

Randy York Mizzou's own Leroy

Henry Smith is Missouri's version of Nebraska's Leroy Chalk.

But the Tiger pivot's basketball career hardly parallels that of Chalk's, the unquestionable fan favorite among Husker players.

Chalk was a prep standout at Big Sandy, Tex.

Smith didn't even play high school basketball. But the 6-6½ junior from Athens, Ga., currently ranks sixth on the Big Eight Conference scoring chart with a 14.1 average.

His first appearance in Columbia's Brewer Field House produced more cheers and smiles than points and rebounds.

Things have changed, however, climaxed Feb. 2 when

Missouri fans extended Smith a several minute standing ovation late in the second half of the Tigers' 90-73 win over Colorado.

Smith had just fouled out, but he had scored 28 points and snagged 17 rebounds. Like Leroy, Henry responded to the crowd's approval . . . with a big grin.

"I don't think I've ever had a bigger thrill in sports," Smith says.

Missouri's fans were equally enthused. They've waited a long time for an effective big man . . . or pivot.

"My biggest personal satisfaction is when I can hold my man to a minimum of points and pull down a maximum of rebounds,"

Smith says.

He's been a competitive Big Eight rebounder, retrieving 67 for an 8.4 per game average, ninth best in the conference.

Smith's transition to major college basketball offers a unique story. He bypassed prep play. "I went to the Job Corps in Indiana to learn a trade," he explains.

"Job Corps basketball was the first organized ball I played," Smith says. "It was a lot like junior college ball — run and shoot."

Smith played for Iowa Western Junior College after the Job Corps and before Missouri.

"Really, I do pretty much the same here," Smith says of his shift from Iowa Western to Mizzou. "I stay in the pivot, turn and take a jumper or a hook."

"But this is the big time," he adds. "There's a difference. There's constant pressure and you have to work hard for all your shots."

Chalk will be a part of that pressure in a televised matinee Saturday. He's been assigned to guard Smith.

Big Eight slows offensive machine

If Big Eight Conference basketball fans are somewhat disappointed with low-scoring games, don't blame all the coaches . . . or the players.

Blame Oklahoma State coach Henry Iba, whose deliberate style of play seems to be contagious.

Conference leader Kansas State is averaging only 70 points per game. The Wildcats have scored only 560 points in a 6-2 season.

"There's hardly a fast-breaking team in the league," Nebraska coach Joe Cipriano says. "The Big Eight has gone to a more deliberate style this year."

"Colorado is the only team whose personnel delivers a good fast break," Cip adds. Kansas has tried to run a little too.

Otherwise, Big Eight clubs have throttled their offenses, although not to the extent of Iba's last place Cowboys, who are averaging only 61.8 points per game.

Colorado is leading the league in scoring with 75.4 points per game, but despite the pace, the Buffaloes have

not cracked the upper division in a 4-4 season.

While the conference returned most of last-season's standouts, newcomers are accounting for the most accurate shooting, although they are not among the scoring leaders.

Nebraska senior guard Sam Martin is the conference's leading shooter in field goal accuracy. Martin is hitting 55.6 per cent, but he's taken only 35 shots, 20 successfully.

Four of the next five proficiency shooters, including three sophomores, are Big Eight newcomers.

K-State sophomore David Hall is hitting 53.2 per cent, Colorado junior college transfer Freddie Shell 53.2 per cent and Nebraska sophs Al Nissen and Chuck Jura, 51.7 and 50.9 per cent, respectively.

Missouri leads the conference in both field goal and free throw percentage while Kansas is the top rebounding club.

Leading scorers include: 1. Dave Robisch, KU, 29.0; 2. Cliff Meely, CU, 21.9; 3. Bill Cain, ISU, 17.4; 4. Garfield Heard, CU, 16.8; 5. Aaron Jenkins, ISU, 15.2; 6-7. Tie between Henry Smith and Don Tomlinson, both MU, 14.1; 8. Tom Scantlebury, NU, 13.9; 9. Gordon Tope, CU, 13.8; 10. Pierre Russell, KU, 13.7.

Riehl likes NU basketball

Frosh 'Kentucky-flavored'

by STEVE SINCLAIR
Assistant Sports Editor

Kentucky and Indiana high school basketball is reputed to be the nation's best. The Nebraska freshmen basketball team's leading scorer agrees.

"I don't want to crack Nebraska high school basketball," says Tony Riehl (pronounced reel) "but it just seems like the style of play in Kentucky is a lot better."

The Louisville, Ky., native seems qualified to speak on the subject, having played organized basketball since the fourth grade.

"NEBRASKA HAS better football, and Kentucky has better basketball," Riehl says. "That's just the way it is."

NU basketball coach Joe Cipriano also recognizes the

quality of basketball played in Kentucky high schools and tries to get as many Tony Riehl's as possible.

The Husker coach made a large haul from Kentucky last fall when he landed Riehl and fellow Kentuckian Randy Watts of Richmond.

Riehl was an all-stater for coach Clyde Smith at Louisville DeSales High School.

HIS DECISION to attend Nebraska was an easy one, and he's been happy ever since. "After I visited the campus I knew I would be coming here," Riehl says.

"We have good team unity, and we play the same type of ball I played in high school," he adds.

The 6-4 freshman claims two disappointing events in his first

year as a Husker — losses to Nebraska Western Junior College and Iowa State.

The Husker frosh get a rematch with the Iowa State yearlings Saturday morning before the varsity game against Missouri. "We had better beat them, or coach (Rex Hughes) will kill us," Riehl said.

RIEHL HAS piled up 181 points in his first eight games for an average of 20.1. He hit 30 last Saturday against Iowa Western for his top on-game effort.

Fan support in Kentucky is high, but it doesn't compare to the support in Lincoln, according to Riehl. "I couldn't believe the fans at the first big basketball game this year," he said.

Husker trackmen at CU

The Nebraska track team will try to keep its perfect dual meet record intact Saturday when it meets Colorado at Boulder.

The Huskers have disposed of Southern Illinois and Kansas State in a 2-0 season. A win will push coach Frank Sevigne's career dual meet record to 79-27.

The Huskers and Buffs have met 13 times in indoor track dual competition. Nebraska has won eight of the meets and Colorado five.

Colorado is led by sprinter-hurdler Marcus Walker. He has the conference leading times in both hurdle events (60-yard lows, :06.7 and 60-yard highs, :07.0) and is ranked third in the 60-yard dash (:06.1).

Nebraska's Don Quarrie also has a :06.1 clocking to his credit.

Colorado pole vaulter Mike Wedmen is one of the nation's leading pole vaulters with a 17-0 indoor mark. The Buffs' T. J. Hicks is the Big 8's leading long jumper with a 24-5 stretch.

Huskers showing improvement in last week's competition were Greg Carlberg in the mile (4:11.2), and 1000 (2:14.7), Dan Brooks in the high jump (6-7½), Randy Butts in the 60-yard low hurdles (:07.0), and Eric Heeter in the long jump (23-10½).

The mile relay should be a hotly contested race Saturday. Colorado's quartet has posted a 3:21.3 clocking. Nebraska's mile relay team has clocked 3:21.9.



Greg Carlberg . . . Nebraska miler

Husker swimmers host Oklahoma St.

The Nebraska swimming team will be seeking its fourth straight dual meet victory against Oklahoma State Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Coliseum pool.

The upstart tankers have handled Colorado, Iowa State and Oklahoma in their last three outings.

Nebraska has two swimmers ranked high in the latest statistics released by the Big Eight conference. Dave Backer is third in the 100-yard freestyle (:49.4) and Dave Schmidt ranks fourth in the 200-yard backstroke (2:06.5).

Oklahoma State is led by Don Ferguson in the 200-yard freestyle.

The Huskers have one more tuneup at Kansas on Feb. 21 before heading to the Big Eight meet at Iowa State March 5 and 6.