

Junior guard Jerry Fort (12) takes a jump shot over Missouri guard Willie Smith (30) during the Huskers' 80-77 win over the Tigers Saturday. Fort scored 40 points to break both the UNL career and single game scoring records.

Super-Fort breaks records; Huskers top Tigers, 80-77

By Scott Jones

Jerry Fort is not faster than a speeding bullet. He's not stronger than a locomotive or able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

But don't try to tell that to any of the 8,244 Husker basketball fans who watched Fort score 40 points to lead Nebraska over Missouri, 80-77, Saturday at the Coliseum.

Husker partisans probably thought No. 14 in the red and white jersey really was the mythical 'Superman'. And why not? The owner made 61 per cent of his shots and poured in 24 second half points.

Scoring leader

But it was Fort and not the Man of Steel who became the new career scoring leader at Nebraska and also set a new single game scoring record.

Fort's 40 points were two more than Tom Russell scored against Kansas in 1962. Fort, only a junior, also has 1300 career points at Nebraska, seven more than Tom Baack, the previous leader.

"I don't think Jerry could have shot any better than he did," Husker coach Joe Cipriano said. "It was a hot time in the old corral tonight with Jerry and that Smith."

Cipriano was referring to the Tiger's Willie Smith who led Missouri with 24 points, 15 in the second half.

"He's superquick," Fort said. "I'm glad I

don't have to play against him again this year."

After the exchange between Fort and Smith, the Huskers led 65-64 with 4:11 remaining. Nebraska, who trailed 38-37 at halftime, then outscored the Tigers 10-4 to hold an insurmountable lead of 75-68 with 1:16 left in the game.

Nebraska's last nine points came from free throws. The Huskers made 32 of 39 attempts for 82 per cent. Missouri made 23 of 29 attempts, for 80 per cent.

Fort made 12 of 13 charity tosses, usually after fouls by Smith or guard Jeff Currie, who both fouled out trying to stop the Chicago junior.

"Their guards tried to pressure me but I was able to drive by them and pull up with the jumper," Fort said.

The Tigers would have moved into a tie with Kansas and Kansas State, both 8-3, for the Big 8 leadership had they repeated their 88-74 conquest of Nebraska three weeks ago in Columbia.

Instead, Missouri is in third place at 7-4.

Fourth in conference

Nebraska is 13-10 overall and fourth in the conference with a 6-5 mark.

"We're just sorry we didn't get the past couple of wins," Fort said. "We could have been 9-2 now but that's life. That's the way it goes."

Cipriano praised junior Bob Siegel and freshman Eric Coard for their part in the victory. Siegel grabbed 15 rebounds and scored nine points. Coard, who replaced injured guard Steve Willis, scored 14 points and limited Currie to only two points.

Cipriano also credited the large Coliseum crowd for boosting the Husker's chances. The Husker following was particularly vocal during final 10 minutes as Fort consistently hit his jumpers.

sports

Take third in tourney

Women cagers win

UNL's women's basketball team won two games at Midland College Friday to advance to Sunday's semifinals in the Nebraska Women's Intercollegiate Sports Council Basketball Tournament, held last weekend in Fremont.

UNL downed Doane 89-27 Friday, as Cristy Oswald scored 20 points. Julie Hay added 19.

Jan Zink scored 17 points and Sherry Brink 16 in the second game Friday as UNL defeated UNO, 71-54.

Saturday the women were defeated by top seeded Wayne 74-58. Connie Kunzman hit 24 points for Wayne. UNL ended their season Sunday against Kearney State playing for third place in the tournament UNL won, 76-57.

Four UNL swimmers qualified for the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national finals as the Huskers swept past Oklahoma State 73-58 Friday night in the Women's Physical Education Building.

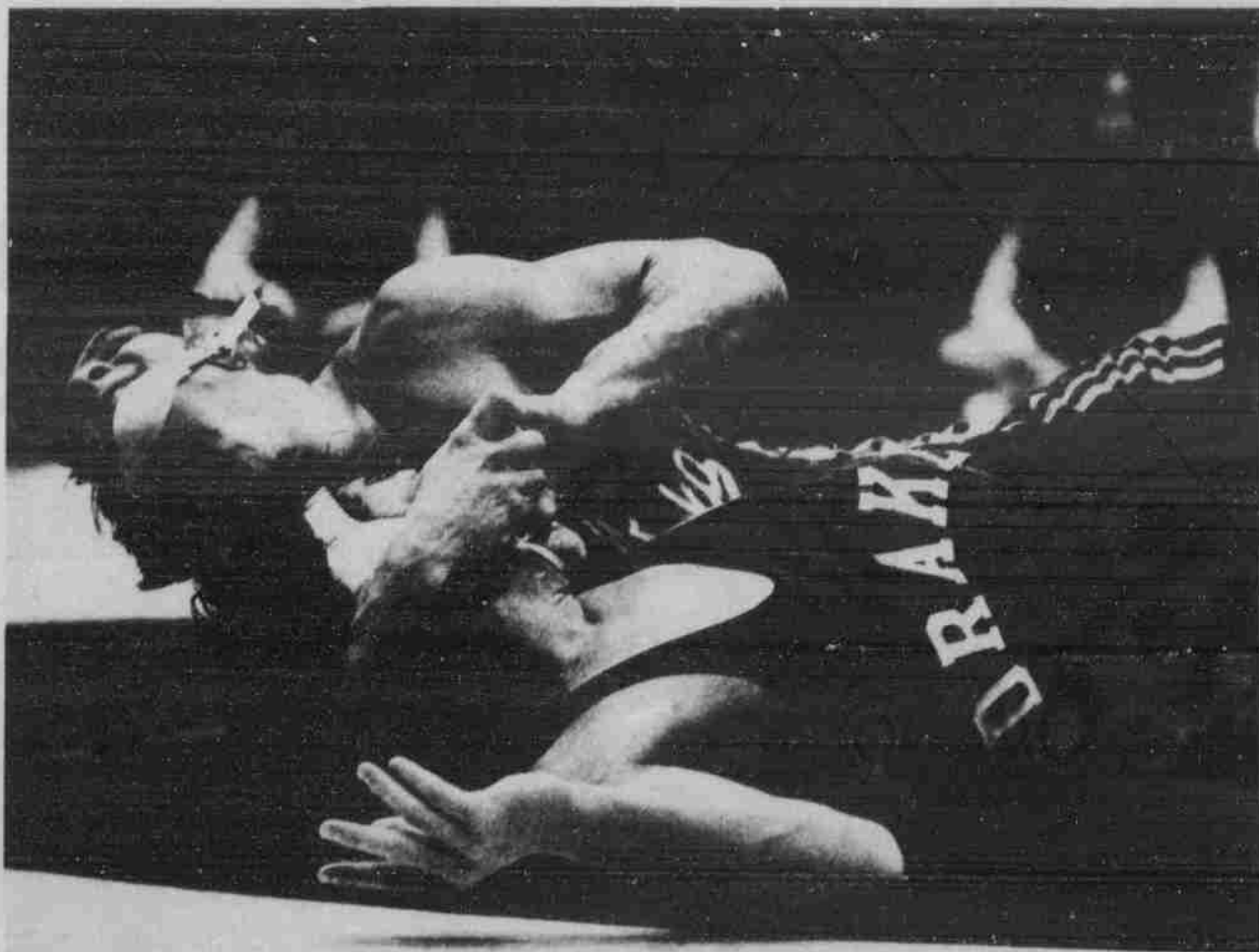
Ruth Spencer in the 40-yard breaststroke, Deb Peterson in the 50-yard backstroke and Ginny Kincade and Nancy Dykes in diving qualified for the March 13-15 meet in Tempe, Ariz.

In UNL women sports this week, the swimmers and divers will travel to Kearney State College for their last meet of the season Saturday.

The women gymnasts will host Drake University Saturday in their final dual performance of the season.

"We've beaten Drake twice before," coach Karen Balke said. "We shouldn't have too much trouble with them." The gymnasts are currently undefeated in dual competition.

The meet will be held in the gymnasium at the Women's Physical Education Building.



Tom Luth, 167 lbs., applies the pressure to Tom Milliken of Drake. Luth won the match 11-1, as the Huskers captured the meet 25-15.

Gymnasts beat OU, set national scoring mark

By Larry Stunkel

Setting a national record-scoring total and exhibiting national championship potential, UNL's gymnastics team defeated Oklahoma 221.70-210.55, Saturday afternoon at the Henzlik Hall gym.

Husker gym coach Francis Allen said the previous high score in the nation was about 218, set by Southern Illinois University, the Huskers' next opponent this Thursday at 7 p.m. in Henzlik.

Four Huskers scored above 9.0 in four of the six events. Junior all-arounder Gene Mackie set another career high, as did freshman Larry Gerard. They scored 55.25 and 54.0 respectively.

Pete Studenski, senior ringman, came back from a knee injury to score a 9.7 in that event.

Other career highs

Other Huskers scoring career highs were freshman Mike Crosgrove with a 9.3 on pommel horse; Gerard, who tied the defending Big 8 champ in the high bar with a 9.45 mark; and Jim Unger, who won the floor exercise with a 9.5 score.

Other Husker winners were Steve Dickey on the pommel horse, Gary Jeurink in the vault and Gary Duff on the parallel bars.

"The judging was high, but the routines were good," Allen said. "This certainly makes us look like we can win the Big 8 and national titles, but we're going to have to score like this to do it."

In all, it was an historic week for Nebraska sports. The swim team won its first dual over a Big 8 team in four years, downing Oklahoma State 61-52 Friday night.

Junior Scott Ruser set a pool and varsity record in the 200-yard individual relay with a 2:03.2 clocking. The Husker 400-yard freestyle and 400-yard medley relay teams also set pool records of 3:18.6 and 3:42.5 respectively.

Moss wins

Other Husker winners were freshman Brian Moss (220-yard breaststroke), Paul Duxbury (50-yard freestyle), Bill Davis (100-yard freestyle) and Tom Folsom and Dave Watermeier in diving.

The UNL track team won its 27th consecutive home indoor track duel Saturday, with an 83-48 victory over Wyoming.

This probably marks the team's final appearance on the present indoor track. The Huskers plan to move into the new sports complex next winter.

Junior Chuck Malito was the team's only double

winner, placing first in the 440-yard run and 60-yard low hurdles. It was Malito's first competitive race in the low hurdles and he clocked in at :07.2.

Won 10 events

The trackmen won 10 of 15 events. Sophomore heavyweight Bruce Conger and Tony Jennings both kept undefeated dual records intact, as the UNL wrestlers defeated Drake 25-15 in the Coliseum Saturday afternoon.

Conger pinned his man in 7:18; Jennings won a major decision over his opponent, 13-1; and 190-pounder Bob Johnson, who returned to competition following a knee injury, beat Tom Sawyer 7-2.

Other Huskers posting wins to help raise the dual record to 11-2 were Gary Harnisch (126 lbs.), Doug Hassig (150 lbs.), Tom Luth (167 lbs.) and Bill Hoffman (177 lbs.).

Schedule for Feb. 24-March 1.

Men's basketball—At Oklahoma State Wednesday.
Men's gymnastics—Southern Illinois at Henzlik, 7 p.m. Thursday.
Track—At the Big 8 championships in Kansas City, Mo.
Wrestling—At Big 8 meet.
Track—At the Big 8 championships in Kansas City, Mo.