

# daily nebraskan sports

## Final game to settle seniors' scoring duel

When the UNL basketball team closes its season Saturday against Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, not much will be at stake. The Huskers, overall 14-11 and 7-6 in the Big 8, already have clinched a winning record and fourth place in the league race, regardless of whether they win or lose.

However, there is still one race to be finished in that game: the personal scoring duel between seniors Brendy Lee and Tom Novak. Lee had been leading all season until last Saturday's game with Kansas State University when Novak pulled ahead by a point. Novak since has raised his season total to 124, seven more than Lee has.

"It'll probably be a pretty tight race to the end," Lee predicted.

Although their race is based on scoring, it is in other areas that the seniors have made their most important contributions.

Lee is the team's leading rebounder. Both rank high in the number of assists. There are also intangible factors such as hustle, a knowledge of the game and leadership.

"The younger players look up to them," Husker Coach Joe Cipriano said. He said that at the beginning of the season, when Lee and Novak weren't starting, they still accepted and encouraged their younger teammates and this resulted in a "fairly close knit team."

### dennis onnen press box review

Novak stressed the aspect of team play. "Basketball is not an individual game," he said. "If you're a team player, you're going to play."

The Lincoln Northeast High School product realizes his limitations ("I do nothing great, everything well"), so he has put more emphasis on controlling the tempo of the game and setting up his teammates. At times this season, he not always has found the response of the Coliseum crowd

supportive.

What are the reasons for the occasional booing? "One, I'm not flashy, and two, I don't shoot a lot," Novak said. He explained that this year's team is tailored to a controlled game, stressing defense, which is something the fans don't understand.

"I can't suit them and the coaches both," he said. Lee added his contention that crowd response is directly related to how the team is doing.

"If things are going good, everything is roses and wine for the fans," he said. In the same manner, he said that if the team is doing badly, the crowd is sure to let the Huskers know how it feels. He speaks more of the positive responses, however.

"I appreciate the support everyone's given me in my four years here at Nebraska," the Brush, Colo., native said.

From the standing ovations both Lee and Novak received at the home finale against the University of Colorado Tuesday, they should know that the majority of Husker fans feel the same way about them.

## Low marks sideline track trio

By Steve Taylor

Three of the fastest sprinters on this year's track team never got out of the starting blocks.

Victims of low grades, the trio could only watch as the Huskers' finished fourth in last weekend's Big 8 indoor track meet.

Ron Hoagland, Neville Plummer and Clifton Wells are what might be called friendly rivals. They have competed against each other for a long time, with Hoagland and Plummer's acquaintance going back to third grade.

The three sprinters have other things in common besides their New Jersey backgrounds. They are all 19. They are all around 5 ft. 9 in. and 155 lbs. They are all lightning fast.

They might have made a big difference on this year's team. Plummer, 220- and 440-yard races, was especially frustrated at not being able to perform for the Huskers.

"I'm a lot stronger than I was in high school," he says. "I really think I could have helped the team out."

All three speak highly of their coach, Frank Sevine. They say it was his relaxed recruiting that first impressed them. Other coaches tried to pressure them into signing.

Though officially not on the team, Hoagland, Plummer and Wells continue to work out daily, waiting impatiently for the time when they can wear the Husker red and white.

As Neville Plummer puts it: "Next year I know I can contribute to the team. I hope to make up for this year."

## Women gymnasts close second season

By Larry Stunkel

The UNL women's gymnastics team will close its second season of regular competition Saturday when it hosts the Iowa State University women's team at 10 a.m. in Women's Physical Education Bldg. 119.

The group was formed four years ago. It practiced after classes for two years before tasting its first competition last year, according to Coach Karen Balke.

Balke said this year's team hasn't been too successful, but said, "We're on our way to having something someday. But right now we're a young team and don't have anybody to draw from."

Of the seven women on the team, all but one are freshmen. Sophomore Peg Van Beek from Lincoln is the team's leading performer, competing in the all-around competition. Other top performers, Balke said are Karen Keiser from Mt. Prospect, Ill., competing in the floor exercise and Cristina Norris from Louisville, who competes in the all-around competition.

The future of the UNL women's program is in the development of the state high school program, said Balke. However, the high school programs are full of underclassmen because the sport has been organized for only three years on the prep level. Because of this, Balke said, there doesn't seem to be many girl gymnasts graduating from high schools.

Balke said most of the women on the team were either found in physical education service classes in gymnastics or came on their own to practice during open gym hours. According to Balke, it is illegal for women to recruit athletes for their programs because of rules set by the Assoc. of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, which is the governing body for women's sports.

Balke said women's gymnastics differs from men's gymnastics in many ways. Events found only in the women's competition are balance beam, uneven parallel bar and the vaulting competition, (which differs from the men's event with the same name).

The emphasis is on flexibility and grace instead of strength, as in men's competition, said Balke. This flexibility keeps the muscles long and prettier.

"I've never seen an ugly shaped woman gymnast," she said.

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## sports shorts

Entries for intramural indoor track are due by 4 p.m. today at the Recreation Dept. office at 1740 Vine St.

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The annual Aquaettes synchronized swimming show, "This is My Country," will be presented today and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. pool. Admission is 75 cents.

"Various people have been screwing up my name. It's a swell name. It belonged to a bartender, a minister, a classics scholar, and a burlesque queen. It's Conroy, not Conrack, but if you want to call me that, go ahead. I'm beginning to like the sound of it."



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