicknamed Big Waldo, was a disc jockey on the student station at K.U.

"This is Big Doc with his record show, hopin' to do some good in your neighborhood," is the way he came on the air.

Question: What happens when a gymnast's suspenders flop loose? Answer: His points come down!

At least that's what happened last week at Arizona when Colorado's fine sophomore side horse man, Jack Ryan, maneuvered into a nd out of that problem.

Ryan, wearing suspenders for the first time, fought to fasten them properly in back and they worked down over his shoulders midway through his performance. That distracting development — it's tough enough executing the precise balance and rhythm of the side horse without worrying about your pants — finally broke his concentration and he missed his closing dismount.

The miss cost him almost a full point and he lost his first competition of the season. Ryan, a National Gymnastics Federation national champ as a freshman last year, slipped to 8.6 after av-

eraging 9.5 in his December competitions. (10.0 is perfect.)

But he hitched up his trousers, tightened his suspenders, fastened them securely and spun a near-flawless 9.7 routine the next night at Arizona State.

Ryan and his aspiring Colorado teammates launch Big Eight competition this weekend against the two teams who have dominated the league's gymnastics picture. The Buuffs dual Iowa State's defending champions Friday night at Ames then go to Lincoln for a Saturday afternoon match against the school which annually paced the league until the Cyclones moved into the picture two years ago.

South Dakota State, which has never won more than nine dual meets in a season, goes after No. 8 on Saturday night against Nebraska's Cornhuskers. The match starts at 7:30 and likely will lure a big enthusiastic crowd.

The Jackrabbits will be out to break the deadlock in the Cornhusker series in their favor. At present the series stands 6-6-2. State won last year at Lincoln by a 19-11 score.

For Mick Hurlburt, Jackrabbit heavyweight, it will be a case of climbing out of the frying pan into the fire. He suffered only his second loss of the season to Wayne's talented heavyweight Bob Kruse by a 6-3 count. Coming up is a dual with the Huskers' Carel Stith, third place finisher in the 1965 Big Eight meet and the owner of a 7-1 dual record this season.

KSU vs CU

That 87-67 lacing Kansas State handed Colorado when the two teams met in the Big Eight tournament in December doesn't necessarily mean anything when the Wildcats and Buffaloes collide here Saturday night.

In the first place, the Buuffs should be able to improve a wretched free throwing performance... in the Kansas City game, the Buuffs misfired an almost unbelievable 30 times in 53 tries from the charity stripe.

When that performance came when th Buuffs were having a bad case of the free throw line flutters and they've sharpened up somewhat in the last fortnight. CU hit a fine 23-for-30 in the 65-60 win at Columbia Monday night and was 17-for-25 at Ames on Saturday.

Secondly, the CU-Kansas State series has produced some of the most drastic form reversals in Big Eight history. And most of them have involved CU comebacks.

The Buffaloes, who host Oklahoma State Monday night following the Saturday night encounter with Kansas State, need victories both nights to retain any hopes for a high finish. Already a home court loser to second-place Kansas, the Buffaloes face a rough late-season road with games at Kansas, Nebraska, and Kansas State as well as a Boulder meeting with the red-hot Cornhuskers.

CU hopes should get an added boost with the continued healing of Center Chuck Gardner's broken foot. Gardner logged considerable time against both Iowa State and Missouri, but was still off top form scoring only 14 and 12 points on the trip.

Switched To Basketball

Defensive Minded Damm Comes From Bench To Smooth Attack

By James Pearse
Sports Editor

Entering the world of Jim Damm is like taking a vacation from the tensions of the day. Seeing the non-stop gum chewer relaxing in his desk chair at the center of the room smooths out the wrinkles of trouble.

The same is true when the 6'2" sophomore guard comes off the bench to guide the University of Nebraska basketball team.

Damm, from Bellflower, California, is rapidly becoming the best sixth man in the Big Eight.

In his steady, even way, Jim says, "Sitting on the bench it is easier to see what to do. It is easier to come off the bench and play."

If it hadn't been for a high school coach looking for basketball prospects in a sophomore physical education class back in California, however, Jim might not even be near Nebraska's bench.

As a small boy, he found baseball to his liking, and played a lot of softball. As a matter of fact it wasn't until that sophomore year in high school that Jim picked up a basketball.

But once he got the feel of the roundball it was bye, bye baseball.

A hard worker with the desire to end up on top, Jim took to the court. After spending a year as a junior varsity player, he moved into a starting roll on the varsity team at Bellflower.

"My junior year we probably had a better team than when I was a senior," Jim says, reflecting back on 23 and 5 season. Wasting little time in getting to the top in this new sport, Jim was an all-league selection in his first year of varsity competition, and was the only junior so honored.

"My coach and I both felt I improved a lot between my junior and senior year, but I wasn't as high in the league as a senior," recalls Jim. "Our team finished 19-6 and the lost four games late in the season when some boys were sick."

Jim credits the pattern of West Coast basketball for getting him into college. California is the center of defensive basketball in the United States, and Jim is a fine example of their program.

"We played a lot of summer league. Maybe fifty games, and these guys were good."

Speaking again of his high school days, Jim recalls, "We ran a continuity fast break similar to what we use here at Nebraska. We used the fast break and press, but you can't run all the time."

When he wasn't running or pressing, Jim was picking up his man at mid-court. "In high school ball almost all plays start with a pass to the forward," explains Jim. "We felt if we could cut that pass off we had half the battle won."

From his performance as a freshman, and now as a sophomore here at Nebraska, it appears Jim learned his trade well.

"He's a great competitor," says Coach Joe Cipriano. "He has determination and works hard. Jim gives you 100% all the time, and that's all you



JIM DAMM... knew Nebraska was interested.

can ask for from any player." During the course of the current season, Jim has come off the bench numerous times to shake the Nebraska fast-break lose, or steal a pass on defense. Jim has some of the quickest and surest hands in the league, and he's still improving.

Admitting that he got to college on his defensive prowess, Jim says you get used to not scoring. "After a while you enjoy fine defense. I'd rather lead a fast break than score. It's pretty basketball."

Asked if he liked all the running Nebraska does, Jim sat up in his chair and beamed. "Like to run? I love to run!"

The son of a Union Pacific Railroad insurance inspector, Jim is majoring in business teaching. He has two brothers. One is seventeen ("He's going to be bigger than me.") and one is nine. Jim

also has a married sister, but he's not sure of her age. "It's either 21 or 22."

What attracted Jim to Nebraska?

"I didn't know I'd get any scholarship offers," Jim begins. "I was contacted by the University of Utah and Nebraska. I visited Utah and they showed me a good time."

"But," he continues, "when I came to Nebraska the coaches were with me all the time. I got to meet people and do things. I knew Nebraska was interested in me."

"When I returned home I was still undecided," says Jim thinking back on those days of indecision.

"Then Coach Potter came to dinner at our home. The same night Coach Gardner from Utah came to take me out to dinner. I'm not sure what happened." Jim says recalling the awkward position, "but my parents were impressed with Coach Potter. I knew I'd get a chance to play at Nebraska and it would give me a chance to get away from home. I also knew Coach Cipriano played press and run."

So Jim left his favorite leisure time fun, body surfing, packed up his snowshoes and defensive ability, and came to Nebraska.

He feels this year's Husker team is a team of men who have their own specialties, like Stuart Lantz and rebounding, but at the same a group of guys who can all do it all.

"I was disappointed in the fans last year booing some of the players, but this year they are great. They are really behind the team." Jim says as he examines the new interest in Nebraska basketball. "Some of the old timers are even coming up to us and asking why we don't lose a few so they can have their old seats back."

But Jim doesn't believe this year's edition of Nebraska basketball will lose to many.

"We are ready to go on in. That last road trip was the thing we had to get over."

But in his calm, assured say, Jim realizes there is a long way to go.

"Everybody is out to get us now. It's going to be dog eat dog from here on in."

Indeed there is a long way to go to capture the Big Eight Crown. But as you look at the handsome Californian chewing his gum and relaxing everyone around him, some of the bumps along that rugged road to the championship disappear.

NCAA Rule Approved

A special meeting of the Big Eight Conference faculty representatives Tuesday (February 1) developed plans for implementation of the NCAA's new 1,600 rule.

This new piece of legislation passed in January of 1965, and refined at this January's NCAA convention is now in effect and the table for translating the results of entrance examinations and rank in class will be used in this year's recruiting.

The signing date for the intra-conference (Big Eight) letter of intent is February 8 for football. The basketball date this year for the Big Eight letter is March 29—this date also applies to wrestling, swimming, and gymnastics. The date for the spring sports—baseball, track and field, golf, and tennis—is May 17, which is also the date for the inter-conference (National) letter for all sports.

Order Track Tickets

Mail orders for tickets to the 38th annual Big Eight Conference indoor track championships, February 25-26, at the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium are now being accepted at the Auditorium box office.

Tickets are priced at \$2, \$3, and \$4 for the Saturday night finals, with all seats for Friday night's session set at \$1.

Mail orders are to be directed to the Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri, and accompanied by 25 cents for handling charges. Mail orders will be filled first, with tickets to go on sale over the counter at the Auditorium beginning Monday, January 31.

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