

Youthful Husker cagers to confront Cowboys

With two warmup tests behind them, Coach Joe Cipriano's youthful Cornhusker cagers open their 1973-74 season for real Saturday night at 7:35 when Wyoming invades the friendly confines of the Coliseum.

Cipriano's starting lineup probably will include a freshman, two sophomores; a junior and one senior, but the Huskers' first two outings have indicated that several other freshmen will see playing time.

Nebraska lost to the touring Yugoslavian national team Nov. 20, but their offensive output in the 82-80 defeat was higher than in any game last season.

The Huskers' final tuneup was Tuesday's Red-White intrasquad game.

There are seven freshmen on the Husker varsity roster, and one newcomer, Ron Taylor, a 6 ft. 10 in. jumping jack from Midland, Tex., has laid claim to a starting job at center.

Another freshman, 6 ft. 9 in. Mark Enright from Cedar Rapids, Ia., has battled letterman senior Brendy Lee on fairly even terms for another front line job and should see action.

Two sophomore lettermen, Jerry Fort and Ricky Marsh, probably will get the starting nod in the backcourt, with Nebraska native Steve Erwin, a letterman junior from Laurel, holding the other forward spot.

Other newcomers who could see action Saturday are 6 ft. 7 in. freshman Rickey Harris and 6 ft. 5 in. junior college transfer Fred Coker, who combined for 23 points in the Red-White contest.

Wyoming will challenge the Huskers with six lettermen including three returning starters from last year's 9-17 team that beat the Huskers 65-59 in Laramie.

The Cowboys, who trail 8-6 in the series with Nebraska, will be under a new coach when they visit Lincoln.

Moe Radovich, returning to his alma mater after three years at Fullerton (Cal.) State, replaces retired Bill Strannigan. Radovich began his coaching career in Nebraska, compiling a 35-14 record at Wayne State College from 1957 to 1959.

The Cowboys will be led by senior guard Ron Crowell, last year's leading scorer, but will be missing Ken Morgan Clark, a forward who was the squad's second leading scorer last season. Clark is nursing a bad back and isn't expected to make the trip.

Former Husker standout Al Nissen will make his coaching debut Saturday when the Nebraska junior varsity opens its season against York Junior College in a 5:15 p.m. preliminary game.



Coach John Reta times his swimmers in practice.

Swim coach hopeful

By Bob Hill

Nebraska Head Swimming Coach John Reta and his 27-member squad will open the 1973-74 swimming season today and Saturday with the Big 8 Relays in Lawrence, Kan.

The Huskers feature the youngest and least experienced, but also the largest team in Nebraska swimming history, according to Reta.

"We've never been able to take enough kids to the Big 8 Relays to enter every relay before; however, this year we will," he said.

"Of all the Big 8 schools, we have the fewest returning lettermen with one junior and four sophomores," the eighth-year Husker swim coach said. "However, we have more depth and balance than we've possessed in several seasons."

Last year, Reta had only 12 swimmers on his roster. This year his team includes 18 freshmen.

The squad will be led by junior letterman Terry Seymour, who holds Nebraska's 200-yard breaststroke record. Other lettermen are sophomores Stu Waterbury, Husker record holder in the 100-yard breaststroke, Terry Reding, Brad Manard and Dave Watermeier.

Democracy misplaced in vote barring Michigan from bowl

It's unfortunate that in a free society everything must be handled in a democratic manner.

An example of misplaced democracy occurred after last Saturday's game between Michigan and Ohio State, which ended in a 10-10 tie. It was played before more than 105,000 persons in Ann Arbor, Mich., and also captured a national television audience.

The game was supposed to decide the Big 10 championship and the conference's representative to the Rose Bowl. So what happens? The game ends in a tie, and nothing is decided.

On Sunday, the Big 10 athletic directors cast their votes for whom they thought should represent their conference in the Rose Bowl. Unfortunately, Michigan lost. Ohio State will play USC Jan. 1 "because it's the democratic way".

One of the reasons given by the athletic directors for choosing the Buckeyes was that Michigan's starting quarterback, Dennis Franklin, was injured in the game and might not have been ready for the bowl game.

Think of all the confidence that statement must have installed in Larry Cipa, the Wolverines' No. 2 quarterback, and the entire Michigan football team.

I congratulate the Big 10 athletic directors for sinking their conference deeper into oblivion. Better football teams cannot be decided by men sitting behind a desk.

In my opinion, even with a tie, Michigan proved themselves to be the better ball club. Michigan was ranked No. 4 and trailed the No. 1-ranked Buckeyes 10-0 at halftime.

But Michigan scored 10 points in the second half, held Ohio State scoreless and missed two last-minute field goals that would have won the game for them.

A tie by the nation's fourth-ranked team against the No. 1 team almost can be considered a win, but as far as Ohio State is concerned, it should be looked upon as a loss.

However, the Big 10 and other conferences should establish a rule for tie games stating that if the game does end tied, it will continue until a winner is decided.

Also, the decision by the athletic directors makes another Big 10 rule look foolish. The rule says their conference's teams may go to only one bowl game, and that's the Rose Bowl.

Therefore, Michigan must sit at home on New Year's Day instead of representing the Big 10 in another bowl.

My sympathy goes to the Michigan Wolverines. Maybe Michigan would be interested in seceding from the Big 10 and joining some other conference.

bill bennett on the bench

That way, the Big 10 wouldn't have the Michigan Wolverines to kick around anymore.

Turning from the Big 10 to the Big 8, there are three conference teams involved in Saturday games before the season is officially over.

My predictions for those games:

Oklahoma 31, Oklahoma State 0, at Stillwater, Okla.—The Sooners will record their second straight shutout after defeating Nebraska 27-0. Oklahoma, in my opinion, should be the nation's No. 1 ranked football team.

Iowa State 28, San Diego State 24, at San Diego, Calif.—Before the Cyclones can pull off this upset, they must stop Aztec quarterback Jesse Freitas, who leads the nation in total offense and passing.

by Henrik Ibsen

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