

Losses plague Cipriano squad

With five lettermen returning, basketball coach Joe Cipriano and his Cornhuskers open drills Thursday afternoon.

The Huskers lost much experience through graduation last year, but Cipriano hopes to make up for it with speed and ball handling.

"Last year we lacked speed," explained Cipriano. "Speed and ball handling is what you need to have an effective press and fast break and we'd like to get back to a faster brand of basketball this year."

The Huskers, who tied with Oklahoma for the third spot in the Big Eight race last year, also lost some good rebounders through graduation. But this doesn't seem to bother Cipriano.

"We can't help but miss those aggressive players under the boards," admitted Cipriano, "but we still have good height with Leroy Chalk, Chuck Jura and Mike Peterson."

Chalk stands 6-7, Jura 6-10, and Peterson 6-8.

Rounding out the list of returners are Al Nissen and Marvin Stewart. Both are exceptional shooters from outside and should key the Huskers' fast-breaking offense.

Sophomores fighting for varsity positions are Cal Cristine, Tom Gregory, Bob Munson, Dave Drevo, Ambrose Ratcliff, Tony Riehl, Randy Watts and Lee Harris. Curt LeRossignol was red-shirted

last year and will be out this season while Tom Bryan will join the squad the second semester.

"We won't have as much depth this year," said Cipriano, "so we hope to cut down the number of players that see the most action."

Missing from last year's squad are Jim Brooks, Ken Cauble, Bob Gratopp, Sam Martin, Tom Scantlebury, Lee Rorrens and Dale VonSeggern.

Coaching staff must select 47-man roster

Nebraska's coaching staff must select the 47-man traveling squad for the first time this season. It's a Big Eight rule that Husker coach Bob Devaney calls "a false economy move."

Devaney explained his displeasure about the rule following Wednesday's workout. "I know they think it's a money saver," pointed out Devaney, "but it's not because you go by bus or plane which has plenty of seats for more players than 47 and so all you're talking about is another night's room and a couple of meals."

This is the first conference road game for Nebraska this

Jayhawks challenge defense

by JIM JOHNSTON
Associate Sports Editor

Nebraska's defense has met all challenges presented this year, but must rise to the occasion again Saturday in Lawrence, Kan.

The Huskers will be facing one of the most point producing outfits in the Big Eight when they visit the Kansas University campus for a 1:30 p.m. date.

And the Jayhawks may present the most balanced offensive attack the Huskers have seen since Southern California.

The Jayhawks have a good-headed quarterback in Dan Heck and powerful backs by

the names of John Riggins and Steve Conley.

"Heck may not be as elusive as Jimmy Jones from Southern California," explained Husker coach Bill Thorton who scouted Kansas last week, "but he has good speed and calls his plays very well."

Riggins, one of the strongest running backs in the Big Eight, is the "Joe Moore" of the KU offense. The senior running back weighs 230 and runs the 100 yard dash in 9.8.

"Kansas has used the dive plays this season," said Thorton, "and this is what they beat Kansas State with."

"Those backs can read where the holes are. They'll break tackles and get four or five extra yards if you're not careful."

But Nebraska defensive line coach Monte Kiffen has warned the "Black Shirts" to be careful.

"Heck runs those backs through there on those dive plays," explained Kiffen, "but he tries to get you sucked in

and then he goes to the outside with an option. This is what we have to watch."

The Jayhawks passed only six times in defeating K-State 21-15 last week, but Kiffen is expecting coach Pepper Rodgers to open up more against Nebraska.

"Kansas is actually tougher to defend against than Missouri," said Kiffen. "We could play our linebackers tight against Missouri. But we can't just sit there and play the run against Kansas. Kansas has a better passing game and offers much more offensive balance."

But the "Black Shirts" have been able to meet the challenge this year. And there is no reason to doubt that they can't rise again against KU.

"We're gonna have to have a lot of pursuit and gang tackling," explained Kiffen. "But these kids have a lot of pride."

And pride has been key for Nebraska's defense throughout the years.

year and the first time the Huskers have been faced with the player limitation problem.

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