



Nebraska's Steve Erwin grabs a rebound from an ISU defender.

## Huskers drop last home tilt

by Dave Sittler

Nebraska's basketball squad dropped a hard-fought 82-76 Big Eight Conference game to the Iowa State Cyclones Monday night at the Coliseum.

Playing without Lee Harris who quit the team unexpectedly Sunday night, the Cornhuskers suffered a five minute dry spell in scoring at the end of the game that sealed the defeat.

After trailing 44-40 at halftime, the Cornhuskers battled back to take their first lead of the game 72-71 on Jerry Fort's jump shot with 5:02 remaining. But that was to be the Huskers' last field goal until two seconds remained in the game.

Iowa State's 6-7 center Clint Harris and Nebraska's Jerry Fort tied-up in a scoring duel in the first-half that had the 5,730 fans yelling their approval. Clint Harris hit 18 points while Fort countered with 14 before the intermission.

Although Nebraska's Steve Erwin was able to hold Harris to only two points in the second half, Cyclone guards Eric Heft, Mike Benjamin and Martinez Denmon kept the Cyclones going with their long-range shooting.

Both teams shot well throughout the contest. Nebraska finished with a 49 per cent average from the floor while Iowa State hit a sizzling 54 per cent from the field.

A subdued Coach Joe Cipriano praised his team's performance in the losing effort.

"I could not ask more of team than what those boys did tonight," the Husker boss said. "They did everything we demanded of them, but it was one of those games when the ball didn't go in the hole just when we needed it."

Cipriano added that he was pleased with the play of freshman Ricky Marsh who was forced into the starting line-up when Harris, the Huskers' second leading scorer, decided to quit the team.

The loss—which was the last home game for seniors Tony Riehl and Cal Christline—drops the Huskers to 4-7 in league play and to 9-14 for the season.

Fort led Nebraska scoring with 24 points followed by Riehl's 13 and Marsh's 11. Harris finished with 20 for the Cyclones while Denmon had 18 and Heft had 16.

Nebraska's next game will be Saturday against league-leading Kansas State in Manhattan. That match is the first of three road games that will finish out the season for the Huskers.

Cipriano said he feels the Huskers will not suffer a letdown although they are completely out of the conference race. "These kids will keep their heads up and they are playing loose enough to give Kansas State a real battle," he said.

## Thirty second ruling leaving?

Big Eight Conference basketball fans had to be proud of league officials and coaches last spring when they decided the 30-second clock would be used this season in league play.

Here was conservative middle America saying it was changing the hallowed game of college basketball into something more exciting, something fans would enjoy more.

And deep down, folks liked the change most because the Big Eight Conference was the first to make it.

"We'll show all those hot-shots on the West coast with their 'Walton gangs' and UCLA's and winning streaks who's progressive," bragged Big Eight supporters. "And those Eastern snobs will have to take notice that more than football is played West of the Mississippi River."

And you know what? It worked. While the rest of basketball country has been sitting on its thumbs wondering when UCLA will lose, the Big Eight has enjoyed some of its closest most exciting basketball in years.

There's none of the "give me a 10 point lead and I'll stall until the Second Coming" attitude with Big Eight coaches. Instead it's "get the lead and fight for your life."

But, as the saying goes, enjoy it while it lasts. Because, sadly enough, the Big Eight is in danger of returning to the "boring basketball" category.

Maury John, Iowa State basketball coach, said he is convinced the conference's coaches will vote down the 30-second rule at their meeting next month in St. Louis.

But don't get John wrong. He's in favor of the new rule. "I agree with the fans that the 30-second clock has increased the appeal of college basketball and should be given a fair chance by all the schools," he said.

John points to Jack Hartman of Kansas State and Norm Stewart of Missouri as the coaches who are strongly opposed to the rule. He fears they will have influence to eliminate it.

"Stewart thinks that if he has a six point lead late in the game he deserves the right to protect it by stalling," John said.

Have you been to a game lately when one of the teams employed the stalling tactic? It quickly reminds one how boring Big Eight basketball used to be.

Nebraska Coach Joe Cipriano favors the new rule, even though he feels it hinders the kind of team he has had this year.

## dave sittler instant replay

"The 30-second rule means that teams are going to shoot more, so you must have a couple of big men to get the rebounds," Cipriano said. "We have a small squad this year, but we will just have to recruit men to fit the rule because I think it's great for the fans and the game of basketball." Cipriano indicated that he definitely plans to vote for the rule at the St. Louis meeting and hopes the entire NCAA will adopt it.

It's hard to understand why men like Stewart and Hartman would be against such a refreshing new approach to the game.

But then they were probably on the side that voted out the exciting "stuff shot," which used to turn on every college crowd.

If you're ever in Columbia, or Manhattan, Kan., check out coaches Stewart and Hartman's garages. You may find a horse and buggy.

## Wrestlers qualify

The UNL wrestling team qualified five wrestlers for the NCAA wrestling championships in Seattle, Wash., March 8-10.

Husker co captain Tom Lotko, Cliff Myles, Bob Smith, Steve RAvenscroft and Jeff Class will be going to Seattle.

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