# daily nebraskan sports

## Cagers seek to break 3-game losing streak

Nebraska basketball players will try to extend their unbeaten home record to 7-0 when they take on University Oklahoma Saturday in the Coliseum. The 7:35 p.m. game is the first home contest for the Huskers since Dec. 20.

The Husker cagers also will be trying to even their Big 8 record and end their longest losing streak of the year. They lost their last three games, including a 79-64 loss to Kansas in the conference debut Saturday. Their record now is 7-6.

Coach Joe Cipriano said he hoped the return home would change the team's fortunes.

"We had a lot of jitters on the road," he said.

Oklahoma, led by sophomore center Alvan Adams, leads the Big 8 race with a 2-0 record. The Sooners defeated Kansas State University and Colorado University, two teams that were expected to finish high in the standings.

A preseason poll of the Big 8 coaches chose Oklahoma University Saturday in the Coliseum. The the Sooners ran into trouble in the Big 8 tournament, where they finished seventh.

Cipriano said Oklahoma's poor showing might have been because first-year coach Joe Ramsey tried to use a lot of players.

Since the tournament, however, a starting five has

been established, and the Sooners have won their last six games, bringing their record to 11-3.

In addition to the 6 ft. 9 in. Adams, who is averaging more than 10 points and 12 rebounds a game, Oklahoma starts 6 ft. 9 in. Tom Holland and 6 ft. 6 in. Bob Pritchard on the front line. The starting guards are Lee Gilbert and Mike McCurdy.

"We have to keep them from scoring easy shots, take away their fast break and shoot better," Cipriano said when describing what his Huskers need to do to win.

He is undecided on the starting five for the game.

# Husker freshmen woes

Watching the holiday bowl games, a characteristic was evident that set Nebraska off from pratically every other team. Most teams had at least one freshman play a key role. Nebraska had three freshmen on its roster, but their roles in the game were minor.

What are the reasons for this deficiency in the Nebraska program? It's a combination of factors.

The first possibility is that Nebraska freshmen aren't good enough to start. While this may be true to some extent, a second factor plays a much bigger role-the Nebraska offense.

The wishbone and similar offenses

employ a limited number of plays. Nebraska's multiple offenses out of the I formation take time to learn. Spring practice is a virtual prerequisite.

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Furthermore, almost all freshmen who played in the bowls were backs. Husker assistant coach George Darlington said the transition from high school to college is easier for backs than others.

Nebraska's wealth in the backfield made it even harder for the freshmen to

This lack of varsity freshmen could hurt Nebraska's recruiting. A high school recruit may be more willing to go to another school where he feels he has a better chance to play his first year.

Darlington said Nebraska coaches tell recruits that they will be given an opportunity to play for the varsity if they're good enough. Husker coaches should adhere to that promise. Maybe a freshman will be good enough to make it, and Nebraska will join the trend toward playing freshmen next season.

### Swimmers to meet lowa State

Nebraska varsity swimmers resume their competition Saturday with a dual meet at Iowa State University.

"All the kids are ready to get back into competition after two workouts a day during the holidays," Coach John Reta said.

Reta called Iowa State a "very powerful team possessing both depth and balance." He said he feels the Cyclones probably have a better chance than any other Big 8 school of dethroning Kansas University's conference title.

Reta's 22-member team includes only five lettermen, no seniors, two juniors, six sophomores and 14 freshmen. "It's a young squad, but it's also the largest Nebraska team in recent years," Reta said.

Lack of experience hurts the team, he said, but, "desire is high."

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