

Husker cagers continue nosedive with CU loss

Nebraska continued its basketball nosedive Saturday by losing to Colorado, a team the Huskers had previously swamped 85-59 in Lincoln.

Nebraska's fourth loss in five games was due to excessive fouling and hideous shooting (19 of 73) from the field.

The Buffalos, clearly the worst team in the conference, were equally bad in those two departments, but had the advantage (?) of a roaring crowd behind them.

Nebraska had the upper hand throughout the second half of the regionally televised game, but found themselves trailing by one point with four seconds left and the ball out of bounds.

In those four seconds they could manage no better than a desperate midcourt shot and the loss was in the books. Nebraska's record now stands at 12-9 and 5-4 in the conference.

Tonight they journey to Manhattan, Kan. to face league-leading Kansas-State.

Last year Nebraska surprised the Wildcats on their home court, dimming their hopes of a Big 8 title.

However, unflappable Rick Marsh, who engineered the upset, is gone and Steve Willis is hurt. It might be

a long night.

It's getting more difficult by the week to figure out the actions of the lunatics who comprise the United Press International coaches panel.

In their latest poll, they've moved Kansas into the number 18 spot while ejecting Creighton right out of the Top 20.

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The brawny Jayhawks have lost six games and lucked out in many others. Creighton is riding a 13-game winning streak in their 19-4 season.

The incredible thing is that, three weeks ago, they were ranked 14th. Now, six wins later, the Bluejays are nowhere to be found.

The Doane Cajuns kept rolling along Monday night with a 71-51 conquest of UNL's previously unbeaten Schramm 2 intramural squad.

The contest was at Doane College and, according to Schramm coach Terry Salerno, was a bruising affair.

"It was like a street fight out there," Salerno said. "They are good but I think we could beat them at home."

The Schramm team started a lineup averaging 6 ft. 4 in., but couldn't cope with the tireless Cajun fast break. At the end of the first quarter, Doane led 23-7 and the outcome was all but decided.

A sample of the rough play came in the second half when Schramm forward Percy Eichelberger, who'll be playing linebacker for the Husker football team this fall, decided to stop a fast break with his elbow.

It left Tim Jasnoch dazed but conscious as the Cajuns continued on to their 20-point win.

For Doane, a series of challenges looms on the horizon. Included is a match with Abel 8, UNL's top-ranked intramural team.

Husker Big 8 title possible but unlikely combination needed

By Pete Wegman

Last season, enroute to a fourth place finish in the Big 8 conference with a 7-7 record, the Nebraska basketball team won three of its last five conference games. A similar finish would do the Huskers little, if any, good this season.

When Nebraska lost 62-61 to Colorado last Saturday afternoon to lower their conference mark to 5-4, the Huskers' championship aspirations seemingly went out the window. However, that same night Oklahoma upset conference leading Kansas State, 78-71, to keep the Huskers' title hopes alive, if only dimly.

Kansas State and Kansas, both 7-2 in conference play, and Missouri with a 6-3 mark, all lead the Huskers. With the "correct" combination of wins and losses in remaining Big 8 play, Nebraska could, however, finish 10-4 and win the conference by two games.

Title conceivable

Should Kansas State beat Nebraska when the two teams play tonight, it is conceivable that the Big 8 title could go Nebraska with a 9-5 record.

However, it is doubtful the Huskers will have championship thoughts in mind when they invade Manhattan. More likely, Nebraska will be thinking of ways to stop the Wildcats' guard duo

of junior Chuckie Williams and freshman Mike Evans.

Evans, who scored 30 points in his collegiate debut, and Williams have a combined average of about 40 points a game together and are scoring about 50 per cent of the Wildcats' points.

Willis doubtful

Nebraska's attempt to stop the two may be hampered by the absence of starting guard Steve Willis. Husker coach Joe Cipriano has listed Willis as a doubtful participant following a severe ankle sprain in the Colorado game. Cipriano will start sophomore Phil Chambers or freshman Eric Coard in his place.

K-State will be attempting to avenge a 74-61 loss they absorbed in Lincoln Jan. 18. The Wildcats will also be trying to pick up momentum for their showdown Saturday in Manhattan against Kansas.

Meanwhile, Nebraska will be attempting to break a three week slump during which they have lost four of five conference games.

Junior Guard Jerry Fort leads the Huskers in scoring with an 18.5 average. In the last three outings he has scored an average of 29 points per game, and needs only 58 more points to become the Huskers all-time leading scorer.

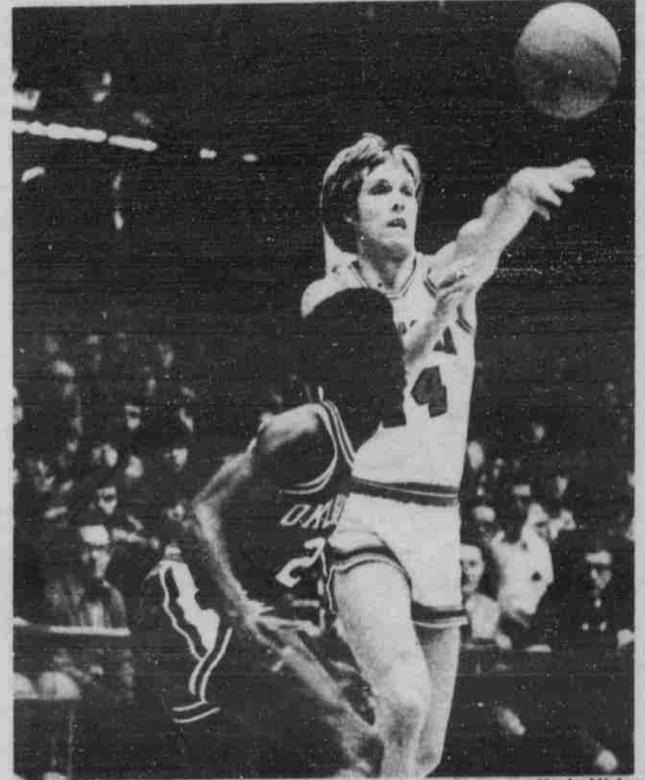


Photo by Kevin Higley

Senior forward Steve Erwin (4) passes the ball to a teammate against Oklahoma last Wednesday. Tonight Erwin and the Huskers will be hosted by Kansas State, a team they beat 74-61 in Lincoln on Jan. 18.

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