



Nebraska, in action here against the University of Minnesota-Duluth, plays Vanderbilt tonight at 9 in the Vanderbilt Invitational at Nashville, Tenn.

## Vanderbilt cagers threaten Huskers' unbeaten record

With two wins behind them, Coach Joe Cipriano's Husker cagers head to Tennessee this weekend to face their stiffest competition to date in the Vanderbilt Invitational.

It will be Nebraska's second appearance in the Vandy classic, which includes Middle Tennessee and Tennessee State this year in addition to the host Commodores.

Cipriano took his 1966 squad to Nashville and came home with third place, and this year's task may not be much easier.

**The Huskers have to tackle Vanderbilt in a first round game Friday night, and Cipriano expects the hosts to be one of the nation's top teams this year.**

Coach Roy Skinner has four starters and seven lettermen back from last year's 20-6 team. Vandy, like the Huskers, is 2-0 this year, and assistant coach Wayne Dobbs, who scouted Nebraska Monday night in Lincoln, said the team's only real problem is finding a center.

Depending on the outcome of Friday night's games, the Huskers will face either Middle Tennessee or Tennessee State Saturday.

Tennessee State was 22-8 last year and went to the NCAA College Division finals. Coach Edward Martin's Tigers also

return four starters, including All-American Leonard Robinson, a 6 ft. 7 in. senior who averaged 26 points and 18 rebounds per game last year.

Middle Tennessee, although only 12-13 last year, returns all five starters.

The Huskers have never faced either Middle Tennessee or Tennessee State and have lost in two previous meetings with Vanderbilt.

Cipriano has been pleased with the Huskers' first two showings, a 70-62 win over Wyoming and a 77-50 win over Minnesota-Duluth.

"It's starting to show that we've got strengths in different areas, but we haven't started to put those strengths together yet," he said. "But that may have something to do with the teams we're playing."

The Huskers have been led by sophomore guard Jerry Fort, who scored 24 points against Wyoming in the opener, and junior forward Steve Erwin, who threw in a career high 24 points Monday against Minnesota-Duluth.

Freshman center Ron Taylor has averaged 12 points and 11.5 rebounds for the first two outings.

The Huskers' next home appearance will be Tuesday night when they host Georgia State in the Coliseum.

## Kansas, Colorado shake up preseason Big 8 predictions

In my column on Friday, Aug. 31, I said that I hope my Big 8 preseason predictions "won't read like a fairy tale when the season is over."

Well sports fans, sit back and relax, because what you're about to read comes directly from the annals of Mother Goose.

My preseason predictions were:

1. Nebraska
2. Colorado
3. Oklahoma
4. Missouri
5. Oklahoma State
6. Kansas State
7. Iowa State
8. Kansas

### bill bennett on the bench

Now, compare my rankings to how the Big 8 actually finished.

1. Oklahoma—7-0 in conference, 10-0-1 overall
2. Nebraska—4-2-1 in conference, 8-2-1 overall
3. Kansas—4-2-1 in conference, 7-3-1 overall
4. Missouri—3-4 in conference, 7-4 overall
5. Oklahoma State—2-3-2 in conference, 5-4-2 overall
6. Kansas State—2-5 in conference, 5-6 overall
7. Iowa State—2-5 in conference, 4-7 overall
8. Colorado—2-5 in conference, 5-6 overall

Comparison shows that I was right in picking Missouri fourth, Oklahoma State fifth, Kansas State sixth and Iowa State seventh.

But comparison also shows that my prediction prowess was totally wrong when I picked Colorado for second and Kansas for eighth.

Colorado should have had a fine football team. Most of the offense returned, including starters Charlie Davis (tailback) and Ken

Johnson (quarterback), and only their defense needed rebuilding.

But whatever happened to the Buffaloes may cost Head Coach Eddie Crowder his job. He is expected to announce in a few days what his plans are. I think he will step down.

To make Colorado feel even worse, on Thursday, AP voted Colorado as the biggest disappointment in the Big 8 conference during the 1973 season.

Words alone cannot describe the job that Head Coach Don Fambrough and his staff have done to turn Kansas' football fortunes completely around.

Last year, the Jayhawks were 2-5 in the conference and 4-7 overall. This year, they are the 19th-ranked team in the nation and will play North Carolina State in the Liberty Bowl at Memphis, Tenn. on Dec. 17.

Choosing Nebraska first and Oklahoma third and having the year finish up with Oklahoma the top team and Nebraska tied for second isn't too bad a predicting job.

My record for picking individual games was 48 right, six wrong and three ties for a percentage of .833. Football games played on Nov. 23 and 24 are not included in my predictions.

The six incorrect games I picked were Iowa State over Arkansas (Arkansas 21-Iowa State 19), Oklahoma State over Texas Tech (Texas Tech 20-Oklahoma State 7), Nebraska over Missouri (Missouri 13-Nebraska 12), Oklahoma State over Missouri (Missouri 13-Oklahoma State 9), Missouri over Iowa State (Iowa State 17-Missouri 7) and Iowa State over San Diego State (San Diego State 41-Iowa State 28).

The three ties were games where I picked Oklahoma over USC (7-7), Nebraska to beat Oklahoma State (17-17) and Oklahoma State over Kansas (10-10).

Nebraska's swim team hosts Northern Colorado Saturday at 11 a.m. in the Coliseum pool.

Academically, Nebraska is the smartest football team in the conference, as the Huskers

placed six players on the Big Eight Academic All-Conference team.

Huskers named were Frosty Anderson, Dan Anderson, Maury Damiroger, Ritch Bahe, Steve Manstedt and Tom Ruud.

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