

## Huskers top Wyoming in season opener

by Dave McBride

If Wednesday night was any indication, Nebraska basketball fans may have an exciting season of court-watching ahead.

Using the running, crowd-pleasing offense and the pressure defense he had promised during pre-season practice, Coach Joe Cipriano's hustling Huskers downed Wyoming 81-63 in the Coliseum in the season opener for both teams.

Led by starting frontliners Chuck Jura, Al Nissen and Mike Peterson, Nebraska built a 42-28 halftime lead with a late bevy of fast breaks, then Cipriano shuffled reserves in and out of the lineup to keep up the pace.

Jura, the Huskers' 6-10 senior center who, according to Cipriano, has the potential to become one of the best players the school has produced, tallied 18 points and cleared 21 rebounds to lead the team. The need for improved rebounding by Jura was one of the big things Cipriano had stressed throughout fall drills.

Nissen, the 6-4 senior from Miller, S.D. who was shifted

from guard to lend more speed to the frontline, contributed 17 points and 14 rebounds. Peterson added 15 points, with several of his seven field goals coming from long range, and snared 12 rebounds.

They led Nebraska to a 73-34 rebounding edge over the Cowboys, a young team whose first-game jitters were compounded by an aggressive Husker defense.

Rod Penner, a 6-9 center who is one of only four returning lettermen for the Cowboys (the Huskers have eight), led Wyoming with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

A crowd of 5,700, including a spirited pep band section, saw both teams start slowly. The Huskers didn't get their running game in gear until midway through the first half, when they broke from a four-point deficit to their 14-point halftime margin.

Wyoming's last lead was 12-10 with 12:51 left in the first half. Jura scored from underneath after a Nissen feed to tie the game at 11:42, and then poked in two more a minute later to give the Huskers a lead they never relinquished.

## Hula girls, sun greet Cornhuskers

by Jim Johnston

HONOLULU, HAWAII—An 81 degree temperature and a warm reception by hula girls greeted the Nebraska Cornhuskers upon their arrival at Honolulu airport Wednesday afternoon. One hula girl couldn't resist the temptation of reminding the Huskers they came to Hawaii to play a football game, not just to spend a vacation.

"You guys remind me of the New Mexico football team that was here last week," the hula girl commented. "They were excited about being in Hawaii, too, but then they lost the football game."

The University of Hawaii football team, which meets No. 1-ranked Nebraska at Honolulu Saturday night, upset New Mexico 28-21 last Saturday.

But it's going to be tough for the Cornhuskers to think only about football. The team is staying at the luxurious Hilton Hawaii Hotel on Waikiki Beach overlooking Diamond Head.

Nebraska fans who arrived early in Honolulu were not allowed to meet the team at

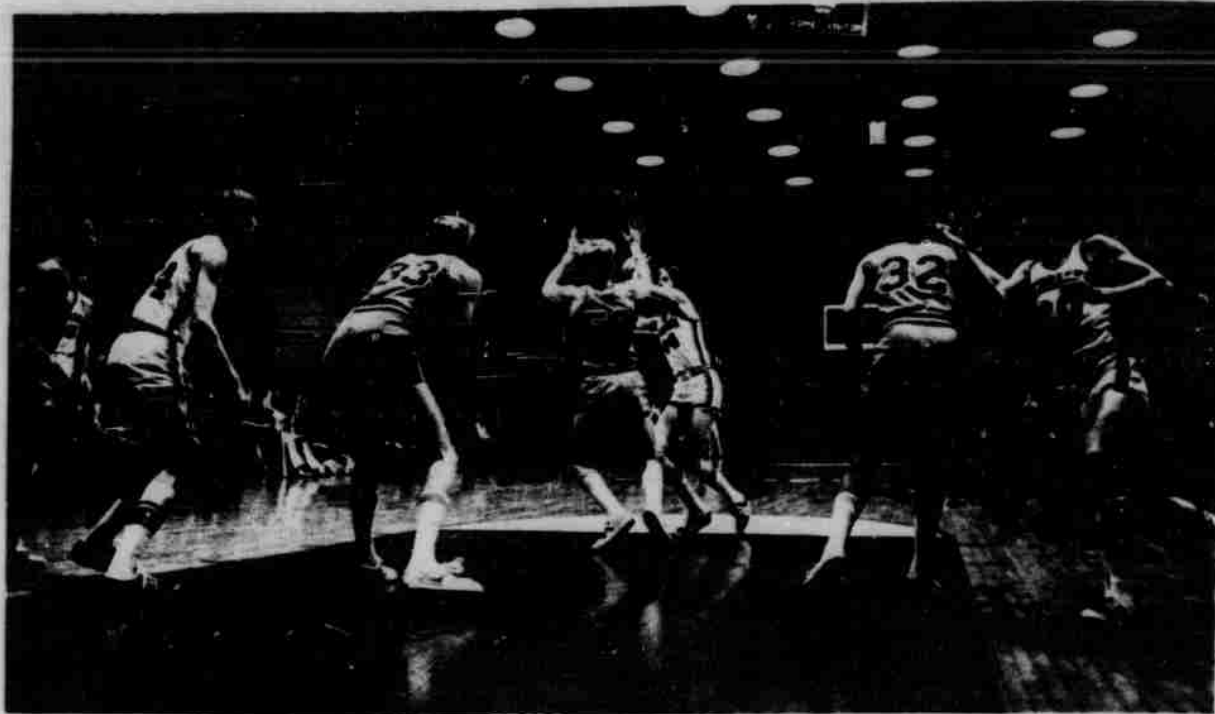
the airport because of the traffic jam it would create, but more than 500 Big Red fans gave the team a standing ovation when their buses arrived at the hotel.

Nebraska football is no stranger to tourists at Waikiki Beach. Approximately 12,000 Husker fans are expected by the weekend, and Big Red hats and buttons are seen at nearly every hotel on the beach.

The Huskers arrived at Honolulu at 7 p.m. Lincoln time (3 p.m. Hawaii time). They departed the Lincoln airport at 8:30 a.m. but were delayed for two hours at San Francisco with a maintenance problem in the jet. The Nebraska football party had to move to a different aircraft for the five-hour flight to Hawaii.

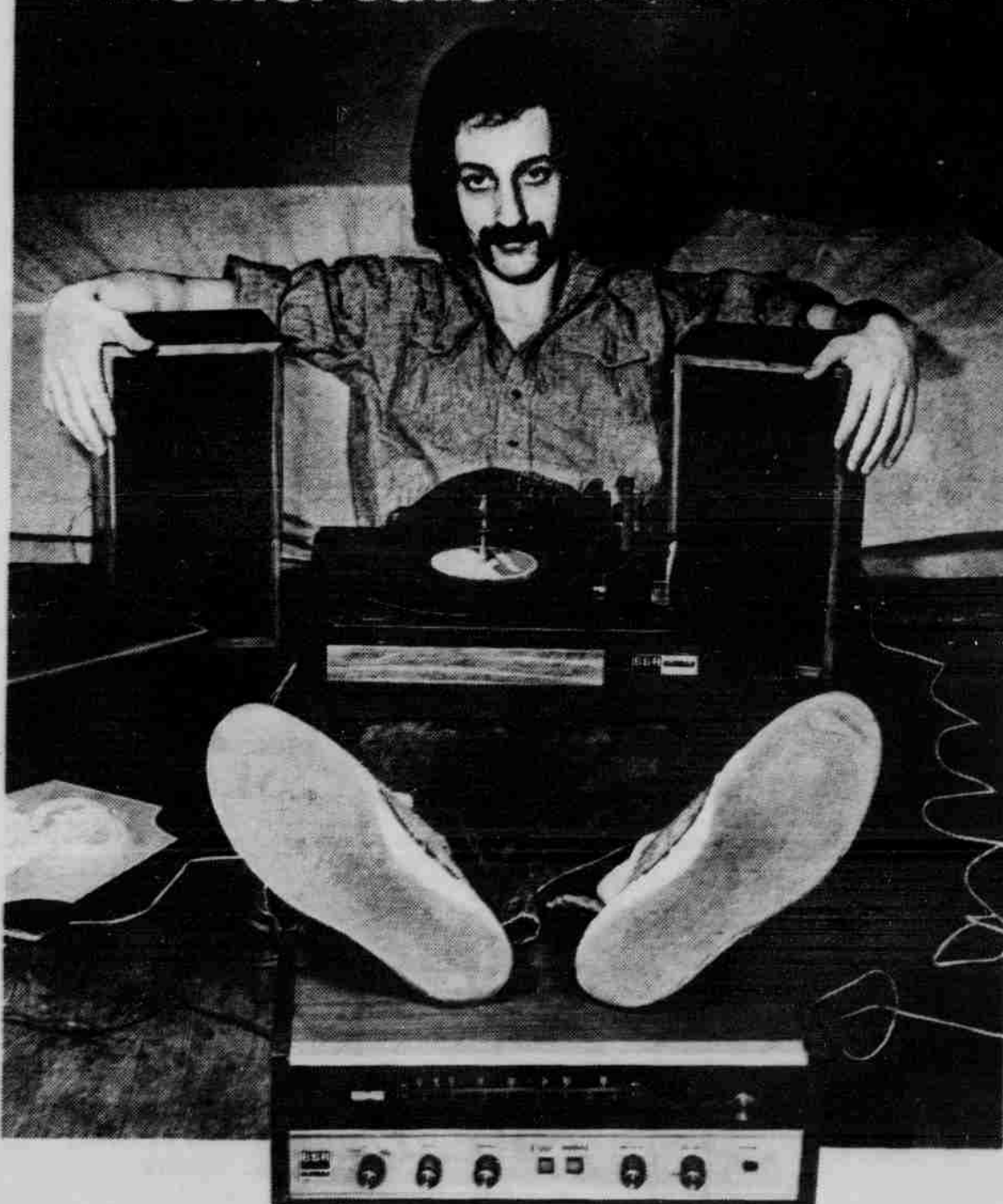
The Huskers went through a light scrimmage under the lights at Honolulu Stadium Wednesday night. Nebraska holds another practice session Thursday afternoon and then will be entertained at a Chinese dinner Thursday night.

A tour of Pearl Harbor is planned for Friday morning. Game time Saturday is at midnight Lincoln time.



The Huskers successfully opened their 1971-72 season Wednesday night with a convincing 81-63 victory over the Wyoming Cowboys.

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