

Ice-a-metrics

By Ed Irenogle
Sports Editor

There is little doubt that junior Stuart Lantz was the mainstay of the Nebraska basketball team this season. Lantz was the leading scorer, and, what's more, a versatile and talented performer.

His versatility includes the ability to play forward and guard positions well. Lantz has played most of the season at guard, the spot at which he is most adept and in which he is most needed in the strategy of coach Joe Cipriano.

Collective Coaching

During the last few weeks the Board of Regents tried their collective hand at coaching, and if they had been in basketball they would have had a four-man team on the court.

With the decision to appoint Nebraska football coach Bob Devaney to a dual role of athletic director and grid coach, they mapped out a strategy that, if applied to Lantz, would have had Stu playing both forward and guard in the same game. And no matter how good Lantz is, that's a pretty tall order.

So, no matter how good Devaney is, he's got a pretty tall — if not unrealistic — order to fill.

It is now very common in universities to have such a set-up — a mild-mannered athletic director, who disguised as the football coach, fights an unending battle for prestige . . . or for whatever administrations give coaches dual jobs. But think about it.

Both Needed

To accomplish Nebraska's prominence in football (and somewhat in basketball), an apparently outstanding administrator (Tippy Dye) and an equally outstanding football coach have both been needed.

Then, you should be asking, why put both responsibilities on one man instead of seeking another capable AD to take Dye's place?

Good question. No answer.

No answer or explanation other than something like "Bob Devaney has been a fine football coach" (really?). " . . . Regents feel that Devaney can handle the job," and such nonexplanatory comments.

Leaves Conjecture

That leaves only conjecture and second-guessing, which is weak, but better than nothing. Conjecture might run something like this:

—Devaney is responsible for the great success of NU football.

—The better one gets, the more in demand one is.

—Nebraska is not in the Big 10.

—Therefore, let us do something to keep the coach here and happy. Like make him athletic director, too.

Second-Guessing

Now the conjecture runs into second-guessing, which is completely speculative because second-guessing the powers-that-be is something else. Second-guesses:

—Give the coach a raise, which no one would mind, and or

—Give the coach an assistant, who will do the work that must be done, but cannot be done by one man.

There is nothing shady behind this whole deal, it's just that the deal isn't being passed around during the game.

Spade A Spade

And why not call a spade a spade. Leaving Devaney as football coach and getting someone else for the job of athletic director should not have upset the coach.

Of course this does open the door for some future transition from coaching to directing, if Devaney would like something less wide-open.

But wouldn't it have been better to get an athletic director who will be just that and to have given Devaney a raise.

Few, if any, can accept that Devaney will actually devote full time to both jobs, because they are both full-time jobs.

Gymnasts Fourth

Burt Christopherson and Nebraska's all around performance in the side horse event were the main Husker highpoints as the Cornhuskers were nipped by Kansas and forced to settle for fourth in the Big Eight Gymnastics.

First Place Tie

Christopherson and Thomas Traver had surprisingly tied as first place qualifiers for the finals on the side horse. Another Husker, John Scheer, was in fifth position in the same event.

However, the fruit basket was upset in the finals, due to a fantastic 9.3 performance by Colorado's Jack Ryan and a slip by Christopherson in his dismount. Iowa State's fantastic all-around winner, Jerry Fontana, tied for second, Traver fell to fourth, and Scheer finished eighth.

Conference Title

Iowa State, one of the top teams in the country, easily took its third straight conference title. Colorado captured second and Kansas, by 3.2 points, 166.1 to 162.9, edged Nebraska for fourth.

Iowa State and Nebraska dominated the still rings event, although not quite evenly. Cyclones' Mike Jacki, Ward Meythaler and Fontana finished one, two, three, while Huskers' Allen Armstrong, Mickey Johnson and Steve May finished fourth, sixth and eighth respectively.

Husker Scorers

In the other individual events that were decided Saturday, the only other Husker scorers were a seventh place tie in the floor exercise between Robert Santoro and Pat McGill, a seventh by George Sederavicius in the Long Horse, and an eighth by Johnson on the horizontal bar.

In the all-around championships on Friday, however, Johnson finished fourth and May seventh.

Southern Illinois Captures NIT Championship

Southern Illinois took the National Invitational Tournament basketball championship Saturday with a 71-56 victory over Marquette.

The Salukis, ranked at the top of the college-division teams this season, were down by 11 at the half and then came back to run away with the game.

Marshall, the nemesis of the Nebraska bid in the NIT, was stumped by Rutgers, 93-76, in earlier action.



GYM DANDIES . . . perform in the Big Eight gymnastics meet Friday and Saturday at the Nebraska Coliseum. Mickey Johnson (right picture), who finished fourth in the league in all-around, is in the middle of a complete swing around the horizontal bar. Looking up at the trampoline artists makes them look like they are crowding the rafters. (left picture).

Illini Coaches Resign

Three University of Illinois coaches resigned Sunday after they were ordered fired by Big Ten faculty representatives.

Head football coach Pete Elliott, head basketball coach Harry Combs and assistant basketball coach Howie Braun made the move, thus keeping Illinois from making the decision of firing them or leaving the Big Ten.

The coaches were involved in a \$21,000 slush fund uproar. A final appeal Saturday by Illinois president Dr. David Henry failed

to "show cause" why the coaches should not be dismissed.

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