

Kansas City 'Hyphens' may be in NBA playoff

Barring a total breakdown, the Kansas City-Omaha Kings seem to be headed for a play-off spot in the NBA's expanded postseason arrangement.

The Kings, known sardonically around the league as the Kansas City Hyphens, are comfortably in second place behind Chicago in the Midwest Division.

They are three games ahead of third place Detroit and six games in front of mysteriously inept Milwaukee.

In 1974-75 Kings have progressed a long way from the one-man teams of their past few seasons.

It used to be that a KC-Omaha player would pass the ball to Nate Archibald, then stand gawking as the slippery guard drove for the basket.

This year, Archibald's scoring statistics aren't quite as high, but the fresh endeavor at teamwork has resulted in a 35-29 record.

Also this season, agile center Sam Lacey has hit the boards with a uncharacteristic aggressiveness and is

near the league lead in rebounding.

Omaha fans might be wise to cheer while they can, since it is logically their last year on the second end of the hyphen.

It will be interesting to see who selectors will tab as the All Big 8 guards once the season is over.

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It seems practically every conference team has a guard deserving of the honor. Kansas State has two in

Chuck Williams and Mike Evans.

Inevitably one of the spots will go to Hercie Ivy of Iowa State, since he is one of the top 10 scorers in the nation.

What voters probably won't take into account is the fact that Ivy shoots the ball at every possible opportunity. His shots frequently miss the entire backboard, as evidenced by his performance in the televised Kansas State game.

The other frontcourt berth could go to Jerry Fort, but more likely to Missouri's Willie Smith.

When Nebraska loses a football game, Tom Osborne encounters a barrage of second guesses and accusations.

Following a Husker basketball loss, Joe Cipriano's popularity rating is about equal to that of Sirhan B. Sirhan.

However, there was no noticable outcry for Frank Sevine's scalp after the Nebraska track team had finished its three point showing in the Big 8 Indoor track championship. Rightfully so.

Coaching strategy plays a nonexistent role in the sport of track. Unlike his football and basketball counterparts, a track coach is completely helpless during the competition.

A track team either has it or it doesn't. For this year at least, it appears Nebraska doesn't.

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Huskers host Kansas Cagers end home season

By Scott Jones

Nebraska concludes its home basketball season tonight against Big 8 co-leader Kansas.

The Huskers can still tie for the conference title but their role as spoiler seems more realistic. With two conference playing dates remaining, the Jayhawks and Kansas State are tied for the conference lead with 9-3 records.

Missouri is third at 8-4 and the Huskers are fourth with a 7-5 mark.

Kansas State plays at Missouri Wednesday and hosts Oklahoma State Saturday. Missouri plays at Colorado and Kansas entertains Oklahoma Saturday.

Week to prepare

The Huskers have had a week to prepare for the Jayhawks. They defeated Oklahoma State, 59-58, last Wednesday but were idle Saturday.

The game Wednesday will be the final home appearance for seniors Steve Erwin and Kent Reckaway.

Erwin started eight games during his sophomore year, when Nebraska beat the Jayhawks three times. Kansas turned the tables last year while winning 13 of 14 conference games.

A Kansas victory Wednesday would be the sixth straight win over Nebraska. The Jayhawks escaped with a 63-62 Big 8 Tournament victory and then handled the Huskers easily, 72-44, a month ago.

It was a controversial play involving Erwin and Jayhawk Norman Cook that led to Kansas's win in Lawrence. The Huskers trailed 34-21 at the start of the second half, when Erwin deflected a Kansas pass and seemingly was fouled by Cook on the resulting lay-up.

No foul was called and Husker coach Joe Cipriano was charged with three technical fouls and ejected from the game in the dispute that followed. The game was never close thereafter.

The Huskers were outrebounded 30-10 in the first half of that game and shot only 33 per cent against Kansas's zone defense. Steve Willis's 11 points were high for Nebraska.

Rebounding problem

The Jayhawks have five players 6 ft. 8 in. or taller who play regularly, posing a rebounding problem for the Huskers.

Rick Suttle, a 6 ft. 10 in. senior who scored 30 points in Kansas's win at Colorado Saturday, teams with equally-tall Danny Knight at center.

Sophomore Donnie Von Moore or freshman Ken Koenings, both 6 ft. 9 in., could fill one forward position with 6 ft. 8 in. sophomore Cook playing the other.

Dale Greenlee or Clint Johnson should join 6 ft. 6 in. Roger Morningstar at guard.

The Jayhawks have given up 66.6 points a game, which ranks second in the Big 8, behind Nebraska's 65.7 average. Kansas is fifth in team scoring with a 74.7 average and Nebraska is last at 67.8 points a game.



Junior guard Jerry Fort has averaged 29 points a game since the Huskers' 72-44 loss to Kansas in Lawrence, Feb. 5. In that game, he was limited to just six points.

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