

# As Big Eight race gets tighter— 'it's easy to be a sportswriter'

## Big 8 Standings

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA
Kansas	10	1	0	110	85
Nebraska	7	3	0	104	95
Iowa State	7	3	0	104	95
Kansas State	6	3	1	104	95
Oklahoma	5	5	0	104	95
Missouri	3	6	1	104	95
Oklahoma State	3	7	0	104	95
Colorado	1	9	0	104	95

by George Kaufman  
Sports Editor

It's getting awfully easy to be a sportswriter in Big Eight basketball.

In writing an advance, all you need to do is try that coach Smith's Spiders "avel to Homesville for a do-or-die contest with the league-leading Homesville Hosts. Coach Smith said, "This is going to be a very tough game for us. We've got to win this one if we want to stay in the tight league race."

But all cliches excused, the Big Eight basketball scramble has come to that: any of four teams could represent the conference in the NCAA tourney in a few weeks, and every game between now and the tourney is equally important. Husker coach Joe Cipriano knows he must worry just as much about meeting cellar-dweller Colorado Saturday as he must about preparing for the league-leading Kansas Jayhawks next Tuesday.

And he knows that Monday night's 82-73 win over the Oklahoma State Cowboys was as big a win as either of the next two might be.

For, without that win, the next two would mean very little outside of putting another mark on the win-loss record.

"Very interesting"

Cip sort of chuckes every time you mention the Big Eight race, and says, "Yes, that's going to be very interesting."

He than starts talking about the interesting games between the two Oklahoma schools and Kansas, Kansas State and Kansas and Iowa State again.

st Oklahoma. Then he might talk about Nebraska. "I was pleased with the team leadership we got in the second half Monday night. Lantz and Scantlebury especially worked the ball well for us. Discipline and team play like that is going to have to carry us the rest of the way. We've got to have it."

As he said, the Huskers had the second half against the Cowboys. But the first half was a real scare for NU fans, as the O-State crew came out looking as if they'd left Henry Iba at home and were finally having a field day.

The normally slow, methodical Cowpokes came on like gangbusters — fast-breaking and getting the quick inside shot—and built up as much as an eight-point lead over the slow-starting Huskers.

Trailing at half

Trailing 40-33, NU used a

Tom Baack corner jumper and a Tom Scantlebury driving layup in the closing minute of the first half to move up to a 40-37 intermission bulge.

It was a different game after the break, as Cip's team ran off 15 points to OSU's six during the first five minutes for a comfortable 52-46 lead.

For some reason, the Cowboys then went back to their slow work-for-it offense, which, combined with a finely-precisioned Husker stall, killed any Cowboy hopes of regaining the lead.

Lantz put on a superb performance for the 8,200 noisy partisans. Besides winding up game's top scorer at 25 points, three times he brought the fans to their feet as he leaped high to grab an outside lob and slammed the ball through the nets while in mid-air.

The Cowboy's faster tempo threw the Huskers off a little at first, Cipriano admitted. "We didn't expect them to

come out that strong. But they played slowly against us the first two times this year and lost, and probably felt they had nothing to lose from changing the pace."

Scantlebury second

Scantlebury backed Lantz up with 20 points, constantly improving center Dale Von Seggern hit for 11 and Tom Baack was far below his average at 10, along with Bob Gratopp.

Gratopp had something of a letdown offensively off his recent performances, but that didn't seem to dim the enthusiasm of some 200 Geneva fans down for "Bob Gratopp Night."

Little 5-9 Gene Hawk and 6-7 Bill Christopher wound up leading O-State with 16 points apiece. The two had really hurt the Huskers during the first half. Hawks from the outside and Christopher under the boards.

Six-nine Charlie Savall followed with 15 for Iba's crew. The contest at Boulder Saturday afternoon will be the Big Eight Game of the Week on television and should be a good one.

The Buffs pushed Kansas down to the wire in Boulder last week, and, as Cipriano says, "It's just a matter of them losing some real close ones. We know they're going to be tough; there's never a time they're not hard to get at Boulder."

Nebraska (82)			
Player	pts	reb	ft
Baack	10	0	3
Gratopp	4	2	3
Von Seggern	3	5	3
Scantlebury	7	1	2
Lantz	11	3	4
Damm	6	1	2
Simmons	1	2	0
Martin	0	0	0
Catlin	0	0	0
Totals	41	18	15

Oklahoma State (73)			
Player	pts	reb	ft
Savall	15	8	3
Smith	4	2	1
Christopher	16	0	1
Hawk	6	4	0
Herron	3	3	2
Grober	1	0	1
Cooper	3	1	2
Totals	41	18	15



Nebraska coed Vicki Hakanson is one of the five finalists in Sport Magazine's Campus Queen contest. The other finalists are from Missouri, North Carolina State, Tennessee and Kentucky. You can vote for Vicki by sending her name on a postcard to: Sport's Campus Queen Contest, P.O. Box 3416, Grand Central Station, New York, New York, 10017. The contest ends March 31, so get those Big Red postcards mailed today.

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WIDE WORLD OF ENTERTAINMENT

## ARGUEments

By Harry Argue

Losing basketball games in the thick of a Big Eight scramble is always sour medicine to have to swallow. The defeat at Kansas last Saturday was certainly anything but an exception.

Somehow though, the loss was just a slight bit easier to gulp because of the Kansas crowd's conduct after the game. I fully expected that they would engage in a goodly amount of boasting, gloating and general rubbing-it-in. This only seemed natural after they had just bumped Nebraska from the top spot and taken it, themselves, and especially since the Jayhawkers had been in the habit lately of squeezing out two-point wins. I suppose I also just mistakenly thought that they would act like our dear friends at Colorado and Missouri.

### Only one incident

Aside from natural vocal interchanges between the two schools during the game, the only incident I heard of came Saturday afternoon at a Lawrence beer drinking establishment. Reports have it that the place was swarming with both red-clad Huskers and Hawks. There seem to have been occasional fracasas when some KU faithful unsuccessfully tried to relieve the Nebraskans of their red hats. Still, this was minor compared to past instances at other schools.

### Co-rec club for fencers

The thing that most impressed me was that after the game, from what I saw, the Kansans were truly gracious winners. They seemed quite thankful for the victory. One gentleman from KU who I started chatting with seemed almost ashamed that they had won when I informed him I was from here. He said the game had surprised him, thought the outcome would have been different had the same match been

## Husker Happenings

Friday  
Wrestling—at State College of Iowa.  
Saturday  
Basketball—at Colorado. Big 8 TV game of the week. Fresh at Missouri. Swimming—at Iowa State: double dual with UNI and Minnesota. Gymnastics—at Kansas. Wrestling—at Iowa State. Indoor Track—Iowa State, Coliseum. 1:30 p.m.

Lincoln  
Cooper/Lincoln: 'The Ballad of Josie', 7:10, 9:10.  
Stuart: 'The President's Analyst', 1:00, 3:05, 5:15, 7:20, 9:30.  
Varsity: 'The Good, The Bad and The Ugly', 1:00, 3:43, 6:26, 9:07.  
State: 'Wait Until Dark', 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00.  
Joy: 'Rosie', 7:15, 9:15.  
Nebraska: 'The Incident', 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:05, 9:05.

Omaha  
Indian Hills: 'Gone With the Wind', 2:00 and 8:00.  
Dundee: 'Far From the Madding Crowd', 2:00 and 8:00.  
Cooper 70: 'Camelot', 2:00 and 8:00.

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