

# Cipriano says mistakes cause of Husker losses

by Jim Johnston

A large Christmas package was sitting on Joe Cipriano's desk Wednesday afternoon.

"I don't know who it's from," said Cipriano. "I tried to listen to it and it's not ticking so it must be safe, but I'm still not taking any chances."

CIPRIANO was smiling when he said it, but the inclination that Nebraska fans might be down on the basketball team left little to smile about inside. The Cornhuskers, off to one of their worst basketball starts in

recent years, stand 1-3 on the season.

But Cipriano, the Huskers head coach, isn't ready to forfeit the remainder of the schedule.

"Naturally I'm disappointed that we're 1-3 at this point," said Cip, "but when I look at the films I realize that it's just been mistakes that have beat us. We've got a good ball club if we just quit those mistakes."

THE HUSKERS, after an opening win against Wyoming, have lost three straight to San Diego State, Wichita State and Duquesne.

The Huskers will try to break that three-game spin

against Southern Methodist at the NU Coliseum Saturday night.

"I think our non-conference schedule is a little tougher than it was last year," said Cip. "We ran into two good running teams in San Diego State and Wichita State and we just didn't keep up with them. We haven't been used to that brand of basketball in the Big Eight in the past few years."

CIPRIANO, who has been using several players each game, has no plans of switching his starting lineup for Saturday's date with SMU.

"I think (Chuck) Jura is the only starter who has really played up to his potential," said Cipriano. "The others are a little slow in coming around, but I'm sure they'll get there soon."

Jura, the Huskers' 6-10 post man, has averaged 20.8 points in the first four games. He has also collected 55 rebounds.

SENIOR Al Nissen, who was switched from guard to forward before the opener against Wyoming, is now adjusting to the forward spot.

"Al played forward seven games last year when Mike Peterson was hurt," said Cipriano. "Al can rebound as good as any of our forwards and he's one of the better shooters. He'll come around."

Rebounding, however, is one part of the Husker attack that needs improvement.

"WE GET plenty of rebounds," said Cipriano, "but

we're just giving our opponents the second shot too many times. We've been poor at blocking out. We have to stop our opponents from getting the tip-in."

Cipriano has also been disappointed with the inability of the offense to move the basketball.

"Everybody wants to dribble the ball," said Cip. "We have to start moving the ball faster."

NEBRASKA has to start its upswing this weekend. Cipriano knows the importance of good backing by the student body and the public.

"They come to see you win," said Cipriano. "If you're not winning then you don't have any fans."

And fans are an important part of the Nebraska basketball program. . . especially when they crowd into the antique Coliseum.

## Ticket shortage. . .

Continued from page 1.

his mind. The ticket office has received more than 27,000 requests for Orange Bowl tickets.

In accordance with an NCAA ruling, the Orange Bowl gave Nebraska and Alabama each 12,500 tickets. The NCAA says that one-third of the tickets to the bowl games must be divided between the two participating schools.

One-third must also be put on public sale (those have been sold long ago) and the remaining one-third goes to bond holders.

Pittenger said the remaining 10,500 Nebraska tickets will be placed on a priority system: 1. major contributing organizations to the athletic department 2. NU faculty members and 3. season ticket holders.

"I'M SURE OUR supply will be exhausted by the time we go through those priorities," said Pittenger.

The three major contributing clubs are the Husker Award Club, Beef Club and Touchdown Club. According to Pittenger, 2,500 tickets will be used by these three clubs.

"We're also trying to help out tour groups who are regulars in attending Nebraska games," said Pittenger. "If a tour group puts together a special tour to the Orange Bowl just to make a quick buck and isn't a regular tour organization on Nebraska games they'll be placed towards the end of the list."

ONE TOUR organization placed signs in dormitories on campus urging students to buy Orange Bowl tickets and then sell them to this tour group for a five dollar profit. This group, according to Pittenger, has a slim chance of receiving any tickets.

Student tickets not picked up and paid for by Friday at 4 p.m. will be cancelled. Students with numbers one through 3,046 will be sold Orange Bowl tickets.

Nebraska's ticket squeeze received some relief last year before the Orange Bowl when Louisiana State didn't sell its 12,500 tickets. LSU gave Nebraska 3,500 remaining tickets.

BUT THAT WON'T be the situation this year. Alabama, Nebraska's Orange Bowl foe, has a ticket squeeze similar to Nebraska this year. . . including its student body.

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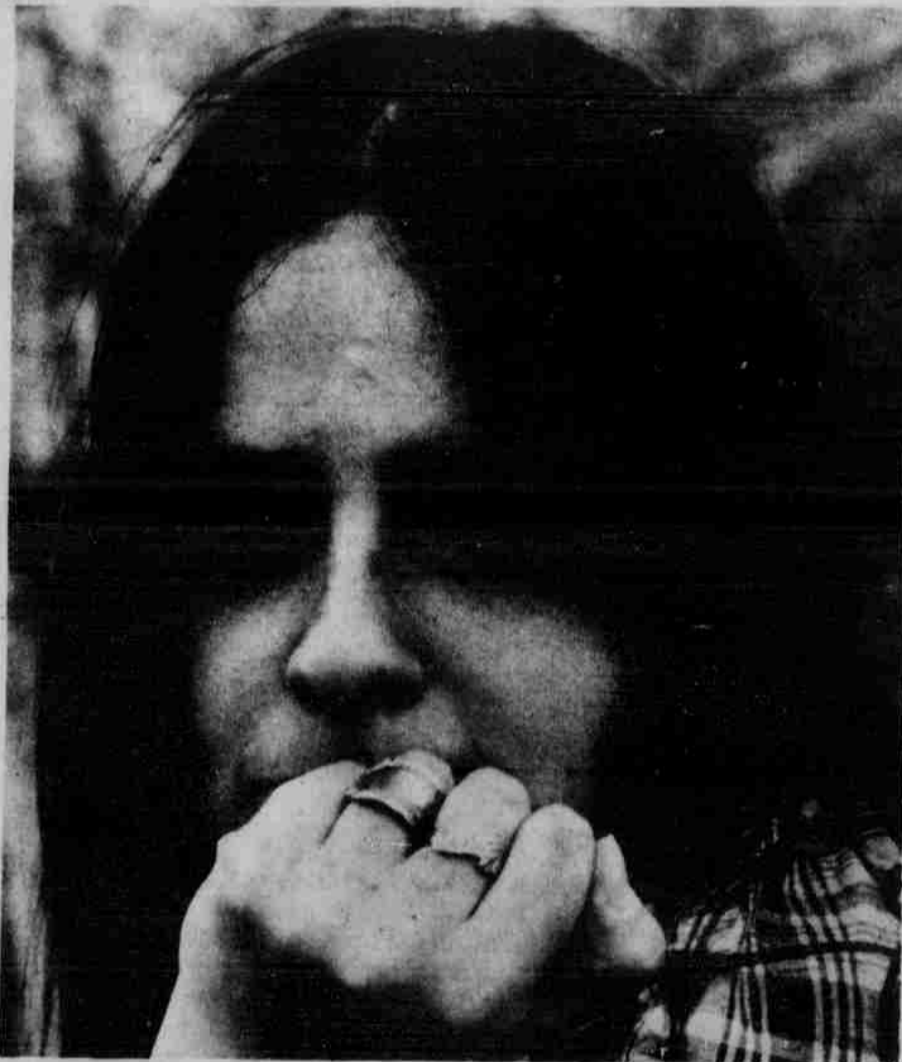
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