



Grant Simmons watches Stuart Lantz capture loose basketball.

Big Eight Performance Brings National Ranking

By Bill Minter
Nebraska lead the return of Big Eight basketball to national recognition. Making the national rankings for the first time in the school's history, the Huskers finished eleventh in the UPI poll for the season. Cipriano's cagers recorded a 20-5 record, the best in Nebraska history since 1920, and boosted Cipriano's standing to thirteenth place among the all-time list of Cornhusker coaches.

Kansas, a consistent member of the polls' Top Ten in past years, was the only team to out-rank the Huskers in the Big Eight Conference. Lead by Big Eight scoring leader Walt Wesley, Kansas defeated Nebraska in their last two encounters and finished fourth in the final UPI ratings.

Wesley and Colorado's Chuck Gardner were the only two seniors to get a share of the individual statistics titles. All-American Wesley led the conference in scoring with 559 points and a 20.9 average, and Gardner was the scoring leader for the 14 conference games with 20.2 points per game. The rest of the titles were garnered by players who will return next year.

1965-66 was definitely a year of the underclassmen as four of the individual champions return to the courts next fall. Iowa State's Don Smith captured the rebounding title by grabbing 326, third best for a sophomore in Big Eight history. Tops in field goal accuracy was Earl Seyfert of Kansas State who stashed away 52.3 percent from the outside.

Tom Baack of Nebraska also grabbed an individual title for shooting accuracy. Putting in 85.2 percent from the charity stripe, Baack now holds the sophomore record for free-throw accuracy. Missouri's Ron Coleman was the only non-sophomore underclassman to capture an individual championship. Coleman averaged 21.3 in 24 outings to win the all-games scoring title.

The major result of this underclass power will be a strong nucleus of experienced players beginning next year's season. There are four starting players returning to both Nebraska and Colorado, and at least two at the rest of the Big Eight schools. In all, the conference is returning more than 65 percent of its offensive scoring punch to the floor next fall.

On a team basis, Nebraska will return the highest percentage of players next October. The Big Eight runners-up will have over 78 percent of their offense back, including three of the league's top 16 scorers—Tom Baack, Nate Branch, and Stuart Lantz. Kansas State is next in line.

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returning over 73 percent of this year's players. Following close behind are Colorado, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Iowa State, all above 60 percent. Hit hardest by graduation were Oklahoma State and Kansas. The champion Jayhawkers will return only 45 percent to the floor next season.

Grant Simmons, Coley

Webb, and Al Reiners are the only team members which will not return to play next year. Simmons, the only non-returning starter, captained the team during the past season. He moved to the number three spot in career totals at NU with 839 points and made both the All Big Eight and the District Five All-American Basketball teams.

It's fairly obvious to under-

Klass Happy With Big Eight Meet; Six Swimmers Prepare For NCAA

Coach Dick Klaas has nothing but praise for his swimmers following the 1966 Big Eight Conference swimming championships.

"We thought we'd be fighting for third place, maybe fourth, but the boys pulled together, and really came out fighting," said Klaas. Nebraska finished in third place with 76½ points behind Kansas with 81 points. Oklahoma won the title scoring 134 points.

"Many coaches try to get their boys' times down during the dual season. I've always believed in getting our best times in the conference meet," explains Klaas.

Sprint-star Keefe Lodwig led the Huskers to their third place showing. Lodwig broke a Big Eight record in the

50-yd. freestyle with a time of :21.9 in the preliminaries and tied that mark in the finals. Lodwig also broke the Big Eight record in the 100-yd. freestyle. His time was :47.7, breaking the record set in the prelims by Tom Hanlon of Kansas State.

Lodwig also was the final leg of the record-breaking 400-yd. freestyle relay team. Nebraska's time was 3:14.7, breaking the market by Kansas in the prelims of 3:18.9.

Other scorers for Nebraska were Dave Frank, third in individual M edley (2:06.4); Steve Sorensen, second and Terry Tice, sixth in One-meter diving; fifth in the 400-yard medley relay (3:47.9); Jon Burchill, third in 200-yd. butterfly (2:05.6); Tom Nickerson, sixth in 200-yd free-

Spring Weather Helps NU Teams

By Larry Eckholt
Spring doesn't officially arrive for five days, but the break in the weather has given Nebraska spring sports a definite advantage over past seasons.

Baseball coach Tony Sharpe has had his boys outside for eight days. The baseball field is in good enough shape that Sharpe has been able to hold intra-squad games. He feels that both hitting and pitching are definitely improved over last year at this time.

Harry Good, golf coach, has the same feelings toward the mild winter this year. Nebraska golfers have been chipping balls outside for a couple of weeks and have been able to have more practical workouts than just conditioning.

Ed Higginbotham, coach of the tennis team, is just as happy about the weather for the same reasons: more and better workouts for his boys.

All of this leads up to the fact that the southern schools in the Big Eight usually look forward to spring in order to grab some of the league titles. Missouri won the Big Eight baseball title the past four years and is the team to beat this year again.

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State are the perennial leaders.

It's fairly obvious to under-

stand WHY these schools have an advantage over the northern schools with the weather. Athletes are able to condition throughout the entire year and coaches don't have to cram workouts in a three week period.

Things are pretty quiet around the Coliseum these days. The Coliseum is getting a fresh coat of paint—which it needed badly after the 72,500 people who watched the Huskers remain undefeated at home.

Coach Cipriano's office is empty, Cipriano, Glenn Potter and Bob Gates are out of town in search of more talent to aid the Huskers.

The ticket office, making it through the Husker season and the State High School Basketball Tournament, can't be termed as "back to normal" since "normal" in the ticket office is generally quite hectic. The office staff is being kept busy answering requests for next season's football games.

Believe it or not, football is just around the corner. Spring football practice starts April 1 and it'll be great to hear the rhythmic chants of the Husker hopefuls drift over the Columns again. Most followers think next year's team will be as good or better than this year's. It'll be great to watch the fifth year of the Devaney Dynasty unfold.

Champion Sprinter

Charlie Greene, along with the rest of the Nebraska track squad, is now preparing for the outdoor season. He believes that this year's 440 relay team, tentatively composed of Tom Millsap, Ray Harvey, Lynn Headley and himself will "be as good if not better" than last year's team that recorded a 4.05. clocking.

Charlie feels they will perform their best if given an opportunity to run on the baked clay tracks found in the western United States.

Headley Biggest Competition
Greene says his chief competition in the Big Eight Conference this season will be teammate Lynn Headley.

Headley won the Big Eight 60-yard dash with a time of 6.2 after Greene had pulled up lame the day before in the preliminaries.

All of the traveling connected with his track career "isn't the best thing in the world for studies," says Charlie.

He says missed classes usually mean make up exams and "make-ups are usually harder than the first ones."

As Nebraska's star sprinter Greene will readily admit he could get along all right with out wearing his sun glasses saying, "I can run without them just fine," but the Husker speedster chooses to wear them anyway.

Greene, who clipped the 60-yard dash in a world record time of 5.9 earlier this year and was the NCAA champion with a time of 6.1 hopes the sunglasses will become his distinguishing trademark.

Shades Add Interest

Charlie's shades are his way of drawing interest to what he calls "dull" running, as if his presence on the track wasn't enough to snap fans to attention audience.

Greene said his sunglasses to serve a functional purpose in that they enable him to see the finish tape quicker than if

he wasn't wearing them. Peru State College graduate. Can Charlie Greene run the 100-yard dash in world record time? "I doubt it," says Charlie, adding that it wouldn't sound right if he said he could.



Husker track stars Dave Crook and Charlie Greene check out sunglasses.

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- Court 1-north
 - 6:30 Pike A vs. Glenn A
 - 7:30 Kennedy V vs. Custer B
 - 8:30 Abel V A vs. Abel IX B
 - Court 1-south
 - 6:30 Kennedy A vs. Patton A
 - 7:30 Abel XI A vs. Abel X A
 - 8:30 Abel IV A vs. Abel XII B
 - Court 2-north
 - 6:30 Governors B vs. Thoreau A
 - 7:30 Abel IX A vs. Abel VIII A
 - 8:30 Abel III A vs. Abel II A
 - Court 2-south
 - 6:30 Rogers A vs. Pike B
 - 7:30 Abel VI A vs. Abel VII B
 - 8:30 Smith vs. Seaton I

Six Nebraska swimmers have been working out since



Husker tankers Nickerson, Gaeth, Lodwig, and Gordon prepare for NCAA meet.

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