

the N crowd

Cards and Letters

A letter from Ohio U. graduate and Mid-American conference fan Charles McCormick informs me I went overboard in stating that Big Eight basketball this year is the nation's most exciting brand of competition.

McCormick points out that while I wrote UCLA off as Houston's only "real" opponent, such teams as Bradley, Marquette and Marshall were on the Cougars' schedule (and he doesn't pass up the opportunity to ask if I remember Marshall).

He also calls my attention to the fact that the Mid-America Conference is staging a dogfight this year much like the Big Eight scramble, and, hence has suffered the same fate as the Big Eight in the national ratings.

In Agreement

In answer to the letter, Mr. McCormick, I would say that we are basically in agreement on the point I was trying to put across—mainly that ratings don't have any correlation to either a team's conference race or how rabid a fan following they have.

That I went to extremes to make my point does not mean I intended to insult any other conference, and certainly no Husker fan can ever speak with a sneer of a conference claiming Marshall (shudder).

Certainly Houston is a fine team, and they do, in fact, have a few tough opponents, but for a Number One team they have an appalling number of "breathers" compared to any conference team, whether in the Big Eight, Mid-American, Big Ten or anywhere else.

However, in a spectator sport, there is unfortunately such a thing as being too good, at least from a fan's point of view. And UCLA, although part of a top conference, can hardly be said to be engaged in an exciting fight for the conference title.

Pre-Awarded Crown

For the past two years, and next year, the Bruins have been virtually awarded the national crown before the season even started, and the fact that they went undefeated last year was sort of anti-climax. Only the fact that Houston has Elvin Hayes, and that they managed to schedule a basketball game between the two giants in the Astrodome, saved this year from being a carbon copy of last.

Even after the Houston win, no one expects the Cougars to win again if the two meet in the NCAA tourney at California.

The point I went a little overboard to make was that I'm extremely glad NU is part of a highly competitive and spirited conference like the Big Eight, and has not fallen to the fate of a school like Creighton.

Poor Bluejays

It's no secret Creighton is a Basketball School—they have to be, they have no football—but they are what is known as a major independent, and pride themselves somewhat defensively on their tough schedule, playing many major and top-ranking colleges.

But the fact is that attendance is not the greatest for the Bluejay games, and due to the lack of home-and-home understandings between league schools, they must cater to the schedules of their opponents.

Many of their top games are away, and they are forced to fill their home list with teams such as William Jewel (yes, the same one Wesleyan plays). Also, there is a general lack of excitement in Red McManus' season, as they have nothing to shoot for at the end of the campaign.

They have no conference championship, and due to the fact that they usually schedule over their heads, they have the kind of record at the end of the year which does not get them invitations to the post-season tourneys.

Small Consolation

So, they must console themselves with the fact that they are a "big league" team despite their record and that they had the courage to play the best. This is small consolation to Bluejay fans, who are left out in the cold with this sort of attitude.

So be thankful Husker fans, and keep the faith.

Tough weekend for NU wrestlers

With another rip-roaring State High School Wrestling Championship successfully tucked away for another year, Coach Orval Borgjalli takes his Nebraska Wrestling team on a tough road trip this week.

On Friday the Huskers grapple at the University of Northern Iowa and then move on Saturday to Ames to tackle the nationally-ranked Iowa State Cyclones.

Both Iowa Schools are potent opponents. Northern Iowa at Waterloo is 14-3 for the season, paced by a 250-pound heavyweight who boasts a 16-1 record.

The Huskers are 4-9-1 for the season, their best mark in three years.

Top winners for the Cornhuskers are 123-pounder Ron Thon (7-5-2), 145-pounder Dennis Dobson (8-5-0), 152-pounder Duane Dobson and 177-pounder Harry Gaylor (7-4-1). Other Nebraska entries for the Iowa swing include: 130-Pounds—Keith Haselquist (0-11-0); 137-Pounds—entry undecided; 160-Pounds—Richard Kerr (4-8-1); 167-Pounds—Harold Povondra (5-4-1); Heavyweight—Gene Libal (3-2-0).

KU game sellout

The Nebraska-Kansas basketball game, Feb. 27, is labeled a "sellout" by NU Ticket Director Jim Pittenger.

"All reserved seats and general admission tickets are gone for Kansas," Pittenger said. "We have a few tickets left for Iowa State, but it's near a sellout, too."

The Iowa State game Friday night, March 1, will be the final home game for the Huskers this season. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

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Husker Happenings

Saturday
Basketball—at Colorado, Big 8 TV game of the week. Frosh at Missouri Swimming—at Iowa State; double dual with ISU and Minnesota. Gymnastics—at Kansas. Wrestling—at Iowa State.
Friday
Basketball—Iowa State, Coliseum, 7:30 p.m. (frosh prelims at 5:15).
Saturday
Basketball—Iowa State, Coliseum, 7:30 p.m. (frosh prelims at 5:15).
Indoor Track—Prelims of Big 8 championships in Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo.
Saturday
Indoor Track—Finals of Big Eight championships in Municipal Auditorium, Kansas City, Mo.
Gymnastics—State high school tourney, Men's P.E. Building.
Wrestling—Oklahoma, Coliseum, 7:30 p.m.

—Situation sounds familiar, somehow—

Huskers face CU jinx in tuneup for Big 8 Indoor

Situation sounds familiar

by George Kaufman Sports Editor

The reason our cagers' Record ain't win-ish Is we can't hang on At the finish.

But we'll be back Although I fear Our warcy must be "Wait'll next year."

Yes, sports fans, Colorado Sports Information Director Fred (Shakespeare of the Rockies) Casoti has written another little ditty, and, as usual, there's more truth than poetry to it.

Though the lowly Buffs hold only a 1-9 league mark and are only 1-3 at usually impenetrable CU Fieldhouse, the Big Eight standings would look much different right now had Sox Walse's' luckless crew pulled out four last-minute defeats against Kansas State, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

CU jinx

Joe Cipriano's second-place Huskers had little trouble against the Buffs here early in the season, 87-73, but seem to have a jinx working against them at Boulder.

Nebraska has dropped an unbelievable 14 straight games at CU Fieldhouse and can point to only a 3-20 record there since Colorado began Big Eight play. The last time an NU team won in Boulder was way back in 1953 when the Coloradans fell, 80-65.

Fortunately for Husker fans stuck here on the cold plains, the game will be the Big Eight Game of the Week on television. Unfortunately for the team, they have had very bad reviews in past tube performances.

the last two Boulder losses having been Big Eight network TV fare. Cipriano and his upperclassmen have some bad

with hopes of a Big Eight championship and have come back a second-place club. The Huskers must again get past the Buffs in order for the Tuesday night Coliseum clash with league-leading Kansas to mean much, as the Jayhawks have a game up on the Nebraskans in the important loss column.

Cipriano says his team must continue to show the leadership and team play which made good a rally win against Oklahoma State in the Coliseum Monday night.

Six-four sharp-shooting guard Pat Frink is currently leading the Buff attack with an 18.8 ppg average. The only other CU player averaging in double figures is fellow guard Chuck Williams at 17.6.

The Huskers boast a potent offense led by the Dependable Duo of Stu Lantz, 19 ppg, and Tom Baack, 18.7. Sophs Tom Scantlebury with 13.2 and Bob Gratopp with 10.3 back them up.



Pat Frink Buffs' Top Gun

The past two years Cipriano's memories which will be evoked when they hit the CU court, teams have gone to Colorado

Thinclads meet Iowa State in tuneup for Big 8 Indoor

Every record on the program appears to be in danger as the Huskers get set to meet Iowa State in a track dual at Memorial Stadium Saturday afternoon.

It will be the final tuneup for both teams prior to the Big Eight Indoor Championships in Kansas City, Mo., March 1-2.

In the field events, Huskers have already bettered the records in the shot put, pole vault and high jump this year. Steve Krebs has gone 6-10½ in the high jump and vaulter Boyd Epley last week set a school record by sailing 14-10½. Dennis Hagin has shot-put over 55 feet.

Husker runners have equalled or bettered every mark on the Nebraska-Iowa State record chart.

Greene to run

A special feature of the meet will be the running of graduated Husker sprint star Charlie Greene. He will run in exhibition against one of the NU freshmen.

According to Don Bryant, NU Sports Information Director, Greene decided to stay



Charlie Greene Returns to NU

rather than entering the NCAA championships or going to a meet on the coast since he had been gone for the past few weekends.

Greene is a graduate student and a member of the track coaching staff this year.

Frosh meet

Friday there will be a freshman meet with teams from Doane, Wesleyan and Fairbury Junior College competing with the Husker frosh.

Field events will begin at 3 p.m. Friday in the stadium and the running events will begin at 3:30. Saturday's field events will begin at 1:30 p.m. with running events beginning at 2.

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Varsity: 'Mary Jane', 1:00, 3:06, 5:13, 7:20, 9:27.
State: 'Wait Until Dark', 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00.
Joy: 'The Last Safari', 7:15, 9:15.
Nebraska: 'The Incident', 1:25, 3:20, 5:15, 7:05, 9:00.
Starview: 'Plague of the Zombies', 7:30. 'Frankenstein Created Woman', 9:00. 'Island of Terror', 10:35. 'The Projected Man', 12:05.

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