

Cipriano predicts winning basketball season

By Bob Hill

Monday marked the beginning of another season for Nebraska basketball players. Joe Cipriano, starting his 11th season as Husker head coach, is optimistic about this year's team.

"I suppose every basketball coach enters each season with the idea he can win all 26 games. I'm no different," he said. "I'm as eager to start this season as I've ever been."

He said he is pleased with the physical shape of the squad. "The results of our conditioning program are quite pleasing," he said.

"We have maybe the youngest (basketball team) in the league when you count the number of freshmen and returning lettermen we have," he said. "And you can't make up for lack of experience." However, Cipriano noted that he has more talent this year than he has had in the last two years.

Seven freshmen and three sophomores are on the squad, which includes six returning lettermen. Because of the team's youth "we're going to spend more time on fundamentals than in past years,"

Cipriano said.

Some of the promising first-year men include Mark Enright (6 ft.-9 in.), Phil Chambers (6 ft.-4 in.), Rick Seidel (6 ft.-7 in.), Bob Siegel (6 ft.-7 in.), Ron Taylor (6 ft.-10 in.) and Rickey Harris (6 ft.-4 in.).

"The freshmen better be eager, because for what they lack in playing time, they better make up by showing a lot of competitiveness," he said.

Sophomores Jerry Fort (6 ft.-3 in.) and Ricky Marsh (6 ft.-3 in.) are potentially one of the finest guard combinations in the Big 8, he said. Fort led the team last year in scoring with a 14.5 average, while Marsh scored a season personal high of 22 points against Missouri in the Huskers' final game.

Other veterans include 6 ft.-8 in. senior Brendy Lee who led Nebraska in rebounding last year. Senior guard Tom Novak (6 ft.-1 in.) and juniors Kent Reckewey (6 ft.-0 in.) and Steve Erwin (6 ft.-4 in.) are other returning lettermen.

Although the freshmen "are going to see a lot of playing time" the veterans are vital to the team, Cipriano said. "They have experience in their favor

and that will be a big help in our early games in December.

"We're going to strive for consistency and learn to play together. We've got the talent but we've got to be a team," he said.

Roster

Name	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
Phil Chambers	6-4	170	Freshman
Fred Carter	6-5	190	Junior
Larry Cook	6-0	201	Sophomore
Mark Enright	6-9	219	Freshman
*Steve Erwin	6-4	201	Junior
Gary Kasperman	5-10	156	Freshman
*Jerry Fort	6-3	170	Sophomore
Rickey Harris	6-4	170	Freshman
*Brendy Lee	6-8	229	Senior
*Ricky Marsh	6-3	180	Sophomore
*Tom Novak	6-1	175	Senior
*Kent Reckewey	6-1	156	Junior
Rick Seidel	6-7	180	Freshman
Bob Siegel	6-7	221	Freshman
Ron Taylor	6-10	200	Freshman

*Letters won.

Gymnasts flip, jump for UNL gridders

Football fans view athletes from two Husker varsity squads at each home game. Besides football players, nine representatives of the gymnastics team are on hand also.

Prior to and throughout the game, these men attempt to stimulate the crowd and promote school spirit with a series of tumbling exercises.

Gymnastics coach Francis Allen, a former Nebraska tumbler, said he believes the exhibitions introduce gymnastics to many people for the first time.

The gymnasts receive no compensation other than a pass into the home football games. "We are concerned with all Nebraska athletics," Allen said. "With our tumbling we think we're promoting football and gymnastics simultaneously."

In past years the gymnasts have performed such feats as standing on goalposts on their heads during half-time ceremonies and turning backward somersaults for every point Nebraska scored. Allen said he hopes his squad reinstates a "few of these ideas once again."

Senior tumbler Alan Everett said, "We feel proud enough of our football team that they should have something other than an ordinary entrance, which we try to provide."

Allen said he hopes it may be possible to purchase a mini-trampoline in the near future. It would allow the gymnasts a great deal more latitude on their routines, he said.

The squad includes seniors Jim Gump, Jeff Johnson and Everett. Juniors include Jim Unger and Gene Mackie while Frank O'Connor is the lone sophomore. Freshmen represented on the squad are Scott Roth and Gary Jeurink.

Huskers face uphill battle in ratings

Nebraska football, fighting its fickle fans, some of the best gridiron opposition in the nation and its reputation, has lost a battle. But the Huskers still are way ahead in the war of college football nationally, and for my money, they still are deserving of the third or fourth spot in the national rankings.

The Huskers have had their problems this season. They have not been as dominant and awesome as the 1971 team because they probably are not as good as that team. Few teams will be. But, that is the standard by which they are judged, and Saturday's performance against Missouri certainly did not meet those standards.

dave mcbride time out

After watching teams like the 1971 Cornhuskers, people can't believe that a Nebraska team could be held to one touchdown. They can't believe that the Huskers could fumble away the game, kill themselves with penalties or fail on crucial third and fourth down attempts.

They're used to seeing everything go right when Big Red takes the field on Saturday.

But everything won't go right every week in the Big 8 because the Big 8 has shown itself in recent years to be the top college football conference in America.

An indication of the toughness of Big 8 football is this week's Associated Press national college rankings. Oklahoma is third, Missouri is seventh, the Huskers are 11th, Colorado is 16th and Kansas is 18th. Earlier this year Oklahoma State also was ranked in the top 20.

The Huskers have sputtered at times and left

questions for their demanding fans. Compared to the 1971 team, they have not handled their schedule with superhuman perfection.

But look at the other teams now ranked ahead of Nebraska. They've stumbled and sputtered and been near defeat against lesser opposition.

Ohio State and Michigan play one-game seasons each year in the Big 10. Neither team can pass, and their only annual contest is when they play each other.

Southern Cal, like Nebraska, Notre Dame and Texas, began the year riding a wave of publicity and an outstanding reputation from recent years. A fall from favor in the national rankings always is slower than a rise. Because the Trojans started the year on top, they have sunk only to fifth despite having been in trouble in all five games. Nebraska could beat the Trojans.

The ratings also include teams like Penn State and Notre Dame above Nebraska. I would bet money that the sixth, seventh and possibly even the last place teams in the Big 8, whoever they turn out to be, could beat Penn State and Notre Dame on a given Saturday this season.

Basically, that leaves Alabama above the Huskers. And as recently as 1972 (the end of the 1971 season), Nebraska gave a direct indication of the superiority of its football program by swamping the publicized Crimson Tide in the Orange Bowl.

Maybe the top-ranked team in the nation shouldn't stumble enough to lose a game. The Huskers have lost now, and the road is uphill the rest of the way.

But looking at the Husker's opposition, looking at other teams around the country and taking into consideration the prejudicing effect that past performance comparisons can have, the Huskers still should be somewhere at the top of the list.

(void after Dec. 31, '73)

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