

## Cipriano: cagers must play better against KU

By Dennis Onnen

In spite of UNL's 71-63 win over Oklahoma State University Saturday, Husker Coach Joe Cipriano said the Huskers are going to have to play much better when Kansas University comes to the Coliseum Tuesday for a 7:35 p.m. game.

The second-place Jayhawks have a 9-1 Big 8 mark, one-half game behind Kansas State University. Balanced scoring has been the Jayhawk's trademark this year, with five players averaging in double figures.

Although Kansas has beaten UNL twice this season, the Jayhawks must contend with a Husker team that has been virtually unbeatable at home. The Huskers have a 10-1 home mark, losing only to Big 8 leader Kansas

State. UNL is in fourth place with a 5-5 league mark.

It looked as though the Huskers might suffer a second home loss at the Coliseum before their second half comeback against OSU. Steve Erwin stole a pass and drove the length of the court for a layup, giving the Huskers a 47-45 lead with 11:29 remaining in the game. It was the first time the Huskers led since early in the first half.

Erwin followed with a rebound basket a few minutes later for a 51-50 Husker lead, putting them ahead for good. Ricky Marsh added a pair of baskets to stretch the margin to five, and the Huskers were able to hold off belated Cowboy comeback attempts.

The quintet of Erwin, Tom Novak and Brendy Lee and reserves Marsh

and Rickey Harris played almost the entire second half. All five scored in double figures to make up for the performance of Husker scoring leader Jerry Fort, who tied his career low with four points.

Seniors Novak and Lee tied for scoring honors with 13 apiece, maintaining a 111-96 lead for Lee over Novak in total points for the year. The two are waging a personal duel for top senior scorer, and Novak hasn't given up on his chances.

"I'm trying to catch him in that scoring race," he added.

Cipriano credited the defense for winning the game for UNL. The tenacious Husker man-to-man defense forced 23 Cowboy turnovers.

He also praised Erwin and Harris for their work on the boards and Marsh for his key second half buckets and defensive work on Cowboy freshman star Ronnie Daniel, who scored only 10 points.

Part of the Huskers' first half miseries were because of a 28-10 Cowboy edge in rebounding. Cowboy Lafayette Threatt was not a scoring threat, but he led both teams with 10 rebounds. Guard K. C. Kincaide led game scorers with 20 points.

Despite what Cipriano called "a lack of aggressiveness" on the part of the Huskers, he retained a note of optimism.

"I think we can beat Kansas," he confidently predicted.

## Pro team pipe dream

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Why shouldn't Nebraska have a National Football League (NFL) team? Before someone yells for a strait jacket, at least consider the facts.

Though Omaha is bigger, Lincoln and its 76,000 seat stadium would be the logical location. Omaha's largest football facility holds only 13,000, and it is hard to imagine O. J. Simpson running in Rosenblatt Stadium.

Nebraskans generally have displayed little tolerance for losers, but even if this mythical team lost every game, fans would show up. Just the prospect of watching two professional teams and their stars would be enough to lure people away from their televisions.

Look at the advantages a franchise in Lincoln would have. Besides the stadium and the fans, the location would cut down on travel costs.

Also, this team would be playing in a state where there is little competition for the sports dollar. Excluding the Cornhuskers, the closest thing to a major Nebraska sports attraction is the Kansas City-Omaha Kings.

Because of the widespread coverage of NFL football, Nebraskans surely would develop a strong attachment to a professional football team representing their state. People like to read about their teams in national publications and have pride in teams that are well-known.

Lincoln wouldn't be the only suburban area supporting a professional football team. Consider Bloomington, Minn., home of the Minnesota Vikings. Not only does its stadium seat fewer than 50,000 fans, but the weather is similar to that of Antarctica's. Despite these drawbacks, the Vikes were almost world champions last year.

It is possible Lincoln could support a professional football team. If the franchise could get a Johnny Rodgers or a Jeff Kinney, it could blossom into a bona fide success.

It is interesting to fantasize about an NFL team in Nebraska. Unfortunately, that is about all it will ever amount to: fantasy. Unless the unexpected occurs, Memorial Stadium will remain deserted on Sundays for many autumns to come.

## sports shorts

UNL took first in every running event from the 440-yard dash to the 2-mile run and defeated Colorado State University, 68-63, in a Saturday meet at the Memorial Stadium track. The win extended the Huskers' home dual win streak to 26.

The UNL women's basketball team defeated Creighton University, 59-38, Saturday in a quarterfinal game at the state tournament in Fremont.

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