

Huskers increase conference lead with win

By Pete Wegman

It's been a long time since Nebraska basketball fans have had cause to yell "We're number one." Wednesday night that cheer rose with less than a minute remaining as the Huskers strengthened their Big 8 conference lead with a 73-58 victory over the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

Nearly 9,000 fans, the second consecutive Coliseum sellout, saw Nebraska up its conference record to a perfect 4-0 mark as Oklahoma State became the second consecutive Big 8 team to score less than 60 points against the Huskers, the Big 8 defensive leaders.

Despite the 24 turnovers committed by each team and the total of 38 fouls, both teams shot well.

Oklahoma State connected on 50 per cent for the game while Nebraska scored on 33 of 51 attempts for 65 per cent.

Nebraska started slow and took nearly three minutes to score, trailing 6-0 when they finally did. Guard Steve Willis got in foul trouble early, leaving the game after less than five minutes with three fouls.

"The loss of Willis definitely hurt our ability to control the tempo of the game in the early going," said Nebraska coach Joe Cipriano.

The lead changed hands several times before Bob Siegel scored with three minutes left in the first half to give the Huskers a 33-31 lead which they never relinquished.

Nebraska scored ten of the last 12 points in the

first half to take a 41-33 halftime advantage. Nebraska wasn't able to pull away from the Cowboys until late in the game, but the Big Red experienced few problems the remainder of the way. The biggest disaster came at halftime when the sound system for the women's gymnastics demonstration failed to work.

The Huskers out-rebounded the Cowboys, 36-27. The Cowboys' Andy Hopson, Big 8 leading rebounder the past two seasons, grabbed six to lead Oklahoma State. Larry Cox had game honors with nine rebounds and teammates Bob Siegel and Rickey Harris each had six.

The high-flying Cowboys, averaging over 83 points a game, have scored less than 60 points only once this season. That came on December 7 when they managed only 51 points in an 82-51 loss to the UCLA Bruins.

Ronnie Daniels, the Cowboys leading scorer, tallied 15 points in the first half but could manage only four the second to finish with 19.

Nebraska received balanced scoring as Jerry Fort scored 20, Siegel and Cox added 14 each, and Steve Erwin tossed in 11 points.

sports

Club planning UNL table tennis tourney

By Becky Morgan

Three events are planned for UNL's table tennis club this semester, according to club sponsor Don Taylor.

Two are scheduled for the next two weeks and the third is in the planning stage, he said.

Jan. 31, the club will participate in the Nebraska Union Program Council's Winter Walpurgisnacht, Taylor said.

"We will hold a table tennis demonstration at 8 p.m.," he said. "Some of our better players will be demonstrating different shots utilized in competition. They are planning to take on any player who challenges them."

A small prize will be awarded to anyone who defeats a club member, he added. The tables will be set up in the Union's Main Lounge. He said another tournament may be organized later in the evening if interest warrants it.

Lincoln tournament

On Feb. 9, the club will help promote the Lincoln All-City Table Tennis Championships.

The tournament will be held at the Auld Recreation Center at 32nd and Sumner St., Taylor said. There will be six divisions of play. Three of these divisions will be for high school age students and younger, Grades 1-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12.

The all-city men's championships, which are divided into three classes (advanced, intermediate and beginner) will start at 7 p.m.

Women's championship

Also scheduled for 7 p.m. is the all-city women's championship, one class only. The evening will conclude with the all-city doubles championships at 9 p.m. There will be two classes, advanced and intermediate-beginner.

Taylor said all matches will be governed by United States Table Tennis Association rules.

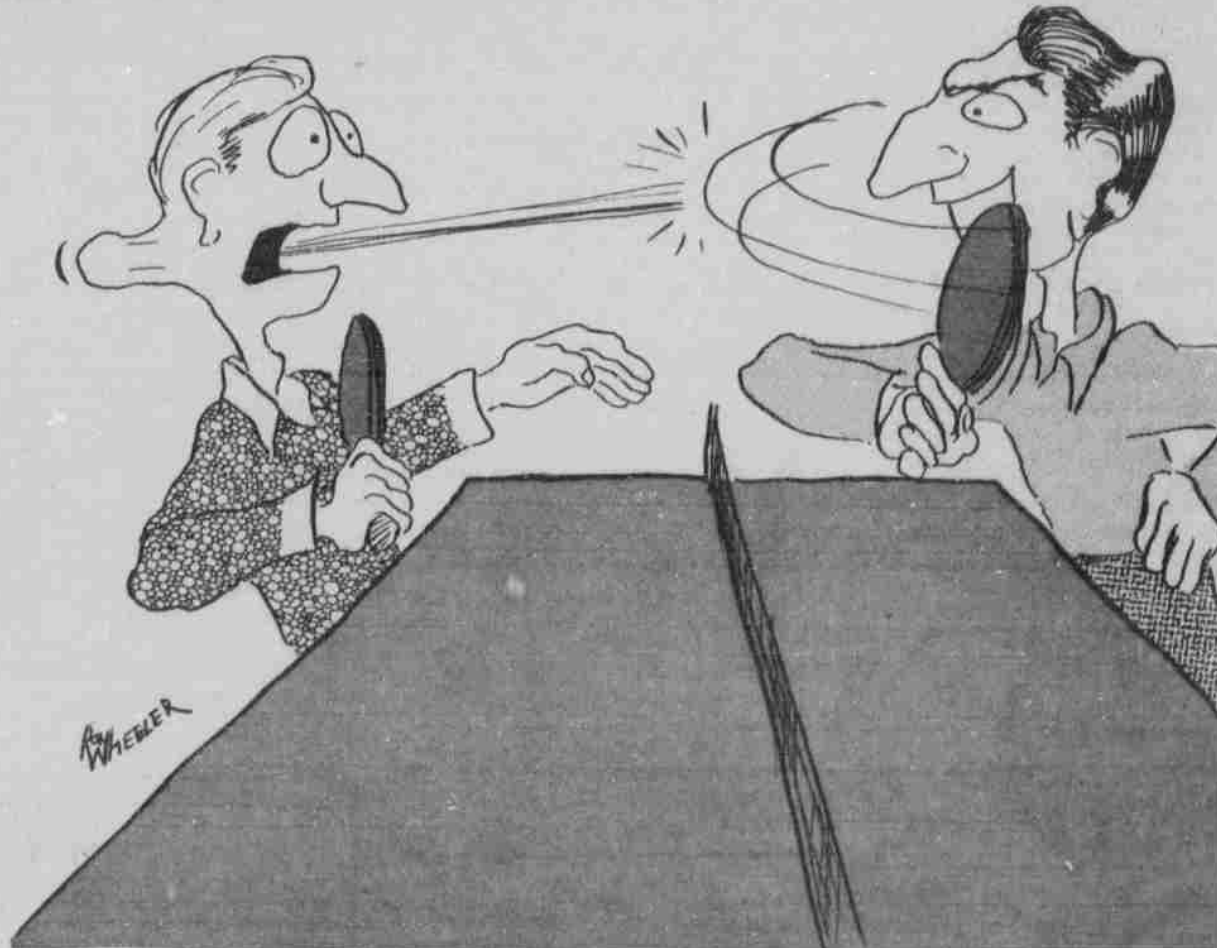
A possible team tournament is still in the planning stages. It would be an invitational including all the top four-man teams in the state. A similar tournament was held at UNL two years ago Taylor said.

Ten members

Currently, the table tennis club has about ten members. The size of the club is determined by the available space, Taylor said. The club meets every Monday from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. in the basement of the Nebraska Union west of the game room.

Two outstanding club members, Peter Chao and Bill Weisbecker, won a tournament Monday at the Nebraska Union.

They will represent the UNL table tennis club in a student tournament in Ft. Hayes, Ks.



Flu-stricken gymnasts saving strength for weekend dual meet

By Scott Jones

Lying in bed and sipping hot soup may not seem the right way to prepare for a difficult athletic contest.

But that's what several members of UNL's gymnastics team are doing in preparation for Saturday's dual meet against defending national champion Iowa State in Ames.

"We've got a bunch with the flu now," coach Francis Allen said Tuesday. "Half of them weren't here for practice last night."

"I'm going to call in sick Saturday," he added.

Full strength

Allen said the Huskers could be at full strength by this weekend.

"They'll be okay by Saturday but they won't have the psychological advantage of knowing that they have the reserved energy built up from Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday," he said.

Not all the Huskers are sick this week, however. Allen said all-arounder Gary Jeurink performed the "best horizontal bar exercise of his life" in practice Monday.

But for Jeurink the effort came two days late. Colorado upset the Huskers and baffled Allen, 204.45 to 203.50 Saturday.

"I'm not sure what happened to my team," Allen said. "We'd been going 210-212 consistently all year. Colorado hadn't beaten us in four years and they won't beat us again this year."

Flu beneficial

Jeurink, a Lincoln sophomore, said the Huskers would have to perform much better against the Cyclones. He added that the flu outbreak may be beneficial.

"I think the rest may help us," he said. "I saw us go down to Kansas last year after we'd had a bad week and we didn't miss a thing."

The Huskers may need every advantage they can get against the Cyclones. By winning the Rocky Mountain Open Dec. 13th the Huskers finished ahead of Iowa State in a tournament for the first time in 11 years.

11-year drought

And UNL hasn't recorded a dual meet victory

over the Cyclones since the 1963-64 season when Allen was a Husker gymnast himself. That victory drought includes a 215.15-212.15 setback to Iowa State in the Husker's opening meet this year on Oct. 26.

Allen said the Cyclones have been able to win two consecutive national championships by recruiting only topnotch high school gymnasts.

"They've got a lot more blue chippers than we do," he said. "It's going to be hard to beat them again because they have better personnel than we do."

Unlike Iowa State, Allen's team is composed solely of Lincoln and Omaha natives, products of a weak Nebraska high school gymnastics setup.

Slow progress

State gymnastics is not progressing as fast as it should, Allen said. "When we won the Rocky Mountain Open it was just unbelievable. Me beating three of the best teams in the nation with kids from two cities."

Allen said Husker all-around performers Larry Gerard and Gene Mackie are "very talented gymnasts" who could have excelled in states such as Illinois with good high school gymnastics.

For many of the other Huskers, Allen said, hard work is the only way they can match the performances of a gymnast with a good high school gymnastics background.

"If he works really hard he can maybe catch up to the blue-chippers," Allen said. "But I said catch, not pass. And if he's a guy like Pete Studenski (Husker senior) and works out every day maybe he can surpass him."

"We have to work twice as hard as Iowa State or they'll blow us out of the gym," Allen said.

Allen said UNL and Iowa State are the leading contenders for the Big 8 crown and predicted "this is going to be our best Big 8 meet."

With performers such as junior Mackie and freshman Gerard in addition to freshman Mike Cosgrove and junior Steve Dickey on the pommel horse, Allen said UNL will be strong next year even if their title bid fails this year.

"Next year we're going to be unbeatable," he said.

sports shorts

Swim coach John Reta asks that any woman who was timed for UNL swim meets last season contact him at his office in the Coliseum, or call 472-2268.

UNL football seniors drafted during the National Football League draft Tuesday include wingback Don Westbrook, by the Baltimore Colts in the sixth round; quarterback David Humm by the Oakland Raiders in the fifth; offensive tackle Marvin Crenshaw by the Pittsburgh Steelers, Tom Alward by the New York Jets and Mark Doak to the Washington Redskins, all in the sixth round. Ardell Johnson, Husker defensive back, was drafted by

Washington in the 11th.

Improving its record to 5-6, the UNL women's basketball team defeated Kearney State College Tuesday. Kathy Hawkins lead the scoring with 14 points and teammate Nancy Hansen added 12 in the 59-39 win. The team will meet Creighton at 7 p.m. Friday in the Women's P.E. Bldg.

The UNL boxing club continues to look for anyone wanting to join the club. Practices are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4:30 p.m. in Schramm Hall. Any one interested should attend practice or call Mike Wilson at 477-1392.

An organizational meeting of the UNL Judo club will be held at 8:30 p.m. Monday in Henzlik Gym. Anyone interested should attend the meeting or call Dale Yamamoto at 435-0919.