



The Sporting Life

By James Pearce

"There is no problem in getting the boys up for this one. They'll have a meeting together, probably on Saturday sometime before the game, and talk it over," said Coach Joe Cipriano on Thursday in reference to the up-coming game with Kansas Saturday night in Lawrence.

At Door To Title

The coach continued, saying, "If we play our best, we'll be waiting at the door when it's over."

Indeed the team that wins this one will be first in line at the door to the conference title.

The University of Kansas is alive this week with spirit, building to head at eight o'clock Saturday night when a sell-out crowd of 17,000 will fill Allen Fieldhouse.

National ranking, the exciting of play of Jo-Jo White, Walt Wesley, and Al Lopes have captured the imagination of the Kansas fans.

Kansas Campus Alive With Spirit

They are wild with expectation. Lacking a winning football team has made the Jayhawks hungry for victories and championships.

The yell squad at Kansas has organized an anti-Nebraska rally for Friday morning at 10:20 a.m. In somewhat of a symbolic move, the rally will only last a short ten minutes. Its theme: Smash Nebraska.

A car will be pulled into position on the Mount Oread campus, "appropriately decorated." Naturally that means the car will represent Nebraska.

The rally will consist of smashing the car to oblivion in ten minutes. And who is delivering the first blow to "Nebraska?" Ted Owens, Kansas' head basketball coach.

As if any further pepping up were needed, Chancellor W. Clarke Wesco signed a proclamation at the request of the Kansas All Student Council Traditions Committee, declaring this "Beat Nebraska Week" at Kansas.

These Jayhawks are mad. They want blood, nothing less.

All of them are dedicated to "Beat Nebraska" in what has to be one of the liveliest shows of spirit for a basketball game in the Big Eight in recent years (excluding the antics of Kansas-Kansas State cat fights).

Spirit Provides Impetus

Though spirit from the stands doesn't win the basketball games, the feeling of unity created by such displays of loyalty for the team and the school aid the players in putting out their best effort.

At Nebraska enthusiasm of the students and administration goes about as far as what publicity the winning team brings to the University.

You get the feeling at Nebraska that it isn't the winning of a game that counts, but what that win can do for the image of Nebraska.

It seems to me the win itself can do very little for the image of Nebraska in comparison to what a feeling of unity could produce. Unity created out of sheer loyalty for Nebraska.

But there is no spirit, no unity when the University, for its own sake, is a secondary consideration in the minds of students and administrators.

Why don't we stop waiting for an image to come to us through the power of winning, a transitory thing, and build an image out of the spirit and desire for the University.

A Complete Team

When you have a coach like Cipriano, players like Branch, Campbell, Simmons, Webb, and the rest, you have the makings of a winner. But until you have students that think heaven is beating Kansas and the end of the world is losing to Colorado, you don't have a complete team.

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James Pearce, sports editor

Track Team Up For Meet

Nebraska's indoor track team, like the Cornhusker basketball team, is hoping to make a solid bid for a Big 8 title Saturday night.

While the NU cagers will be taking on Kansas at Lawrence in a battle of Top 10 giants, the Husker trackmen will be trying for the trophy in the annual Big 8 championships at Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Huskies athletic director Tippy Dye, currently attending conference meetings in Kansas City, typifies the dilemma facing Nebraska fans.

"I'd like to be in both places, but I don't know what to do," Dye said. "It's going to be an exciting Saturday night to say the least. However, I think I'll watch the track meet—as an old basketball coach I don't think I could stand the pressure at Lawrence."

Well, a goodly number of NU fans will be traveling to both events.

Track Coach Frank Sevigne doesn't shrink from the thought his Huskers might be able to take the crown.

"Sure, we've got a chance," Frank says. "We'll have to get peak efforts from everyone, and a lot will depend on our hurdlers. If they continue to improve—well, we could be there."

Main interest, of course, centers around sprinter Charlene Greene, who stopped running against Colorado last week when he felt his leg tighten.

"I hope to be ready, it's not a bad pull," says Greene. Greene, who has a .05.9 and several .06.0s to his credit, is the 60 favorite and he should get plenty of push from teammate Lynn Headley.

The Huskers will also have individual title threats in areas like Dave Crook in the 600, Pete Scott in the 1,000, and Ray Harvey in the hurdles.

"It's going to be interesting," Sevigne says. "Kansas looks real tough again, that's for sure. But we're not out of it."

The Nebraska team will bus to Kansas City Thursday night and headquartered at the Down-towner Motel.

"The Huskers have been the key, though, and is reflected in the weekly individual statistics.

Take for example scoring.

The top five scorers for Nebraska range from William E.

Campbell at 9.8 to Grant

Simmons' 17.3 average. In between are Nate Branch (15.2)

Tom Baack (13.7), and Stuart

Lantz (10.5).

Kansas State's grouping is even a little tighter. Only

Sammy Robinson (11.9) and

Earl Seyfert are over 10 in

conference play, with Seyfert's 12.5 tops. However, the

Wildcats then show five men

at 7 to 10 range.

Kansas breaks from the pattern a bit with Walt Wesley.

But even Walt is more a member of the team this year than last, dropping from the Conference's third highest average (26.9 last season) to

what will be one of the lowest marks to win the scoring race since 1950 if he repeats with his current 21.5 average.

With Wesley in double figures now are Al Lopes, Del Lewis, and Jo-Jo White, a

right to some extent, but he

now has to add Nightingale to the mile roster and Oklahoma State's Chris McCubbin in the two-mile.

Nightingale, Harper, and Lawson met last Saturday in what turned out to be the fastest varsity mile run in the league's history. Nightingale won with a 4:02.8, Lawson was second in 4:03.0, and Harper third in 4:07.7. Nightingale's and Lawson's times stand as No. 1 and No. 2 indoors for varsity competitors.

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Leaders Meet Head On

"We'll be a better team if we get good team balance, improve defensively, and gain help from our sophomores."

So comment college basketball coaches at the beginning of a season. And so it developed in the three teams now struggling for the Big Eight title as the season rapidly draws to a close.

Kansas, Kansas State, and Nebraska show all three qualities mentioned in the coaches' stereotyped comment, but team balance is the most striking improvement in all cases.

To continue the similarities, all three teams sport explosive power which has been generated by some sort of a pressing defense. And, all three teams have benefited from generous helpings of sophomore sid.

Balance The Key

Balance has been the key, though, and is reflected in the weekly individual statistics.

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