

## 'Scrambler' leads KSU

"I hope it's not a tough game, but I'm afraid it will be," Nebraska Freshman Coach Jim Ross said about the Huskers' game Saturday with Kansas State.

Ross traveled to Stillwater, Okla., last Saturday to scout Kansas State's 28-9 loss to Oklahoma State. The Wildcats' conference record is 1-4, and their overall record is 4-5.

Kansas State has beaten Tulsa (21-0), Tampa (17-0), Memphis State (21-16) and Iowa State (21-19) and has lost to Florida (21-10), Kansas (25-18), Oklahoma (56-14), Missouri (31-17) and Oklahoma State.

"Against Oklahoma State they were down 14-0, and all of a sudden Kansas State made it 14-9," Ross said. "With a break or two they could have won that ball game. It never looked like they were going to fold up or quit."

Leading the Wildcat offense is junior quarterback Steve Grogan. Ross describes Grogan as a "good passer and scrambler." After nine games, Grogan is the conference's third leading passer. He has completed 64 of 142 passes for 969 yards. He has thrown four touchdown passes, but has had 12 intercepted.

Ross also cited Henry Childs (tight end) and Isaac Jackson (halfback) as being "fine offensive players." Childs is the conference's second leading receiver with 29 catches for 487 yards. He has caught two touchdown passes.

Jackson is the conference's third leading

rusher with 940 yards in 179 carries. His 104.4 per game average is just below Joe Washington (110.9) and Waymon Clark (105.4) of Oklahoma.

Big 8 offensive team statistics rank Kansas State sixth in rushing offense, third in passing offense, fifth in total offense and eighth in scoring offense.

"Kansas State's two defensive ends, Lou Wegerer and Willie Cullars, had a good game against Oklahoma State," Ross said. "They stopped Oklahoma State pretty well and prevented (Brent) Blackman from obtaining the ball."

Big 8 defensive team statistics rank Kansas State seventh in rushing defense, seventh in passing defense, sixth in total defense and seventh in scoring defense.

Kansas State Head Coach Vince Gibson said the Wildcats badly need to close out the season with some momentum.

"Nebraska apparently started off the season having some problems with its offense, but now that it has jelled, the Huskers are rolling again, really rolling good," he said. "We're going after them with everything we have."

The Nebraska - Kansas State game at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Manhattan will be their 58th meeting. The Huskers beat Kansas State last year 59-7 and lead in the series 45-10-2.

## Big 8 tops Southeast schools in conference supremacy test

Is the Big 8 Conference still the nation's most feared league or has the Southeastern Conference (SEC) overtaken the Big 8 to become the nation's leading conference?

An examination of interconference play, national rankings, bowl invitations and overall league depth should provide the answer to which is No. 1.

First of all, the SEC currently is ranked in this order: Alabama (6-0), Louisiana State University (LSU) (4-0), Kentucky (3-2-1), Auburn, Mississippi and Mississippi State (2-3), Tennessee (1-2), Florida and Georgia (2-4) and Vanderbilt (1-4).

Big 8 rankings currently are in this order: Oklahoma (4-0), Nebraska and Kansas (3-1-1), Missouri (3-2), Oklahoma State (1-1-2), Colorado (2-3), Kansas State (1-4), and Iowa State (0-5).

### bill bennett on the bench

Earlier this year during non-conference games, teams from the Big 8 clashed with representatives from the SEC on four occasions. Unfortunately, the Big 8 came up on the short end of the stick by winning one game and losing three.

Missouri beat Mississippi (17-0), but Kansas State lost to Florida (21-10), Colorado lost to LSU (17-6), and Kansas lost to Tennessee (28-27).

According to the Associated Press' Top 20 college football rankings, the Big 8 currently has four teams nationally ranked and the SEC has three teams ranked.

Big 8 schools ranked are Oklahoma (third), Nebraska (tenth), Missouri (14th), and Kansas (18th). SEC teams that are ranked are Alabama (second), LSU (seventh) and Tennessee (16th).

Although bowl invitations cannot be extended until Saturday, which is a farce in itself, it appears the Big 8 will send three teams to bowl games, and the SEC will send four representatives.

Teams from the Big 8 probably going to bowl games are Nebraska in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas on New Year's Day playing the Southwest Conference champion (most likely Texas), Kansas in the Liberty Bowl at Memphis on Dec. 17 playing North Carolina State; and Missouri in the Sun Bowl at El Paso on Dec. 29

playing SEC representative Auburn.

SEC teams probably going to bowl games are Alabama in the Sugar Bowl at New Orleans on Dec. 31 playing Notre Dame; LSU in the Orange Bowl at Miami on New Year's Day playing Penn State; Tennessee in the Gator Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla., playing Texas Tech; and Auburn playing Missouri.

Another bowl game, the Peach Bowl at Atlanta on Dec. 29, could conceivably choose a team from either the Big 8 or SEC.

Although comparisons of conference depth is hard to examine, one method of doing it is by comparing the scores from both leagues when the first place team played the last place team.

On Nov. 3, Iowa State played Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., and pressed the Sooners for three-fourths of the game before losing 34-17. But on Sept. 29 in an SEC game, Alabama was pressed in holding down the score against Vanderbilt. The Crimson Tide beat the Commodores 44-0.

Because of the Big 8's overall depth, I think the SEC still is ranked second behind the Big 8 for national conference supremacy. Even though both conferences are close when talking about interleague play, national rankings and bowl invitations, I think Colorado, Kansas State or Iowa State could beat Vanderbilt, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi State and Mississippi any day of the week.

When the Cornhuskers take on the Kansas State Wildcats in Manhattan Saturday, Nebraska will be trying to cinch a Cotton Bowl bid and gain momentum for their Nov. 23 clash with Oklahoma.

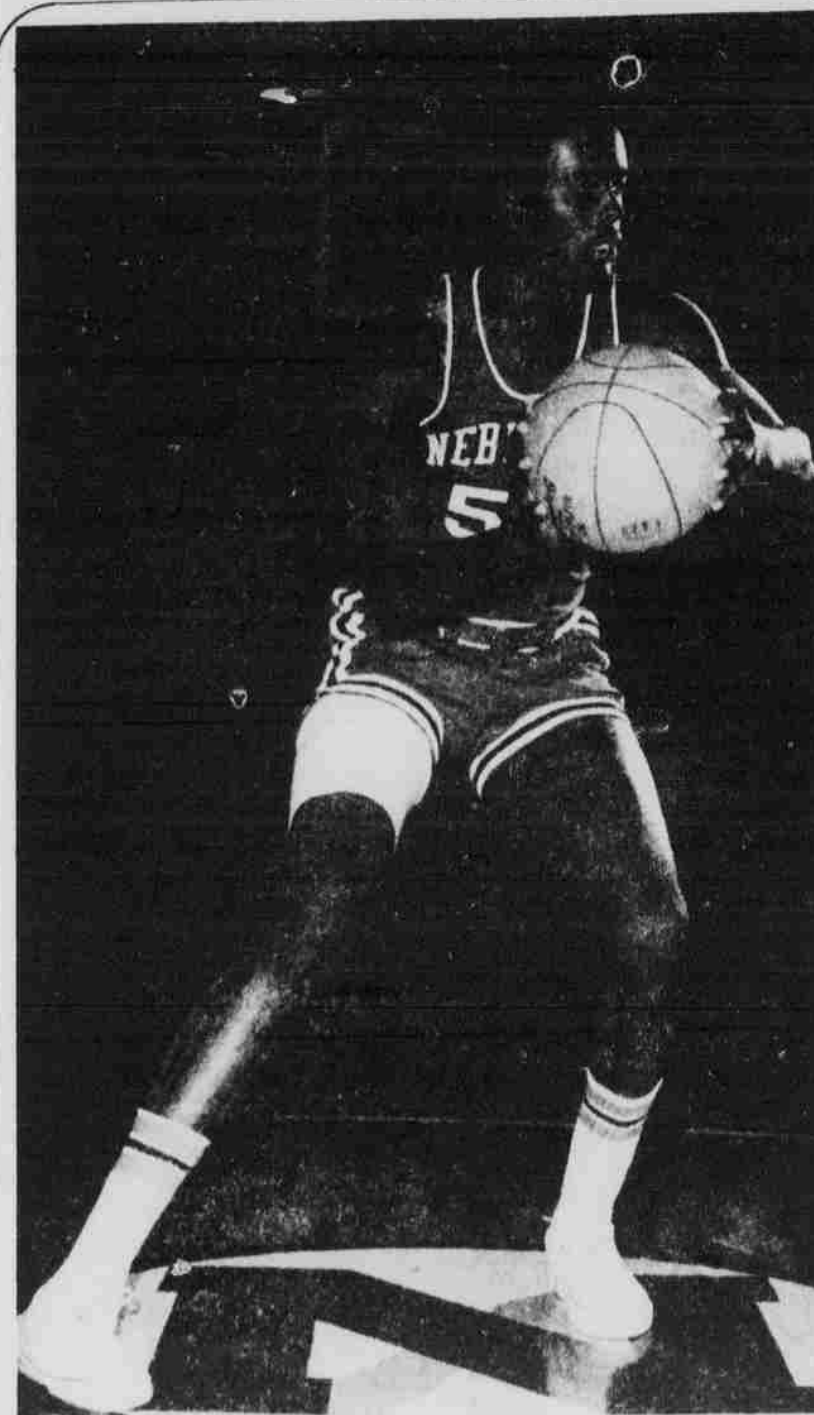
Nebraska isn't going to let the Wildcats stand in the way of their fortunes. I predict Nebraska will beat Kansas State 38-0.

My predictions on other Big 8 games:

Oklahoma 31, Kansas 17, at Norman, Okla.—Let's hope for Nebraska's sake that Kansas makes a good showing against the tough Sooners. Remember, the Cornhuskers only beat Kansas by one point, 10-9.

Oklahoma State 24, Colorado 14, at Boulder, Colo.—The Cowboys still are clinging to slim hopes for a bowl bid, and Colorado's defense can't stop Oklahoma State's offense.

Missouri 21, Iowa State 7, at Ames, Iowa—Missouri will be out to cinch a Sun Bowl berth and improve on their 3-2 conference record. I'm sure they won't let themselves or their fans down.



Ron Taylor, 6 ft. 10 in. freshman, is a probable starter when Nebraska's basketball team faces the Yugoslavian national team Tuesday at 7:35 p.m.

## Yugoslavians face cagers Tuesday

By Bob Hill

While previous Husker basketball seasons have begun with the traditional red-white intrasquad game, this year Nebraska begins Tuesday with probably their strongest opponent in a talented and experienced Yugoslavian national team.

At least two of the team's players were a part of the 1968 Yugoslavian team that captured the silver medal at the Olympics. In addition, at least half of the Yugoslavian team members helped win the 1973 European Basketball Championship held in Barcelona, Spain.

"They've got more talent than anyone in our conference," Husker Head Coach Joe Cipriano said. "They played over 20 games in September alone, and they played 45 games last year."

One of the talented players for the Yugoslavs is their center Kresimir Cosic, who played college basketball at Brigham Young University (BYU) in Provo, Utah. Cosic reaped All-American honors last year at BYU.

The Yugoslavian team, which arrived in the United States Wednesday, will play each of the Big 8 schools before departing for Belgrade, Yugoslavia, Nov. 30. They play Iowa State tonight and Missouri, winners of the Big 8 pre-season tournament the past two years, Monday before facing Nebraska Tuesday.

Cipriano, in his 11th year as Husker mentor, said his team still requires considerable work. Seven of the 15 Huskers who first began practices Oct. 15 are freshmen.

"There is no way our team is going to be ready (for the Yugoslavian game)," Cipriano said. He explained that since there are many young people on this season's team, they still are in the learning process of knowing what to do and where to go.

He declined to name a starting lineup; however, he named nine players who would seem to be logical candidates for the five starting berths.

Returning lettermen Jerry Fort and Ricky Marsh "appear to be the strongest at guards", and forwards should be selected from among freshmen Ron Taylor, Bob Siegel, Rick Seidel and Mark Enright, junior college transfer Fred Cocker, junior Steve Erwin and senior Brendy Lee.

He said he probably will wait until after next Sunday's practice to decide his starting lineup.

Tipoff for the Yugoslavia-Husker clash will be 7:35 p.m. at the Coliseum. Nebraska's next game will be the red-white intrasquad game Nov. 27. The Huskers' regular season opener is a home contest against Wyoming, 65-59 victors over Nebraska last year at Laramie.