

ReMarks . . .

By MARK GORDON
Sports Editor

Can Joe Cipriano's hot shooting offensive-minded Nebraska basketball team play over its erraticness that has plagued it so far this season?

That's the question Husker fans hope can be answered positively before the Big Eight season opens after the holiday vacation.

The Huskers are currently averaging 88 points per game while last season's squad, which was first tabbed as the conference favorite, scored at a 79 point clip.

FINE SHOOTERS

Defensively, the Huskers are allowing 77 points per match almost the identical figure as last year's 169 crew.

The Huskers have fine shooters in seniors Tom Baack and Stuart Lantz, who both have a crack at breaking Herschell Turner's all-time Nebraska scoring peak of 1056 points—and sophomore Tom Scantlebury.

These men give the Huskers an efficient shooting combination that is capable of breaking most games wide-open, but Nebraska lacks an experienced tall man at the center position along with a proven bench that can provide help without losing efficiency.

Sophomores Bob Gratopp and Dale Von Seggern had been battling for the starting berth but neither had played varsity ball before this season.

Gratopp, led the team with a 19.5 scoring average before the western swing started last Friday night, but the former Nebraska All-Stater from Geneva, has hit just 23 points in the three road games on the tour.

Von Seggern has height at 6'7" but he has averaged less than five points per outing and hurt an ankle during last Friday's battle with the Washington State Cougars and is lost for an indefinite period.

Nebraska mopped up two sub-par foes, in California State 111-74 and the University of South Dakota 94-61, but the Huskers' biggest problem was shown in the WSU series.

INCONSISTANT

The Huskers opened at Pullman by bowing in a 23 point decision 93-70 and then came back the following evening to down the Cougars by 15 points 91-74.

And there lies the team's weakness—it is either quite hot or very cold on a given night.

Granted, Nebraska has problems—but we don't feel they are insurmountable. The Huskers, aren't real bonafide Big Eight title contenders, but they certainly can compete with the other league foes for the runner-up spot.

FIVE RETURN

With non-conference games against respectable foes such as Wyoming and Michigan State, Nebraska should know how its stands when the pre-season Big Eight tournament opens in Kansas City in two weeks.

Did you know that all five league basketball selections return for another season this year?

Iowa State's prolific scorer Don Smith, who scored 33 points against the nation's top-rated UCLA Bruins last week, the Kansas dual of Rodger Bohnenstiel and Jo Jo White and Oklahoma's great Don Sidle will all be giving opponents headaches this season.

REGAINING TOUCH

Nebraska's Stuart Lantz, who has regained his scoring touch on the western swing also returns to play his fine year for the Huskers. Many of these all-stars will repeat as all Big-Eight performers. I wouldn't bet against any of them not getting the award again.

Oklahoma and Oklahoma State have such a fierce wrestling rivalry going that their Jan. 6 dual meet in Stillwater has already been classified as a sellout in 7,200 capacity Gallagher Hall. They are apparently going to battle each other again for both the Big Eight and national titles.

'SLIPPED'

The Cowboys, who "slipped" last season to a third place finish in the league and a sixth place national finish, which was their worst season since 1960, defeated the Sooners 76-74 in OSU's eight team tournament last weekend.

While the Cowboy starters were winning the tournament, the second stringers traveled to Lincoln for the Great Plains and made a shambles of the Capital City tourney.

With seven OSU reserves winning here last weekend, the Cowboys appear strong challengers for conference and national laurels.

Two Basketball Games Televised Jan. 13, Feb. 24

Two Nebraska basketball games will be televised this season in a series of 10 Big Eight Conference games Saturday afternoons.

The first game will be against the Missouri Tigers in Lincoln Jan. 13 followed later by the Nebraska-Colorado game in Boulder Feb. 24.

Air time for the games is set for 1 p.m. (C.S.T.), with the first five minutes of each program previewing the Big Eight race to date.

Just prior to game time, another five minutes will be devoted to "University Showcase", a spotlight on the host institution. Half-time program will feature

campus talent. Each game, if time permits, will be followed by a "coaches corner".

The schedule: Jan. 6—Kansas State at Oklahoma State
Jan. 13—Missouri at Nebraska
Jan. 20—Iowa State at Missouri
Jan. 27—Oklahoma State at Iowa State

Feb. 3—Okla. Kaintang at Nebraska
Feb. 10—Kansas at Colorado
Feb. 17—Oklahoma at Kansas State

Feb. 24—Nebraska at Colorado
Mar. 2—Colorado at Kansas State
Mr. 9—Iowa State at Kansas

Time Names Meylan

Nebraska's standout middle guard Wayne Meylan has been selected to his fifth All-American team as Time Magazine has named Nebraska's all-time leading tackler to its All-American crew.

Big 8 Offense Still Potent

Only one team in the Big Eight basketball race return less than 50 per cent of its offensive punch from last year.

The lone squad, the Kansas State Wildcats are just one under that figure and still Wildcat coach Tex Winter feels his squad has improved over last season's fourth place loop crew.

Intra-squad Track Meet

The University track squad will hold an intra-squad meet open to the public Friday at 3:30 p.m. at the East Stadium.

Sorry . . .

■ **WILSON PICKETT CAN'T MAKE IT THIS SUNDAY. BUT STAY TUNED. HE WILL BE HERE SOON!**

Russ Gillespie Enterprises



NEBRASKA'S AL COOK . . . performs his bar routine before competing in the ring event in which he placed second during Nebraska's victory over the Air Force Academy.

Varsity, Freshmen Tankers Compete

The Nebraska Freshman and Varsity swimmers will square off Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Husker's Coliseum pool.

"We will swim the Varsity like an ordinary meet," swimming coach John Rta said. "The best guys will be thrown in."

"This meet gives the freshmen a taste of competition," he said. "It also leaves us with something before vacation."

"The freshmen are real enthusiastic and hopped up

for this meet," Reta said. Reta said he wasn't happy with the Huskers seventh place finish in the Big Eight Relays last Saturday but that they didn't even enter the diving events.

"This left us without two events to score in which our divers most certainly would have done," he said.

However the swimming coach was pleased with the good attitude of the team. "The team's times were better than last year," he said.

Cyclone's Smith Aims For Rebounding Title

Iowa State's All-American cage star Don Smith is well on his way towards becoming one of the greats in Big Eight cage history.

By scoring 619 points last season, he became only the sixth player in conference history to score more than 600 points in a season.

After two seasons in the loop, Smith ranks 21st on the all-time scoring list in loop annuals with 1,066 points.

Last season Smith led all players in scoring averages with a 24.8 average production and also topped loop players with a 13.4 rebounding job per outing.

If he wins his third straight Big Eight rebounding title this year, he will

become only the second player to accomplish this feat. The lone player previously to win three consecutive rebounding crowns was Kansas' Bill Bridges.

Smith pulled down 326 caroms his sophomore year and with his 334 last season he now has 660 good for 14th place on the all-time list.

GO BIG RED

Geier: 'Best Team Effort I've Seen'

"Collectively this has been one of the best team efforts I've seen," Jake

Geier said after his Nebraska gymnastics team defeated the Air Force Academy 165.05 to 158.9 last Saturday.

Geier said he didn't feel they could win the meet with Steve May, last year's top scorer out of action. May will be sidelined for six weeks with a dislocated elbow sustained when he fell from the sidehorse a few days before they meet.

'WE HAD THEM'

"These young fellows decided they would do the routines and did them as good as I've seen," he said. "When the dust finally settled," Geier said, "we had them."

Geier said he had never seen an Air Force team that wasn't strong. "We have

had some good meets against them in the past."

GOOD RUN

The Husker gymnasts' next meet will be Saturday against Hays State College in the Men's Physical Education Building at 2 p.m.

Geier said he didn't know how Hays State is this year but "they gave us a good run last year, losing by about three points," he said.

He said he hopes the team can continue to do as well in the future.

SURPRISE!

"Tom Riesing surprised by winning the long horse event," Geier said. "I hope we continue to have these little surprises."

"Hays State will have to make a good run at us to beat us," he concluded.

OSU Picks 4 Huskers To Squad

Four Nebraskans were named to the Oklahoma State 1967 All-Opponent squad.

All-American defensive middle guard Wayne Meylan, offensive tackle Glenn Patterson, halfback Ben Gregory and fullback Dick Davis were picked at their respective positions.

Nebraska defeated Oklahoma State 9-0 in the Lincoln Homecoming till this season.

Nebraskan Applauds

The University of Nebraska soil judging team placed second in the North Central Regional Collegiate Soil Judging contest at St. Paul Minnesota. The team, coached by Dave Lewis of the NU Agronomy Department staff, is now qualified to compete in the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest at Manhattan, Kansas in May.

NU placed behind Iowa State University, in a field of five midwestern university teams. Lloyd Reeder, Shelton, was second high soil judge in the contest. Other team members are James Schepers, Shelton; William Arver, Lincoln; and Alan Zwick, Rockville.

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