

Cip faces long December

by Jim Johnston

Joe Cipriano has few, if any, reasons to be optimistic about the coming Nebraska basketball season. The Cornhuskers lost four starters off last year's squad, including Chuck Jura, the Big Eight's leading rebounder and No. 3 scorer.

Added to the problems of playing several inexperienced players is the fact that the Cornhuskers face one of their toughest non-conference schedules in several years.

Nebraska opens Nov. 24 at the UNL Coliseum against North Texas State, a team which has bolstered its program with two junior college all-Americans. The Huskers must also face top 10 powers Kentucky and North Carolina on the road.

"It's going to be a year when we can't get discouraged," Cipriano said. "December could be a long month for us, but we just have to realize that it could take some time for a lot of our inexperienced kids to come around."

Cipriano hopes to get back to a faster brand of basketball this season.

"We won't be as conservative this year," Cipriano said. "We've got the people who can run up and down the court and work with the basketball."

The Cornhuskers, however, will be missing the inside scoring punch Jura provided last year. Junior Brendy Lee, who will replace Jura at the post position, does not provide the same scoring threat.

"Brendy has good speed and quickness," Cipriano said. "He'll play a big part in our offense. Our team will shoot a lot on the go and do a lot of cutting."

The Cornhuskers are loaded with guards. Seniors Tom Gregory and Tony Riehl, who have both been slowed by injuries, are the leading contenders for starting positions. Both, however, are being pushed by Lincoln sophomore Kent Reckway, who led the freshman in scoring last year. Freshman Ricky Marsh from Cambria Heights, N.Y., junior Tom Novak from Lincoln and sophomore Jud Martin are the remaining guards.

"Tom Gregory will play a big part for us," Cipriano said. "We can hurt some teams with a press and Gregory is the type of guard who can apply defensive pressure."

Junior Lee Harris from Omaha, a Husker crowd pleaser last year, has assured himself a starting spot at forward. Harris stands just 6-2, but he could develop as one of the Huskers' top rebounders.

Junior college transfer Quincy Wallace (6-4) and sophomore Don Jackson are battling for the other forward spot.

Sophomore Steve Erwin and freshman Jerrell Fort are the remaining forwards. Senior Cal Christline will play both center and forward spots.

"It could take a while for us to come around," Cipriano said. "This team will have to take pride in defense. We can beat some people with the press and fast break."

The Huskers will hold an open scrimmage at 10:30 a.m. Saturday before the Nebraska-Kansas State football game. The annual intrasquad game will be Monday night. All-sports tickets, which can be purchased at the Coliseum, will be honored at the intrasquad game.



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Devaney checks off ISU game, injects new blood into secondary

Nebraska football coach Bob Devaney, who was furious after Saturday's 23-23 tie with Iowa State, has elected to "check it off as just a bad game."

"That tie was a greater disappointment to me than the loss to UCLA," Devaney said. "We had fought back to a point where we had a good chance to win it all. UCLA beat us on the field more than Iowa State did. The turnovers were so uneven at Iowa State."

But Devaney isn't ready to toss aside the possibility of Nebraska winning its third straight national championship.

"We've had a good year and we've still got a chance to win it all," Devaney said. "There had to be a lot of combinations before we could have won it this year and there still have to be a lot of combinations. But we do have a chance."

Nebraska dropped to fifth in both the Associated Press and United Press International college football polls this week. Southern

California, Alabama, Michigan and Oklahoma are the top four teams in both polls.

"Our No. 1 objective now is to beat Kansas State this weekend and do a damn good job of it," Devaney said. "That tie with Iowa State is over and forgotten and I don't want to dwell on it."

Devaney said the Huskers may have "some new blood" in the defensive secondary after Iowa State marched 74 yards through the air in the final minute Saturday.

Bob Thorton, a junior from Lomita, Cal., worked as the No. 1 safety at Tuesday's practice. Devaney also said Zaven Yaralian may see more action.

"After Kansas State views the films of last week's game you can bet the football may be flying around quite a bit Saturday," Devaney said. "You couldn't blame any team for throwing against us after our exhibition Saturday."

Interviews



City Union Program Council
Sunday, November 19, 1972
2:30 pm
Nebraska Union
Sign Up: Between Nov. 7-Nov. 15
Program Office Room 128 Union

East Union Executive Committee
Wednesday, November 15, 1972
5:00 pm
Nebraska Union (city campus)
Sign Up: Between Nov. 7-Nov. 15
East Union

asun approved

sports shorts

Nebraska flanker Johnny Rodgers has been named the Big Eight's offensive player of the week for the third time this season. Rodgers, who pulled a hamstring in the second quarter against Iowa State, caught nine passes for 132 yards and two touchdowns.

Nebraska 1-back Dave Goeller, who suffered a hairline fracture in his forearm against Oklahoma State, has practiced this week and is expected to be ready for Kansas State.

All-sports tickets, which will be good for all Nebraska home basketball games, are on sale at the UNL Coliseum ticket office. Ticket price is \$4.75.

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