

Daily Nebraskan Sports

James Pearce, sports editor

Huskerland Gives No Support

The following article was written by Larry Eckholt, assistant to Don Bryant, Nebraska Sports Information Director.

It is an open letter to the students of the University of Nebraska. Let us all read it with an open mind.

The day was appropriately dreary. The fog was so thick coming in to Lincoln that some wondered if we'd land at all.

But those with the basketball party were wondering something else. Would there be anyone at the airport to greet the team? The question was already answered in their minds.

The trip to Lawrence started with the same treatment. As the Big Red from Nebraska left the Coliseum Friday afternoon not a soul was there to wish the Big Eight leaders well.

At the Kansas City airport a photographer from the Kansas City Star met the Huskers and their coach. "Gee, maybe we are a little important," I thought as Grant Simmons and Willie Campbell posed with Coach Cipriano for the photographer.

The Huskers traveled the 30-odd miles to Lawrence in four burgundy LTD Fords, two with black vinyl tops, two with white vinyl tops.

Once in Lawrence one could feel the excitement that this game generated since Nebraska beat Kansas on Jan. 18, to take the conference lead.

Every fraternity house and sorority house on campus had a display. It was almost like Homecoming. Phi Kappa Theta, the national Catholic fraternity, had a large "Give 'em Hell, Hawks" plastered across the side of the house.

All of the dorms had signs in the windows, like Abel Hall used to do. Nebraska was hung in effigy in front of the Administration Building, but KU has trees on the campus which helped matters.

A letter addressed to the NU basketball team was sent to the Holiday Inn. In it was a clipping from the local news paper showing KU coach Ted Owens smashing a car labeled Nebraska. A P. S. was added, "Oh yeah, we totaled the car."

The school newspaper contained ten pages of ads, from local business firms and living units, congratulating the Jayhawks and wishing them well.

And then the game... Words aren't needed to describe what took place in Allen Fieldhouse on Saturday night. Most Nebraskans saw what happened. Or did they? "I'd like to have a nickel for every TV set that was turned off at halftime in Nebraska," somebody said.

Saturday night the Hawks were better than Nebraska. The Huskers weren't happy with their playing. But most of the post game talk concerned the Big Eight race.

And if there's a playoff? "We can do it," said a team member, meaning that NU can beat Kansas again.

The Sporting Life

By James Pearce

As you enter Lawrence, Kansas from the west on the Kansas Turnpike you see a sign that says "University of Kansas—Next Exit." On top of that green highway sign that greets any traveler to any exit there is a big Jayhawk striding toward the open fields beyond the turnpike.

Ever-present Jayhawk

When you get to the campus, the first thing that impresses you is the stone Jayhawk near the Kansas Union overlooking the football stadium and in the shadow of beautiful Memorial Campanile.

As you walk through the campus that Jayhawk follows you very step of the way. You see him on paper cups in the Union, on trash barrels around the grounds, on carpets, printed on floors, in the windows of cars, dorms, and fraternity houses—yes, that's right, fraternity houses, too.

There is no doubt about the feeling students at Kansas have toward their University.

All Out To Smash Nebraska

Climaxing a week long drive to "Smash Nebraska" those students came to Allen Fieldhouse Saturday night and raised its towering roof another twenty feet with their enthusiasm.

And there was that Jayhawk leading them. Strutting around in the middle of the court, he carried a sign saying "Smash Nebraska."

When the game started, and the spirit symbol had to leave the floor, there was something to take his place.

Every time Kansas scored the big red eye of the Jayhawk painted on all four sides the overhanging scoreboard blinked with joy, and the crowd roared its approval.

Kansas had a team of 17,000 playing Nebraska Saturday night.

There was something marvelous about the display of unity in spirit going on all around the arena.

Kansas was a complete team. Every Jayhawk was dedicated to his team, win or lose.

For a little while this year, the disappointment of losing to Nebraska earlier might have blurred their spirit, but the Jayhawks never lost sight of their team.

And Saturday night 17,000 Jayhawk dreams came true.

Nebraska Alone

What about Nebraska?

The Nebraska basketball team lost alone.

Sure tickets were hard to get hold of, with only twenty-five allotted to the University. But you have to think that the cheerleaders and maybe even the band could have made the trip. But they didn't.

There were only a few scattered Nebraskans trying to hold back the tidal wave of arms and yells being thrust at them, and damn few of those few Nebraskans were students.

But there was television coverage back in Huskerland.

But how many students had time for that in the middle of Saturday night when the basketball team was out of town?

No Time?

After all, with parties and activations going on all up and down the Hollow Line, and with three good movies in town all at once, and the Christy Minstrels strumming and humming at good ole Pershing who the hell had time to sit down in front of a box in a comfortable living room and watch a basketball game?

If some of those people spilling out their Hollow Line, or some of those rolling in the aisles at the "Hallelujah Trail," or some of those clapping along with the Christies could have walked into the Husker dressing room after the game I'm sure the toughest of them could not have faced the scene before them.

How Do You Explain It?

There was captain Grant Simmons sitting on the training table, kicking his legs, head down, hands folded, dejectedly trying put the puzzle of the proceeding two hours together.

Nate Branch moved from spot to spot sipping a coke saying nothing, pondering much.

As I approached Jim Damm he threw a towel gingerly in the air, smiled, shook his head, then sagged on the bench.

And so it went throughout the room. Ron Simmons alone with his thoughts, Coley Webb wanting another chance at the Jayhawks...

Cipriano Was With The Team

In the midst of all this was Coach Joe Cipriano. The coach made his way around to each player, shaking their hand and offering his smile and words of inspiration.

You caught the feeling of the players. Though it was a resounding defeat, at no time did their belief in Coach Cipriano, or the team's potential fade.

As crushing as this defeat was you felt that this team could come back and beat the best in the country. That's the type of team it has been all along, starting with last season's triumphant over Michigan.

You had the feeling that this group would go on to win their remaining games and then bring themselves real honor by defeating Kansas in a play-off, if such a thing developed.

But as you left the locker room, and walked into the crisp Kansas night air, filled with Jayhawks the sickening feeling that the team was going it alone hit you again, and you knew this was the thing that hurt Nebraska most.



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Kansas Wins On Track And Court Kansas Grabs Nebraska Out Of Race? Title From NU 'Heavens No!' Says Coach

By James Pearce

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," depending on who you were for Saturday night in Allen Fieldhouse, Lawrence, Kansas. But mostly it was the best of times, because mostly the 17,000 were for Kansas.

For Nebraska it was like riding into a box canyon, turning around and finding that behind every bush and under every rock there were to wild savages each taking a shot at you.

Even before the teams took the floor the fireworks started.

A small group of Nebraskans who somehow managed to get tickets (in basketball there is no home and home allotment as in football) sealed the heights of Allen Fieldhouse, and once finding there seats in the dark recesses around the rafters unfurled a sign reading, "We're here to win."

The Kansas Jayhawks retaliated by running across the floor and thrusting a "smash NEBRASKA" sign at the Huskers followers.

This was thirty minutes before game time.

The tempo continued to build. With the Fieldhouse still filling the yell squad taught the crowd a new fight song, prepared especially for this game. The words were given to the fans as they entered the arena, and they were also flashed to the fans by the pom-pom girls on the floor.

It didn't take long. About five minutes and all the Jayhawks knew the words, or at least the gist of the "song." "Rock Chalk Jayhawks, Kansas give 'em hell."

Then the teams took the floor. With the place almost full the Jayhawks found plenty to yell about.

They cheered wildly for each Nebraska mistake in the pre-game drill, and they went into hysteria when Jo-Jo White or Walt Wesley tore the rim off the basket with a dunk shot.

Before the contest even started, it was the Christians versus the Lions, it was Custer at Little Bogue Horn.

Then came the tip-off. Within two minutes it was 10-1, Kansas. After twenty minutes it was 59-34. After forty minutes it was 110-73.

For Nebraska it was a frustrating attempt to try and keep pace with a Kansas team that was playing some of the finest college basketball of the season.

It's doubtful if any team in the land could have stayed



KANSAS JAYHAWK... follows you wherever you go on KU campus.

very close to the Jayhawks when they started to fly.

They used a devastating half-court press, 55% shooting, and a zone defense around the basket that was tougher to get through than the administration.

Having a miserable night from the field (24%), Nebraska managed to stay as close as they did with 99% free-throw shooting in the first half.

After the intermission, more frustration. Just when it looked like the Huskers might shake it up a little, Grant Simmons fouled out (17:06). It was the sixth Nebraska foul of the half.

From that time on things got worse, if you can believe that.

With each basket, steal, foul, or violation the mad throng grew madder. With each drop of blood they squeezed from Nebraska they wanted that much more.

By the end, they had drained Big Red down to a pallid pink. The Jayhawks set Fieldhouse Scoring records, Kansas scoring records, conference scoring records, but

most of all they had tied up the Big Eight race.

And those Cro-Magnon fans, with blood dripping from their every cry, and fire leaping from their eyes kept right on screaming for more.

Fifteen minutes after the game was over, when the final scoring and scores of other games were being read over the PA system, those delirious Jayhawks were still yelling for more.

There is nothing to say in reference to the course the game took. It was simply some of the finest ball of the season over one of the most frustrating performances of the year for the Huskers.

But that one is behind Nebraska.

Now it's Kansas State, here, Tuesday night.

The Coliseum doesn't hold 17,000, but then spirit isn't measured in numbers.

Spring Sports

All students wanting to participate in spring sports must report for medical examinations at the Student Health Center on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Nebraska saw the Big Eight Track Championship snatched from their hands as Kansas, with a victory in the last event, the mile relay, triumphed 41-37.

The Cornhuskers paced by Dave Crooks blistering 1:09.2 in the 600 which ranks as one of the best efforts in the history of track had also a double winner in hurdler Ray Harvey.

Harvey with a record equaling effort of :06.7 in the 60 yard low hurdles stepped into the elite winner's circle once again for his conquest in the 60 yard high hurdles.

Even without sprint ace, Charlie Greene, the 60 yard dash found itself in the Husker camp by the victory of the fleet-footed Olympic sprinter, Lynn Headley.

The Nebraska cause was aided by personal records from Les Hellbusch who finished fourth in the 880 and from Orlando Martinez who placed third in the mile.

Additional points were garnered by Peter Scott's third in the 1,000 yards and Jim Beltzer's second in the shot put with a heave of 57'5".

As the meet drew to a finish the tide of battle rested upon the outcome of the mile relay. Despite a fine effort by anchor man Dave Crook, the Cornhuskers were unable to catch the swift Jayhawks who rode the wave of victory in the mile relay to win the Big Eight championship.

A number of good efforts were recorded in Friday's action.

Beltzer's best throw of the meet in the shot put came in Friday's qualifying throws and carried over to win second place in the meet on Saturday.

Ray Harvey skinned the 60-yard low hurdles in :06.7 in Friday's prelims and recorded the same time in Saturday's finals. The :06.7 clocking equals the American record in the 60-yard lows.

Harvey equaled the Big Eight record in the 60-yard highs on Friday with a time of :07.2 and won the event.

Big Eight Summaries

Shot put—1. Gene Crews, Missouri, 57-5; 2. Jim Beltzer, Nebraska, 57-5; 3. Gary Barr, Kansas, 54-8; 4. Terry Tom, York, Colorado, 53-10; 5. Larry King, Colorado, 53-3. (Record, old record 64-5 by Crews in preliminaries).

60-yard high hurdles—1. Ray Harvey, Nebraska, 2. Bob Hanson, Kansas, 3. Lynn Headley, Nebraska, 4. Bill Calhoun, Oklahoma, 5. Tom Payne, Kansas State, 6.7. (Record held by eight others including Hanson, Kansas).

60-yard low hurdles—1. Ray Harvey, Nebraska, 2. Darryl Green, Iowa State, 3. Harold Hartman, Nebraska, 4. 4:18, 4. Charles Conrad, Missouri, 4:12.5, 4. Charles Harper, Kansas State, 4:12.2. (Best record, old record 4:06.5, Wes Santee, Kansas, 1954).

100-yard dash—1. Steve Carson, Iowa State, 2. James Shields, Oklahoma, 3. Lee Calhoun, Oklahoma, 4. Lowell Paul, Kansas, 5. 1:02.1. (Best record, old record 1:01.6 by Crook in Friday preliminaries).



LYNN HEADLEY... nosed out Jim Jackson to win 60-yard dash.

Saturday with a time of :07.3. Headley recorded his best effort of his career in the 60-yard dash on Friday when he breezed the distance in :06.1. His winning time on Saturday was :06.2.

In freshmen competition on Friday, Kansas University's Jim Ryan recorded the third best indoor mile time in history with a clocking of 3:59.8.

Nebraska yearling Hugh McGovern was second in the 600-yard run with 1:13. Husker sprinters Mike Green and Cliff Forbes and hurdler John Simmons failed to get past the prelims in the freshmen event. It was in Friday's prelims that Nebraska's Charlie Green pulled up lame and withdrew from the meet.

Swimmers Lose Eighth

The University of Nebraska tank team lost its eighth dual match of the season Saturday to Iowa State, 66 to 28, in a meet highlighted by three new records.

Nebraska had lost the night before to the State University of Iowa swimmers at Iowa City.

Nebraska senior Keefe Ludwig got one of the three new meet records with a :49.5 clocking in the 100 yard free style. A pair of Cyclone sophomores were responsible for the other two new marks.

Jim Cotsworth won the 200 yard butterfly in the record time of 2:04.9 and Paul Gruenberger set a mark of 5:27.6 in the 500-yard free style.

Ludwig's record in the 100 free and his win in the 50-yard free style accounted for the only two Nebraska first places.

Swimming results: 400 meter relay—1. Iowa State (Tim Gebke, Jim Soper, Al Henning, Dennis Conley), 7-51.0. 200 free—1. Paul Gruenberger, Iowa State, 2. Tom Nickerson, Nebraska, 3. Tim Gault, Nebraska, 4-53.8. 50 free—1. Keefe Ludwig, Nebraska, 2. John Moreland, Iowa State, 3. Ken McNerney, Iowa State, 7-22.0. 200 individual medley—1. Jim Cotsworth, Iowa State, 2. Dave Frank, Nebraska, 3. Craig Dennis, Iowa State, 7-23.8. 100 free—1. Wayne Oras, Iowa State, 2. Ken Kjaog, Iowa State, 3. Steve Sorenson, Nebraska, 1.56.1. 300 butterfly—1. Cotsworth, Iowa State, 2. Benning, Iowa State, 7-20.9. (Besters meet record of 49.0).

100 back—1. Gebke, Iowa State, 2. Frank, Nebraska, 3. Paul Bakken, Iowa State, 4-23.2. 500 free—1. Gruenberger, Iowa State, 2. Nickerson, Nebraska, 3. Benning, Iowa State, 7-22.6. (Besters meet record of 5:23.9). 300 breast—1. Soper, Iowa State, 2. Mitch Sumner, Iowa State, 3. Mike Jackson, Nebraska, 7-27.9. 400 free relay—1. Iowa State (McHenry, Conley, Cotsworth, Van Underwood), 7-29.5.

Tournament Basketball Schedule table with columns for date, time, and teams.

WANT TO TEACH IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA? A representative from the Oxnard School District will be on campus on Tuesday March 1 to interview applicants interested in teaching grades kindergarten through six. Contact the placement office for an appointment.



Mike McNerney

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