

-Cip takes a look at (gulp) next year-

# Nebraska minus Lantz, Baack equals uncertainty



Take a long look, Husker fans, you'll never see this sight again. How do you replace the top two scorers in NU history, Tom Baack (facing camera) and Stu Lantz (22)? Nebraska coach Joe Cipriano, here huddling with his stars during a conference game, explains how at right.

By George Kaufman  
Sports Editor

Try to imagine Robert Kennedy bald. Try to conceive of America out of Vietnam. Think of Dickie Smothers without Tommy, Abbott without Costello, Liz without Dick. Nebraska without Conservatism.

If you can imagine all of these, then try to imagine the Nebraska basketball team without Stu Lantz and Tom Baack.

It is an almost impossible thing to think about, but Husker coach Joe Cipriano and the NU followers must now face reality and start thinking about next year.

"It'll be a different kind of club," says Cipriano in one of the understatement of the year.

But, unlike many of the NU fans, Cipriano does not exactly wince every time the subject of next year comes up. The Husker boss sees a possibility of a better-balanced team, not having to sacrifice height for speed as he has been forced to do in past seasons.

"We'll have some added height," says Cip, "but it won't affect our running. In fact, next year's team may have more speed than this year's."

The NU mentor foresees more of a balance between offense and defense on next year's team, perhaps doing away with the usually potent Nebraska full-court press.

general used "platoon" basketball, continually putting his "defensive" players in to throw the press on and his "offensive" shooters in when they were on the attack.

Returning "starters" — as much as anyone can be a starter on one of Cip's teams — will include Geneva soph Bob Gratopp, Oakland Calif., rookie Tom Scantlebury — both of whom received votes in the balloting for Big Eight Sophomore of the Year — and 6-7 soph pivot Dale Von Seggern.

Reserves who showed good stuff include 6-5 Ken Cauble of Midland, Tex., 6-0 Sam Martin, from Pawnee City, and 6-5 Bellevue product Lee Torrens.

Scantlebury averaged 12.8 points per game, third to Baack and Lantz, Gratopp managed 10.5, and was a surprising second to Lantz in the rebound department with 15.4. Von Seggern showed encouraging improvement under the boards as he played a fairly steady post position and averaged 4.4 a game.

"I don't think anybody will have a spot cinched on next year's team," says Cipriano. But the NU coach admitted that if anyone did, it would

have to be Gratopp. Coming to the Nebraska camp as a one-man team from Geneva and a state tournament star and record-holder, Bob worked himself immediately into the fast-paced team play Cipriano professes. During this last season's campaign he couldn't help but make Husker followers thing of Baack's sophomore year, with his clutch outside and corner shooting and his overall steady play and poise.

Bob's rebounding efforts, however, surpassed everyone's expectations, as the 6-4 rookie learned quickly what happens beneath the boards in Big Eight play. "Sam Martin will be able to help us a lot next year," muses Cipriano, "and Von Seggern picked up a lot of experience as he had to come in cold and take over in the middle."

ship was not in danger when he played a big part in making Cip's "musical chairs" game against Iowa State here almost pay off. Not having played a whole lot during the year, he came off the bench to impress everyone with 14 points and good overall play.

Since Cip usually has good outside shooting — and that went double this year — the post is not as important in the Husker attack as in most other teams. So Von Seggern got a season in which to learn the play in the conference without having the pressure on him to score. Mostly used as a director of the offense, the Orchard product looked better in every game and would up in the top five at the end of the season, with such steady reserves as Ron Simmons and Jim Damm pushing for playing time all year. "A big factor in how well we'll do next year," warns the NU skipper, "will be how

much these kids want to work this summer. Because next year we're going to have to be more aggressive on rebounding, the press and defense."

Cip points out that there will be no organized team workouts this summer as there was last summer when the Huskers took a trip down Mexico way in order to tune up for the season.

What can the Big Eight race do for an encore after the wild barroom brawl of 1968?

"Next year may be just as crazy as this year's," Cipriano says with something of a wince. "Oklahoma State will probably come furthest up the ladder, Colorado should

do much better. Of course, the Kansas teams are always there when you turn around."

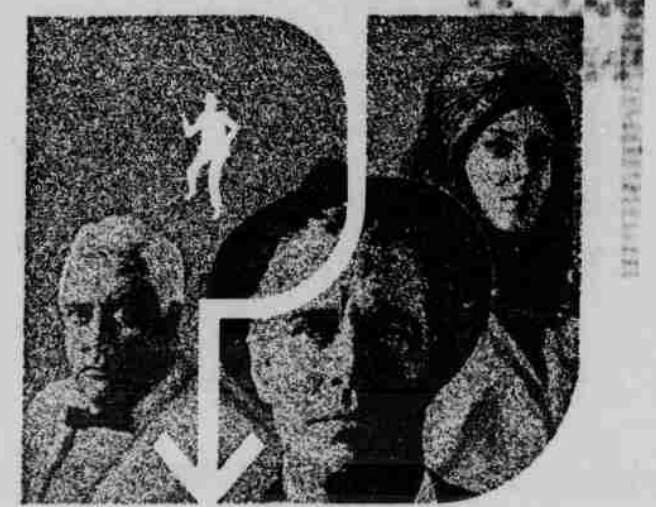
And Nebraska? "We can be contenders if we can shoot well enough. The rest of the game we can work on, but it's going to be hard to replace Lantz and Baack."

If you don't believe that statement, just glance at the final Nebraska statistics below. Then put yourself in Cip's place and try to smile.

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## 1967-68 Husker Cage Statistics

NEBRASKA CAREER TOTALS									
Tom Baack Sr. Fort Wayne, Ind.					Individual Highs				
Year	pts	reb	ast	blk	Year	pts	reb	ast	blk
1965-66	25	147-325*	242*	92	1966-67	25	189-369*	266	82-99
1966-67	25	189-369*	266	82-99	1967-68	25	191-412	406	82-99
1967-68	25	191-412	406	82-99	Career	75	524-1106*	810	245-292
Career	75	524-1106*	810	245-292					

## Husker Happenings

Today  
Indoor track—NCAA Championships at Detroit.  
Saturday  
Gymnastics—Oklahoma, Men's P.E. Building, 2 p.m.  
Monday  
Baseball—at Houston.

## Current Movies

Times Furnished by Theater. Times a.m. 1st; face; p.m. bold face

LINCOLN  
Cooper/Lincoln: 'Bonnie and Clyde', 7:00 and 9:00.  
Varsity: 'In Cold Blood', 1:00, 3:45, 6:26, 9:09.  
State: 'The Graduate', 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00.  
Stuart: 'P. J.', 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:05, 9:15.  
Nebraska: 'The Day the Fish Came Out', 1:30, 3:00, 5:00, 7:05, 9:05.  
84th & O: 'I Saw What You Did', 7:30, 'Chamber of Horrors', 9:00, 'Marnie', 10:45, 'The Frozen Dead', 12:45.  
Starview: 'Our Man Flint', 7:30, 'In Like Flint', 9:23, '11', 11:18.

OMAHA  
Indian Hills: 'Gone With The Wind', 8:00.  
Dundee: 'Far From The Madding Crowd', 8:00.  
Cooper 70: 'Camelot', 8:00.

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BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS  
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BEST COSTUMES



Warner Bros.-Seven Arts Presents WARREN BEATTY-FAYE DUNAWAY in "BONNIE AND CLYDE" Co-Starring MICHAEL J. POLLARD - GENE HACKMAN - ESTELLE PARSONS - Written by DAVID NEWMAN & ROBERT BENTON Produced by WARREN BEATTY - Directed by ARTHUR PENN - TECHNICOLOR® W

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Best Actress  
Best Director  
Best Supporting Actress  
Best Screenplay  
Best Cinematography



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