Cipriano also wants to press more NU to run more next basketball season

by RANDY YORK

Sports Editor

The fast break and pressure defense will resume a prominent place in Nebraska's basketball program next season, according to coach Joe Cipriano.

Cip, who lost considerable speed and quickness with three scholastic casualties last season, said Sunday he plans to reincorporate the Cornhusker running game.

"WE HOPE to have more speed," Cipriano said, "so we can break and press more, but to do this, we might have to go to a single post operation."

Nebraska, which finished 7-7 in the Big Eight Conference and 16-9 overall, frequently employed the single post in its last five games as 6-7 Leroy Chalk and 6-10 Chuck Jura divided playing time.

"I think the most disappointing part of our season was the first two games in the conference,'

referring to a narrow road loss to Iowa State and the Huskers' only home court setback to Big 8 champion Kansas State.

"After losing those two games," Cipriano analyzed, "we had our backs to the wall the rest of the season."

Losing Jim Brooks, Cliff Moller and Marvin Stewart midway through the season then forced Cipriano to change both his offensive and defensive strategy.

Stewart, who finished with a 14.3 average, is expected to play next season, however, and with the return of Jura, Al Nissen, Chalk and Mike Petersen should give Nebraska a championship-caliber unit.

"WE'LL HAVE a good nucleus," Cipriano noted, "but if a few of our players do not work on their weaknesses this summer, we're going to have problems."

Petersen, who was impressive near the end of the **Joe Cipriano**

maturity as a sophomore forward, according to Cip. "If he continues to work like he has," Cip said, "he has a good future.

Cipriano expects freshmen Tony Riehl and Tom Gregory to perhaps play important roles in their first varsity seasons. "We need a forward," Cip said, "and Riehl is a ation."

Christline played well this season, Cipriano added. "He had a very good year coming from a small school," Cip said, 'and we've been very pleased with him."

However, there may be a redshirt possibility for Christline.

Nebraska, which placed only guard Tom Scantlebury in a double figure average, will need more offensive leadership next season, according to Cipriano.

JURA, CONSIDERED by Cip to be a potential all-Big Eight Conference performer, "had a good sophomore season and

Sterling freshman Cal has shown he can score for a post man."

> He indicated that Jura may carry a heavier offensive load next season. "Chalk is a big, strong rebounder," Cip added, "and it's remarkable that he has shot as well he has percentage-wise."

Scantlebury, who did not gain first team all-Big Eight recognition, is a definite professional prospect, Cipriano noted.

"I think he'll get his chance for pro ball," Cip said. "He has all the physical ability and a lot of potential. If he can put it together mentally, he should play."



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