



By George!

By George Kaufman

Taking into account the fact that any idiot can make predictions, and knowing by experience that there is no such thing as a "sports expert" when it comes to forecasting scores, this idiot will tell you all about what will happen in Louisville Friday and Saturday night.

First of all, one great team, two good teams and one damned lucky team will meet to decide the National Basketball Championship.

Try To Dethrone

But beyond that, what will actually happen is that three teams will try to dethrone the already-crowned champions, the UCLA Bruins.

A second, but not secondary, question to be decided is: Is Lew Alcindor really for real? Many basketball fans will be getting their first look at Lew in the televised finals (you see; I have unconsciously awarded the Bruins a first-night win).

Speaking purely from statistics and the gnashing of teeth by many West Coast coaches after meeting the Uclans, I will tell you that, Yes, Virginia, there is a Lew Alcindor.

Reliable Reports

Judging from reliable reports, Lew is 7-13. And that's standing still. When he's moving and jumping and doing weird things to enemy morale, I am told he is much taller.

Unlike Nebraska's Roger Leitner, whose shots take so long that sportscasters go to a commercial while waiting for the ball to come down, Lew's shots from outside are amazingly like normal players' dunk shots.

Scare Stuff

Well, enough of the scare stuff. The scary thing underlying all this is that Lew would make a fine one-man basketball team, but doesn't have to. There are these other four guys out there with him which have all been named to an All-America team. They are good, and perhaps at least one of them trails Alcindor in the publicity department only.

What I am leading up to is the fact that no one is going to stop UCLA from winning the championship. An outside, but unrealistic, chance goes to Houston, which owns the Big E, Elvin Hayes. But a very dark horse.

By Ten Points

After getting past Houston by ten points on Friday night, the Bruins will shut down a good North Carolina team Saturday night to make it all come true. Say 15 points.

The Tar Heels will get their heels unstuck from the tar Friday night to make Dayton look like a lucky team with its luck run out, and the Cougars of Houson will look good in grabbing third place Saturday evening by twenty points.

This is all going on the assumption that the Great Upset Plague of 1967 has spent itself as of last Saturday.

Don't quote me, but: Friday night—UCLA over HOUSTON, NO. CAROLINA over DAYTON; Saturday night—UCLA over NO. CAROLINA, HOUSTON over DAYTON.

In Big 8 . . .

Five Underclassmen Set Track Records

Five new all-time indoor best performances for the Big Eight conference highlighted what will go down as the most successful indoor campaign in league history.

This, again, was the year of the underclassmen, as they either shared in or walked off with all five of the new bests. It was also the year of the young ones who pushed the conference to the record-breaking indoor championships meet ever when they paced efforts which forced seven new marks and tied another pair.

Fabled Ryun

Leader, of course, was Kansas' fabled Jim Ryun, a sophomore, who wrote new indoor lows in both of his specialties, the 880 and the mile. His 880 mark of 1:48.3 stands under the currently recognized world record, but won't become official since it came on a slower dirt track and only marks on the faster boards are approved.

Twice during the indoor goes, Ryun broke four minutes in the mile, hitting a new Big Eight indoor low of 3:58.6 at the NCAA indoor. This came a week after he had wrung out a 3:58.8 here at the Conference indoor, the fastest mile trip around a 12-lap track. Ryun also

had the Conference's best times in the 1,000-yard run (2:09.9), and the two-mile run (8:44.2).

Teammates Join

Joining Ryun with world record and all-time indoor bests at Kansas were teammates George Byers and Lee Adams. Byers, just a sophomore, has three times hit :06.6 in the 60 lows for the world's best mark. Equal to him, but doing it on a dirt track, is Lee Adams. Byers, with a :07.2, tied with Iowa State's Darryl Green for the 60-highs best.

In the field, Colorado's Chuck Rogers, a junior, sailed 16-2 1/4 in the pole vault for an indoor high. If he hadn't wiped out the old best, Oklahoma State's would have when he went 16-1 at the Conference meet. A temporary holder of the best this season was Kansas' Bob Stienhoff, a sophomore also, who went 16-0 1/2 early.

High Jumping

The great high jumping battle between Missouri's Steve Herndon and Oklahoma's Ron Tull continues now that both are listed at the top of the all-time indoor best column. Both have now cleared 7-0 indoors and Tull has another season left to get higher under cover. Herndon owns the outdoor best of 7-1 1/4.

Other individual event leaders included Nebraska's Charlie Greene, three-time NCAA indoor champion, who tied with Oklahoma's Wayne Long, a sophomore, at :06.0; Oklahoma's Bill Calhoun, twice the NCAA 440 champion, who had a :48.1 low for the quarter; Iowa State's Steve Carson, two-time Federation and current NCAA titlist in the 600, who hit 1:09.8 in the event last weekend; Kansas' Gary Ard, runner-up in the NCAA broad jump; and Colorado's Barry King, best of the shot putters.

Sorensen In NCAA Swimming

Swimming coach John Reta will accompany Nebraska diver Steve Sorensen to Michigan State University where the Husker swimmer will compete in the NCAA meet.

Sorensen placed in the top 12 swimmers last year, good enough to be named to the All America swimming team.

Sorensen was undefeated in dual meet this year and placed 3rd in the 3 meter board and 4th in the one meter at the Big Eight meet. He placed fifth in the pre-conference meet at Kansas this winter.

He is a junior from Omaha Westside.

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Baseball Season Opens . . . Sharpe Platoons; Pools Inexperience, Promise

By Terry Grasmick Assistant Sports Editor

Inexperience and promise are being pooled and platooned into a team that Husker baseball coach Tony Sharpe hopes will prove the predictors wrong.

Nebraska was in the thick of a six way conference race last year, but has been picked by most to be just outside of a similar dogfight this year.

Personnel Losses

Coach Sharpe noted, "We had more personnel losses than anybody else in the

league." Five Husker regulars are gone besides the pro-losses of Gary Niebauer and Bob Hergenrader, two of the top pitching prospects in the Big Eight last year.

However, Sharpe has much cause to hope, with three all-Big Eight selections returning and a fine crop of sophomores to choose from.

All-conference third baseman Bob Churchich, the league's leading hitter last year, may see some mound duty to aide the weakened

pitching corps. In this situation, handyman sophomore, Mike Churchich, no relation, would probably fill the third bag position, according to Sharpe.

Bob Brand

Although Churchich led the Big Eight in hitting, Bob Brand, back as a junior, led the Huskers for the year enroute to conference first base honors.

Homerun slugger and all-Big Eight centerfielder Alex Walters also returns as a junior from the Nebraska team that finished

12-8 and third in the conference, and 16-9 for the year.

Coach Sharpe pointed out four other top sophomore prospects besides Mike Churchich. Two Grand Island boys have caught the coach's eye.

"Steve Johnson has been looking pretty good," said Sharpe who also expressed hope left-hander Alan Furby would help the hurler squad.

Ready To Roll

Outfielder Tim Bolz from Omaha North got his nose on the ball last week in the batting cage, but still seems ready to roll. Ron Johnette, a catcher from Omaha Benson, also received Sharpe's praise.

Keeping with the increasingly used major league gimmick, Sharpe explained, "We'll be doing a little platooning since we have left and right hand hitting outfielders."

"We're Young"

But Sharpe's success with the pitching problem will probably be the key for Husker success. "We're

young and inexperienced," noted Sharpe. "The only pitchers we have with any experience are Bob Stickers and our reliever Charlie Green from Benson."

Outfielder Mickey Zangari, a senior, could also see more mound duty than in the past. The same also for lefty Keith Winter, a JC transfer from Norfolk.

Another JC transfer, Sam Pizzo, from New Mexico Military Institute, appears to have the shortstop position to his credit.

Leave Friday

The Huskers leave Friday morning for a six game Texas trip. All six games will be played in Houston, but against three different schools.

Monday and Tuesday Nebraska faces Rice, picked to win the Southwest Conference this year. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday the Huskers opponent will be Houston University, the top southern independent, according to Sharpe.

A game with young Houston Baptist will be sandwiched in Thursday between the Houston encounters.

Concerning the season opener, Sharpe remarked, "The last time I heard, they were ten wins and one loss. We've had one (outdoor) practice."

But the coach added, "You learn by getting beat by somebody that's good. Last year we had a little better team, but sophomore before us. We're anxious to get going and I know the kids are too."

1967 Baseball

March 27—at Rice; March 28—at Houston; March 29—at Houston Baptist; March 30—at Houston; March 31—at Houston; April 1—at Houston; April 2—Kansas State here (2)*; April 3—Kansas State here (2)*; April 4—Kansas State here (2)*; April 5—Kansas State here (2)*; April 6—Kansas State here (2)*; April 7—Kansas State here (2)*; April 8—Kansas State here (2)*; April 9—Kansas State here (2)*; April 10—Kansas State here (2)*; April 11—Kansas State here (2)*; April 12—Kansas State here (2)*; April 13—Kansas State here (2)*; April 14—Kansas State here (2)*; April 15—Kansas State here (2)*; April 16—Kansas State here (2)*; April 17—Kansas State here (2)*; April 18—Kansas State here (2)*; April 19—Kansas State here (2)*; April 20—Kansas State here (2)*; April 21—Kansas State here (2)*; April 22—Kansas State here (2)*; April 23—Kansas State here (2)*; April 24—Kansas State here (2)*; April 25—Kansas State here (2)*; April 26—Kansas State here (2)*; April 27—Kansas State here (2)*; April 28—Kansas State here (2)*; April 29—Kansas State here (2)*; April 30—Kansas State here (2)*; May 1—Kansas State here (2)*; May 2—Kansas State here (2)*; May 3—Kansas State here (2)*; May 4—Kansas State here (2)*; May 5—Kansas State here (2)*; May 6—Kansas State here (2)*; May 7—Kansas State here (2)*; May 8—Kansas State here (2)*; May 9—Kansas State here (2)*; May 10—Kansas State here (2)*; May 11—Kansas State here (2)*; May 12—Kansas State here (2)*; May 13—Kansas State here (2)*; May 14—Kansas State here (2)*; May 15—Kansas State here (2)*; May 16—Kansas State here (2)*; May 17—Kansas State here (2)*; May 18—Kansas State here (2)*; May 19—Kansas State here (2)*; May 20—Kansas State here (2)*; May 21—Kansas State here (2)*; May 22—Kansas State here (2)*; May 23—Kansas State here (2)*; May 24—Kansas State here (2)*; May 25—Kansas State here (2)*; May 26—Kansas State here (2)*; May 27—Kansas State here (2)*; May 28—Kansas State here (2)*; May 29—Kansas State here (2)*; May 30—Kansas State here (2)*; May 31—Kansas State here (2)*.

Nineteen Ball Players Named As Travelers

Coach Tony Sharpe named a 19 member team traveling squad that includes veterans Bob Churchich, Bob Brand and Alex Walter, all members of the All Big Eight team of last year, which will play a six game schedule with Rice, Houston and Houston Baptist.

Nebraska was 4-1 after its Texas schedule last year but the Huskers are a relatively young team this year. Lack of strength in pitchers is the biggest worry for Sharpe as Nebraska opens the season.

The Husker coach also hinted that he will be doing a considerable amount of juggling with the lineups in Texas.

"Lack of outside work and many newcomers

makes this a necessity," said Sharpe, "since we want to field our strongest unit for the conference race."

At last report Rice was 9-1 for the season and is a strong favorite for the Southwest championship. Houston was 6-1 and is considered the top independent in the area.

Sharpe said that much of Nebraska's success in the Texas trip will depend on the weather in the South. "We hope to have good weather for some much needed practice," he said, adding that the team will gain experience with each game.

The Nebraska team and coaches will be the guests of the Houston Astros on March 31 for the Astro-Lo

Angeles Dodger exhibition game at the Astrodome.

Nebraska Traveling Squad: Tim Bolz, of Omaha North; Bob Brand, 1b; Mike Churchich, c-1b; Bob Churchich, 3b; Allen Furby, p; Charles Green, p; Ron Johnette, c; Steve Johnson, of Wayne; Wayne Kistler, c; Rick Knapp, p; Dave Murphy, of Sam Pizzo, ss; Tony Sharpe, 2b; Ron Simmons, if; Jim Steveson, of; Bob Stickers, p; Alex Walter, of; Keith Winter, p-1b; Mick Zangari, p-of; Ralph Dreamer, mgr.; Coach Tony Sharpe; Ass't coach Clayton Luther.

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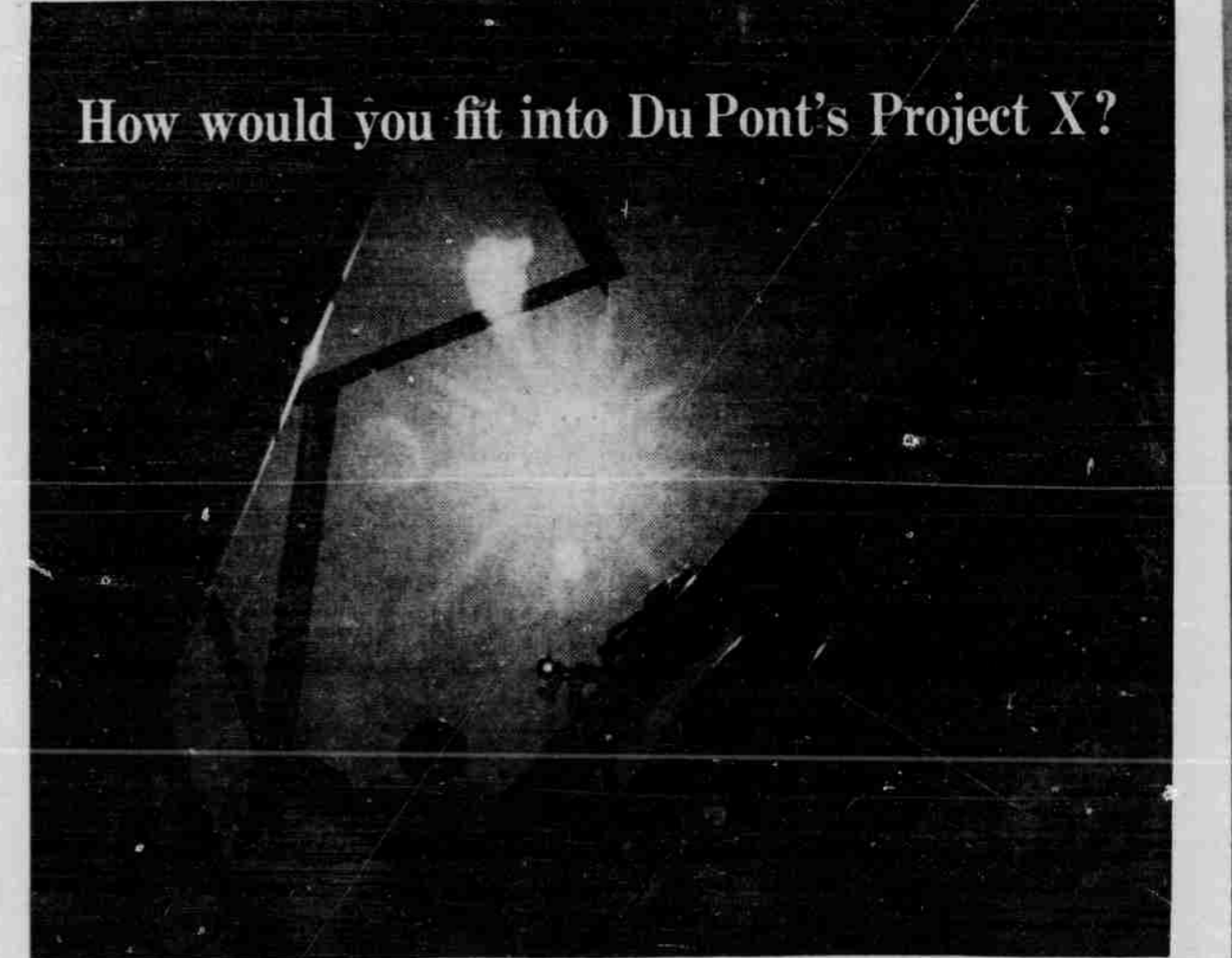
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