

Dunk sank despite coaches' approval

Collegiate basketball may never see the return of the dunk shot, although many coaches favor its return.

When the dunk was outlawed by the NCAA Rules Committee, a questionnaire was distributed to coaches in all categories (prep, junior colleges, colleges). The poll results showed coaches in favor of keeping the dunk by a 12-1 margin. Yet it was still outlawed. It seems the Rules Committee never considered the coaches' opinion on the subject.

It never has been a secret that the dunk was outlawed primarily to restrict UCLA's Lew Alcindor (now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar), but as the Rules Committee pointed out, it was to keep hands out of the cylinder above the rim as a safety measure. I contend anybody who can get that position already has beaten the defense, so why not dunk? The defense has made the mistake, why penalize the offense?

bob hill over the hill

It was feared a player who really couldn't dunk, would try to dunk, grab the rim and might even tear down the backboard. It has happened before, true. A rule could let a coach allow a player to dunk and if he impaired the backboard or rim in any way, causing a delay in the game, could call a forfeit.

During the NCAA finals in Greensboro, N.C. an experimental game between Davidson and Wake Forest was staged using 11½-foot baskets. It was conducted by the NCAA Research Committee.

Maybe the experiment will prove positive and possibly in the next five years the basket will be raised. If this does come about would the dunk have a better chance of being reinstated?

Players and coaches might talk at length about the enjoyment of stuffing, but it's difficult to get anybody in the rules business to discuss things like that.

Senior advances to gymnastics finals

By Larry Stunkel

For most athletes competing at the NCAA gymnastics championships, today, Friday and Saturday at College Park, Penn., this will be the biggest meet of the year.

For Hal Traver, the only member of the UNL gymnastics team to qualify for the event, the year was climaxed at the Big 8 tournament, March 22-23, where he garnered first place in pommel horse competition.

"This is the first time I've ever been to the nationals while most of the other guys have been there before. I've got nothing to lose and everything to gain," said Traver. "The pressure should be on them. I hope to add to that pressure."

According to Francis Allen, Husker gymnastics coach, "Traver should do pretty well. He's beat the national figures who come from the Big 8."

Traver, a senior, evaluated his year in competition. "I had some tough luck in some of the duals this year," he said. "I really didn't improve my skill that much. Now I'm doing my routine the way I do it in practice. I worked on the philosophy I could hit my routine anywhere, anytime, even in the middle of the night if I had to. I felt better prepared physically and mentally at the Big 8 meet than I felt all year."

Despite Traver's performance, the Huskers finished third behind Iowa State University and the University of Oklahoma at the conference meet. Allen blamed poor performances in the compulsory routines and lack of depth in the parallel bars, pommel horse and high bar.

"All in all it was depth," said Allen. "We just couldn't come up with a third man scoring over 8.0 in those events."

"Potentially, this was a very good team. Our top men did well, we just didn't have the polish in those weak spots," he said.

Other Huskers who finished fourth in their events, but failed to qualify for the national meet were Jim Unger on the horizontal bar, Barry Cross and Gary Duff, who tied for fourth on the parallel bars and Pete Studenski on the still rings.



The UNL crew team travels to Topeka, Kan., to face Washburn University in its season opener Saturday. Four races are scheduled, including a women's event. UNL's varsity lineup includes Jerry Huber, Scott Svoboda, Mike Everett, Dwight Cockson, Mark Stormberg, Matt Kush, Scott Lewis, Ron Ruthoven and Bruce Frederick.

Everett bids for top Husker quarterback spot

By Steve Taylor

When the preseason All-American teams come out this summer, the quarterback choice likely will be UNL's David Humm. The Las Vegas star has two record smashing years behind him and is considered a solid contender for the Heisman trophy in 1974.

However, Humm will have to beat out two talented challengers before he gets a chance to step on the Astro-turf as UNL's top signal caller.

One of the hopeful heirs to the Husker controls is Terry Luck, who will try to shake off the injury jinx that has plagued him while at UNL.

Another quarterback candidate is Earl Everett, the elusive sophomore-to-be from Kansas City.

A conversation with Everett will shift to many subjects—not just football. He does not eat, sleep and drink with a football cradled under his arm. However, he isn't entering spring drills with an indifferent

attitude.

Everett's goal is to be calling out quarterback signals next fall—not encouragements from the bench.

Does the K.C. Southeast product think he can start next season?

"I sure hope so," he said. "If I can put together a good spring, I think I can. Whichever way it comes out I'll be satisfied."

Everett's touchdown run last year against Kansas State University was one of the longest Husker runs of the year and proved Everett a tough man to get a hold of. He has been timed in the 40-yard dash at 4.5 seconds.

Everett once had a "bad boy" label in his high school days.

It stemmed from an incident during his senior year in which he was kicked out of a game. Everett was

mildly protesting dirty tactics by an opponent and an impulsive referee tossed him off the field, he said.

The K.C. papers gave it full treatment and as a result Everett failed to make the all-city team. Nevertheless he was named all-district, all-state and one of the top 100 backs in the country by a national publication.

After graduation, Everett turned down a chance to try out for the Kansas City Royals in order to come to Lincoln. He said he chose UNL because of the coaching staff, the players and the tradition.

Everett has put on eight pounds and claims he is faster than he was last year. He views the Husker season this way:

"The team as a whole is much faster this year. If we can put our speed and plays together, we'll be a winner."