

Kansas here Saturday Husker cagers meet Iowa State Saturday

By Pete Wegman

In a way, the Big 8 basketball race can be likened to a game of "king of the mountain." Last Saturday, before playing Missouri, the Nebraska Cornhuskers had a 4-0 conference mark and were on top of the hill.

The Huskers, after two consecutive road losses, have been removed from the top and now Kansas State, 5-1, looks down on the other seven Big 8 schools. Ironically, K-State's lone conference loss came at the hands of the Huskers, when they were defeated 74-61 in Lincoln in their conference opener on January 18.

Nebraska will be making another run at the lead, while attempting to improve its conference mark to 5-2 and overall record to 12-7, when it hosts the Iowa State Cyclones Saturday night at 7:35 p.m. in the Coliseum.

Iowa State is under the direction of Coach Ken Trickey, in his first year with the Cyclones. Trickey coached at Oral Roberts the past five seasons where his teams won 84 per cent of their games. He replaces former Iowa State coach Maury John, who died of a heart attack last fall.

Run and shoot

Trickey's idea of a good defense is a great offense. He said the Cyclones "will run and shoot with the idea of being as spectacular and as exciting as we can possibly be," and statistics reflect Trickey's coaching philosophy.

The Cyclones have the conference's best offensive and worst defensive averages. Iowa State is averaging 96.5 points a game while allowing 93. The Huskers, on the other hand, lead the conference in defense, allowing 66.5 points a game. Nebraska is seventh in Big 8 scoring, however, averaging 69.7 points a game.

Much of the Cyclones offensive punch comes from junior guard Herclé "Poison" Ivy. Ivy is leading the Big 8 in scoring and is among the nation's ten leading scorers. He is averaging more than 25 points per game this season after scoring at a 16.9 clip last year and being named conference "Newcomer of the Year."

Last season's number three Cyclone guard, junior Jeff Branstetter, is now the other starting guard. John John, son of the late coach Maury John also sees considerable action at guard.

Iowa State has one of the Big 8's tallest front lines. Center Larry Lotts and forwards Steve Burgason and Craig DeLoss average 6'9" and 220 pounds.

Sellout expected

Last year, only 4100 Husker fans were present in the Coliseum when Nebraska defeated Iowa State, 91-88 in three overtimes. Ticket officials expect a sellout for Saturday's game, the third consecutive Coliseum sellout.

Nebraska will be attempting to rebound from their 72-44 loss to the Kansas Jayhawks Wednesday night in Lawrence. The 44 points was the lowest Husker output since the 1962-63 season.

The game included the ejection of Nebraska coach Joe Cipriano after three technical fouls early in the second half. The Husker's leading scorer, Jerry Fort, managed only six points and center, Larry Cox, fouled out with 15 minutes remaining.

Cipriano said the Huskers played well for the first ten minutes but failed to block the Jayhawks out on the boards. Kansas hauled down 30 more rebounds than the Huskers.

The win vaulted Kansas into a tie with the Huskers for second place in the conference. Kansas plays at Oklahoma Saturday while K-State travels to Oklahoma State.

"We can't afford to lose any at home," Cipriano said in reference to Saturday's game against the Cyclones.



In a calmer moment, Husker basketball coach Joe Cipriano discusses strategy with junior guard Steve Willis. The Huskers lost to Kansas Wednesday night 72-44 to drop out of the conference lead.

UNL swimmer to be tested

By Scott Jones

Husker swim coach John Reta might be tempted to employ some unusual strategy for this Saturday's 2 p.m. meet against defending Big 8 champion Kansas in the Coliseum pool.

Although it probably won't happen, Reta would like to have the 200-yard breaststroke be the first race of the meet. Freshman Bryan Moss is undefeated in that race this year and another win Saturday, if at the start of the meet, could inspire his teammates.

The strategy would probably please Moss also. The Omaha Northwest graduate set a new varsity record in the 200-yard breaststroke in each of the Husker's three meets prior to last Saturday's 65-48 loss to Missouri.

He won again against the Tigers and says he is anxious for what could be his most serious test this season from Kansas's Ben Wagoner.

Moss lowered the varsity mark to 2:15.7 but Wagoner has a 2:12 to his credit.

If Moss defeats Wagoner, he could achieve a higher goal than just winning the race.

"I'd like to get well under 2:12 this year because that's the national qualifying time," he said.

UNL and Kansas each have competed against Missouri and Iowa State. UNL lost to the Cyclones, 82-31. Kansas also lost to Iowa State, 74-39, but defeated Missouri 62-51.

Reta said freestylers Paul Duxbury, Steve Raynor, Ball Davis and Mark Adamson missed practice Monday with the flu. Several other swimmers have ear infections, Reta said, and backstroker John Williams was in the hospital Tuesday with pneumonia.

Duxbury, Davis and Raynor, along with Jack Alexander, produced Husker victories in the 50, 100, 200 and 500-yard freestyle events respectively Saturday against Missouri. UNL won seven of the 13 events but lacked depth, Reta said.

"Their overall depth was just too much for us," he said. "We don't have that much depth that we can afford to get two or three guys sick."

Diver Dave Watermeir won the optional diving for the Husker's other win.

Five of eight varsity teams hosting foes this weekend

Husker sports fans with nothing to do this weekend may like to know that five of the eight UNL varsity teams will be competing in Lincoln.

Tonight the Husker wrestlers will host South Dakota at 7:30 in the Coliseum. The women's basketball team will play Midland College, since Wednesday's snow caused the match to be rescheduled for 7 p.m. in the Women's Physical Education Bldg.

Saturday, the Husker gymnastics, swimming and women's gymnastics teams will host opponents, while the basketball team will try to break a two-game losing streak against Iowa State that evening at 7:30 in the Coliseum.

With a 7-2 dual record this season, wrestling coach Orval Borgiagli is having the best dual season of his career at Nebraska.

Three of his wrestlers who are still undefeated in dual competition are heavyweight Bruce Conger (300 lb.), Tony Jennings (140 lb.) and Tim Rimpley (134 lb.).

Borgiagli expressed hope that 190-pounder Bob Johnson will be able to return after a knee injury that has sidelined him the past four weeks.

"We'll weigh him in, but it's still to be seen whether we'll use him," Borgiagli said. "Their 190-pounder is also hurt, and they've got a couple of others hurt, so they may have to forfeit a couple of matches."

Borgiagli said he hopes all of his wrestlers will be healthy in time for the Big 8 meet.

"We hope to have them all tonight, but they won't be as healthy as we want them for another week."

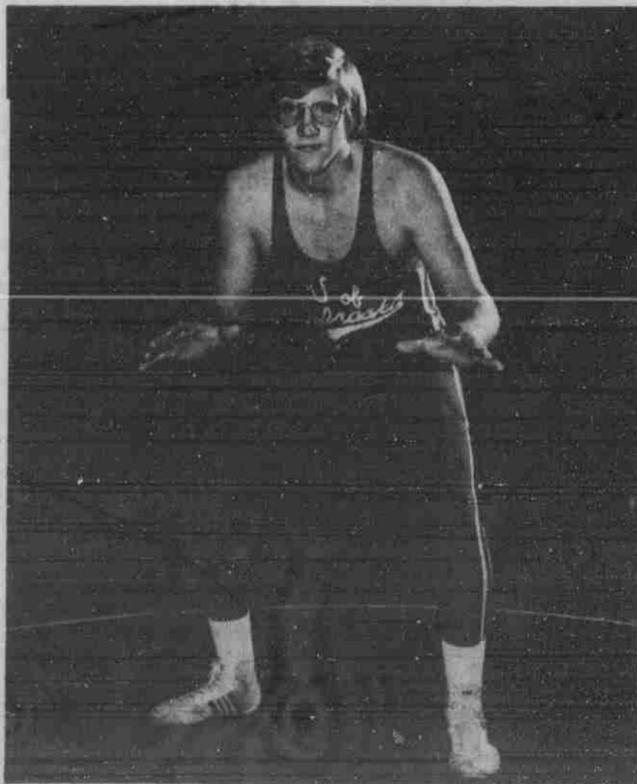
Defending Big 8 champion Kansas will invade the Coliseum pool Saturday at 2 p.m. for a dual with John Reta's Husker swimmers.

"The Jayhawks beat Missouri but lost at Iowa State as we did," Reta said. "But they've got some real quality people and overall balance."

Coach Francis Allen's gymnastics team will try to break a two-game dual losing streak against Kansas State at 2 p.m. in Henzlik gymnasium. Meanwhile the women gymnasts will meet Kansas State in a dual starting at 2 p.m. in the Women's Physical Education Bldg.

Among the teams on the road this weekend are the women's basketball team, traveling to Wayne Saturday, trying to avenge a 72-42 loss suffered in Lincoln two weeks ago; the women's swimming team, competing at the Grinnell (Iowa) Relay meet; and the Husker track team, traveling to the Michigan State Relays Saturday for their second outing of the season.

According to track coach Frank Sevigne, top Husker entries include junior Chuck Malito in the 440-yard run and Harold Stelzer. Both won at the Kansas meet last Saturday.



There's still a question whether junior 190-pounder Bob Johnson will return to the Husker wrestling lineup tonight against South Dakota.