

daily nebraskan sports

Harris gets starting nod

Lee Harris has gained the nickname of "super-sub" for coming off the bench to spark the Nebraska basketball team.

But Harris will draw a different assignment Saturday night at 7:35 when Nebraska meets Missouri in the Huskers' final home game of the season. Husker Coach Joe Cipriano said Thursday that Harris, a favorite of the Coliseum fans, will replace Tom Bryan in the Huskers' starting line-up.

Cipriano hopes the Huskers, whose Big Eight title hopes were severely crippled with a loss last week at Colorado, can return to their high-scoring form exhibited against Kansas two weeks ago.

"Some people who saw us beat Kansas and then went to Boulder to see the game could not believe it was the same team," Cipriano said.

Saturday's game is the last appearance in the old Coliseum for four Husker seniors—center Chuck Jura, guard Al Nissen and forwards Mike Peterson and Tom Bryan.

The Husker freshmen entertain their Missouri counterparts Saturday in a preliminary game that starts at 5:15 p.m.



gary seacrest sports

There is a new form of competition in the world of sports these days that is making headlines. The new sport is simply deciding which sport is America's national pastime.

The fierce competition is mainly between pro football and pro baseball. At first glance it seems as if the debate over the national pastime is nothing more than a good subject to start a free-for-all in any American bar. However, the debate really does reveal a lot about the American character.

For one thing, sex is not mentioned as the national pastime and we all know that sex is probably America's No. 1 sport. The omission of sex from the list of candidates competing for the honor of national pastime obviously reveals the puritanical nature of the American mind.

While sex is being ignored in the sports contest, it appears that football is replacing baseball as the nation's No. 1 game, according to two recent polls.

At first it appears that football is the logical choice to be the nation's most popular sport. The game is fast,

action-packed and violent. In short, football is just a microcosm of the American life that features jet planes, super highways, sky-rocketing crime and the Vietnam war.

While football fits the style of American society, baseball seems totally unfit to be the national pastime. The game is usually slow and passive with most of the action being confined to a game of catch between the pitcher and the catcher.

"Baseball is about as exciting as batting rocks with a stick on a country road," Keith Booth, of radio station KEEL in Shreveport, La., said for the AP poll.

However, baseball does have a certain appeal for Americans. "I still vote baseball as our national pastime," John Steadman, sports editor of the Baltimore News-American, said. "Baseball has a certain simplicity to it that is genuine and good."

Because the silent majority, likes to leisurely drink beer while watching baseball the "simple" game of baseball will be popular for a long time. Maybe it's good that our complicated society still has a game that is slow-paced and non-violent.

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SMALL AUDITORIUM

Thinclads confront Big 8 track jinx

by Kent Seacrest

Some people call it a jinx. Others call it bad luck.

But no matter what one calls it, the fact remains that the Nebraska indoor track team has gone into the Big Eight championships the last four years with an undefeated record, yet has failed to win the title. The Huskers' best finish in the last four years was a third place in 1969.

This year the Huskers will again take an undefeated dual record (4-0) into the 44th annual Big Eight championships Friday and Saturday in Kansas City.

Will the Huskers finally be able to break the jinx and win the Big Eight title?

"In the past, Nebraska has won a lot of seconds and thirds in the Big Eight meet," Nebraska Track Coach Frank Sevigne said. "The majority of those years, Kansas was an overwhelming power and NCAA champion. But it appears now that they are not in that category this year. The Big Eight title is up for grabs this year for the first time in a long time."

Sevigne said there are five teams who have a crack at the title: Kansas, Kansas State, Colorado, Oklahoma and Nebraska. Kansas is looking for its seventh straight indoor title.

"The Nebraska team is definitely one of our better indoor track teams and it has the possibility of becoming the best," Sevigne said. "Come Saturday night, we'll know exactly how good we really are. We have the capability of winning almost any event and scoring in every event if we have a good night."

But the Huskers are still faced with the

possibility of being jinxed again this weekend in Kansas City.

"I don't think we are the only team with a jinx in the Big Eight," Husker high jumper Dan Brooks said. "There are six other teams in the Big Eight with the jinx. Kansas is the only team who seems to avoid the jinx. But this year I think it will be different."

To help break the jinx, Nebraska will be wearing the same warm-ups the 1963 track team wore when they won the last Big Eight title for Nebraska. "The 1963 warm-ups which we'll be wearing this weekend," Brooks said, "will help us break the jinx."

The Huskers' top entries include: Garth Case (1:10.9) and Wes Leonard (1:11.9) in the 600; Leighton Priestley (48.1) in the 440; Bob Unger (8:41.4) in the two-mile; Horace Levy (6.0) in the 60-yard dash; Jim Hawkins (2:12.2) in the 1,000; Randy Butts (7.2 and 6.9) in the high and low hurdles; and Case, Priestley, Leonard and Larry Cimato (3:07.5) in the mile relay. Case's 1:10.9 in the 600 and the mile relay team's performance lead the Big Eight this season.

Women cagers to clash

Eight teams will compete in the third annual Nebraska Women's Intercollegiate Basketball tournament to be held Friday and Saturday at the Women's P.E. Building.

First round games Friday in the competition pit Wayne State, the top-seeded team in the tournament, against Concordia and defending champion Midland against UNO at 4:30 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. round sends UNL against Nebraska Wesleyan and Kearney against the College of St. Mary's.