



Leading the Huskers in scoring with a 17 point scoring average, Jerry Fort goes up for a shot against Wichita State.

Ali honor questioned; Switzer in show biz

Muhammad Ali's conquest of George Foreman last October was enough to gain him universal acclaim as "Athlete of the Year."

Those who recently saw the taped replay of the fight on ABC's Wide World of Sports must be wondering if Ali's performance merited beating out such record breakers as Hank Aaron, Lou Brock and Johnny Miller for the honor.

All Ali really proved that night in Zaire, Africa, was that he had a high toleration rate for rope burns, since he was rolling over and across them for most of the fight.

He simply allowed the bullish Foreman to slug himself out, while flicking occasional jabs that did nothing but prove his arms were not paralyzed.

Then, in the eighth round, the opportunistic Ali caught his physically drained opponent with a few semi-hard shots to the head and down he went.

By then, Don Knotts could have knocked out Foreman.

steve taylor taylored sports

Oklahoma's personable head football coach, Barry Switzer, looked like he had a future show business career in mind during his recent television appearances.

Acting as guest commentator at the Sugar Bowl, Switzer was noticeably different from the coaches ABC usually schedules.

For one thing, he didn't talk in monotones. He also had a sense of humor.

A week later at the Hula Bowl, Switzer was interviewed on the sidelines just after his team had surrendered their third touchdown pass in nine minutes.

Switzer started the interview by saying: "First of all, I want the folks out there to know I have nothing to do with coaching the defensive secondary."

Huskers face KSU Saturday

By Pete Wegman

A lackluster performance in the final game of the Big 8 basketball tournament and a three-week layoff since then may affect the Cornhusker's play Saturday, according to head coach Joe Cipriano.

The Huskers have not played since they finished fourth in the tournament held Dec. 26-30 in Kansas City. Cipriano's team defeated Oklahoma 75-64 and lost to Kansas 63-62. Oklahoma and Kansas were preseason picks to win the Big 8. Nebraska lost to Kansas State 80-63 in the consolation game. The Huskers face the wildcats Saturday as Big 8 conference play begins.

Nebraska's one point loss to Kansas, the tournament champion, came after the Huskers built leads up to 12 points in the first half, only to see the Jayhawks win the game in the last five minutes. According to Cipriano, the Huskers were tired and "worn-down" in the stretch.

The seventeen point loss to KSU's Wildcats occurred when the Huskers were psychologically "flat," Cipriano said.

High scoring guards

Guards Mike Evans and Chuckie Williams scored 27 and 18 points respectively to pace the Wildcats. Evans and Williams will undoubtedly be trying to duplicate the feat in the 2 p.m. contest at the Coliseum Saturday.

The game will be televised, and according to Cipriano the Huskers will have little, if any,

home court advantage.

"If there is one thing that's bothered me about Nebraska basketball support, it's the attendance at the Saturday afternoon games," Cipriano said. He added that he hopes attendance will improve, but until it does, he said he would rather play the afternoon games on the road.

Complete facelift

The Wildcats from Manhattan have undergone a complete facelift from last season. The team lost five starters from a team which finished with a 19-8 record last season, and at one point won 11 straight Big 8 games. KSU is now 8-4 on the season.

Kansas State dedicated this season to Dean Harris, who started as a guard for the Wildcats last season as a freshman, but was killed in an accident last spring.

Evans, the freshman who replaced Harris, is leading the team in scoring. Evans and Williams combine to make the Wildcats "the quickest team in the conference," said Cipriano. The two have scored nearly 50 per cent of K-State's points.

Huskers title contender

When they meet Nebraska, the Wildcats will be facing a definite conference title contender, according to Cipriano, who refused to make such a statement before the Big 8 tournament.

"With a letdown we can finish sixth just as easily as we can finish first, second, or third," Cipriano added.

Coach: female swimmers fight growing pains, competition

By Scott Jones

UNL's women's swim team will try to ease their growing pains Friday when they host the University of South Dakota at 7 p.m. in the Women's Physical Education Building pool.

Until this year, the women's team has been a big fish in a small pond, preying on instate foes such as Concordia College, Creighton University and Kearney State College.

But coach Pat Sullivan's swimmers will try to survive in a larger, more competitive pond this year. They will swim in the Big 8 meet Feb. 14th to 15th for the first time and duals are scheduled with four Big 8 foes this semester.

In growing stage

"We're really in a growing stage," Sullivan said. "I'd say it will be at least two years before swimming will be an attraction at UNL, before girls will really want to come here to swim. We are certainly looking forward to that date."

Indications are that such growth may be painful. Kansas defeated UNL 78-53 last December in the squad's only meet thus far.

Last season Sullivan said her team "cleaned up" in the four-team instate meet, scoring 133 points. Runner-up Kearney State scored 92 and one-half points.

Yet the only two Big 8 rivals they tested, Iowa State and Kansas State, each outscored UNL by 41 points.

Because of such instate success, Sullivan said, accepting lopsided conference defeats isn't easy.

"You just kind of want to get in a closet and not swim," she said.

A victory over South Dakota could ease the growing pains. Sullivan said the team's attitude should help.

Leading the 14-member team, Sullivan said, should be junior Ruth Spencer, freshman Mikki Crosby and senior diver Ginny Kincaide.

"I'm looking forward to seeing real good things out of Crosby and Spencer," Sullivan said. Spencer qualified for the national meet last year in the 50-yard breaststroke.

Freestyle swimmers 'impressive'

Sullivan said she also is "really impressed with the freestylers," who she said performed well against Kansas. "We are not traditionally outstanding in the freestyle events but we were impressive at Kansas," she said.

Eila Austin, Ann Brinkman, Mary Ditch and Jo Williams specialize in freestyle swimming for UNL.

The team's medley relay, composed of Spencer, Crosby, Kincaide and sophomore backstroke Debbie Peterson also should be strong, Sullivan said.

Because most of the team was unable to practice during Christmas break, Sullivan said she doesn't know what to expect against South Dakota Friday.

"We've been breaking some bodies trying to get ready," she said.

South Dakota's strength is also an unknown quantity to Sullivan.

"All their coach tells me is that he considers them a fledgling team and I consider us a fledgling team too."

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