

League-leading Wildcats to test Husker mettle

by Dave Sittler

Nebraska's basketball team will try to break a two game losing streak at 7:30 p.m. Saturday when it hosts league-leading Kansas State at the Coliseum.

Coach Joe Cipriano's Huskers last win was Jan. 15 when they whipped Oklahoma 74-67. Since then losses to Missouri (78-65) and Iowa State (81-60) have left the team with a 1-3 conference record.

Cipriano saw some improvement in his young team despite last Tuesday's loss to the Iowa State Cyclones at Ames.

"We started getting more of a team effort against Iowa State and really played good team defense," Cipriano said. "We still must improve our offensive output and our rebounding if we want to be competitive."

Kansas State enters the game tied with Colorado for the Big Eight lead with a 3-1 conference mark. The Wildcats boast an impressive 13-3 record for the season, compared with Nebraska's 6-10.

Center Steve Mitchell and forward Ernie Kusnyer pace Kansas State scoring. Mitchell, 6-10, averages 16.1 points a game while Kusnyer, 6-5, is hitting 14.5 points a game.

Cipriano has a great deal of respect for the Wildcats, whose only conference defeat came at the hands of Oklahoma, 81-69.

"Kansas State is definitely the best team that will play in Lincoln this year, and they probably are the best team we will face all season," Cipriano said.

Cipriano will depend heavily on freshman Jerry Fort and junior Lee Harris to the scoring punch. Fort and Harris are tied for the team lead in scoring. Both average 13 points a game.

Nebraska's Coliseum has not been a friendly place for Wildcat Coach Jack Hartman. Hartman has an 0-2 record in Lincoln since he's had head job at Manhattan.

Last year was especially frustrating for Hartman. His team led 51-39 midway in the last half before a frantic Nebraska finish gave the Cornhuskers a 61-60 win.

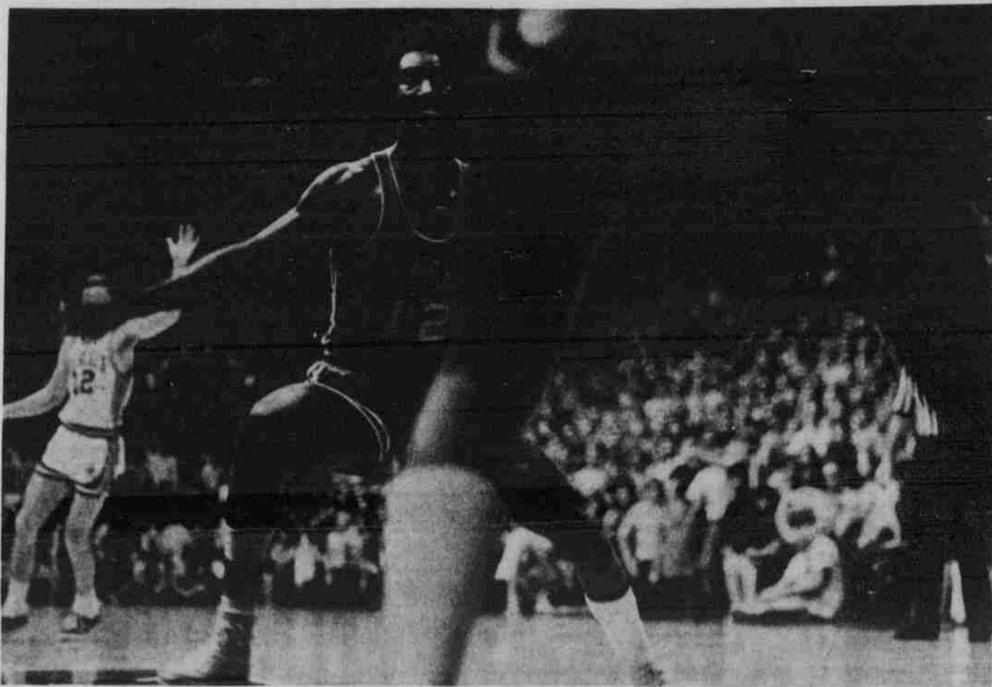
Hartman's starting lineup will include Lon Kruger, 5-11, and Bob Chipman, 6-2, at guard and Larry Williams, 6-9, and Kusnyer at forward. Mitchell will handle post duties.

Cipriano will counter with Fort and senior Tony Riehl at guards along with Harris and 6-7 Don Jackson at forwards. Junior Brendy Lee will again

open at center for Nebraska.

This will be the 132nd meeting between the two schools with Kansas State holding a 76-55 winning edge.

A junior varsity game between the two schools will precede the varsity game with tipoff time set a 5:20 p.m.



Lee Harris . . . awaits league-leading Wildcats.

sports shorts

Coach Frank Sevigne's track team hosts Colorado and Kansas Saturday at Memorial Stadium's indoor track. Field events start at 1:30 p.m. Track events get underway at 2 p.m.

Swimming

Nebraska's swim team will be in action twice this weekend, first taking on Northern Iowa at 7 p.m. Friday, and then Colorado State at 2 p.m. Saturday. Both meets will be at the Coliseum pool.

The Cornhusker wrestling and gymnastics teams will be on the road. Orval Borgialli's wrestlers, with three wins in their last four meets, travel to Missouri Friday, and to Southern Illinois-Carbondale Saturday.

Road Trips

Francis Allen's Husker gymnasts, after winning their opening dual meet last Saturday at Colorado, travel to Ames, Iowa for a Saturday afternoon encounter with defending Big Eight champion Iowa State.

Ice Hockey

The UNL ice hockey team will meet Creighton University at 1 p.m. Saturday. The free match will be held at Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha.

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