

Official expects criticism —and he's glad to get it

Bruce Finlayson has a job in which he expects criticism and is glad to get it. That's because Finlayson, Big 8 Conference football officials supervisor, hears complaints of conference coaches.

Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne, for example, criticized some of the officiating in each of the Husker's first three games. Questionable rulings are clipped from game films and sent to Finlayson at the end of the season.

"We're always happy to have them send them in," said Finlayson, who officiated in the Big 8 for eight years and in the National Football League 12 years before taking his present position this year.

"He (Osborne) doesn't send in any more than the rest of the coaches," he said. "We get along real well with Coach Osborne."

Finlayson said some coaches don't wait until the season is over to send in what they consider questionable calls.

"We look at the films very carefully,"

he said. "Sometimes we agree with the officials and sometimes with the coaches."

In addition to these clips, Finlayson reviews films of each game Big 8 officials work the previous Saturday. His comments and the film are then sent for review to the officiating crew.

Six of the 34 Big 8 officials are Nebraskans. Four of those six are from Lincoln. One of the four, Bill Jennings, has been a Big 8 official for 22 years.

In that period, Jennings has undoubtedly been berated by coaches, but he said it doesn't bother him.

"I think the coaches are under so much pressure that they can't help it," he said. "By Tuesday they're back to normal."

Despite the criticism, Jennings said being an official, especially in the Big 8, has advantages.

Because he is a Nebraska native and a 1944 Nebraska graduate, Jennings never officiates Husker games.

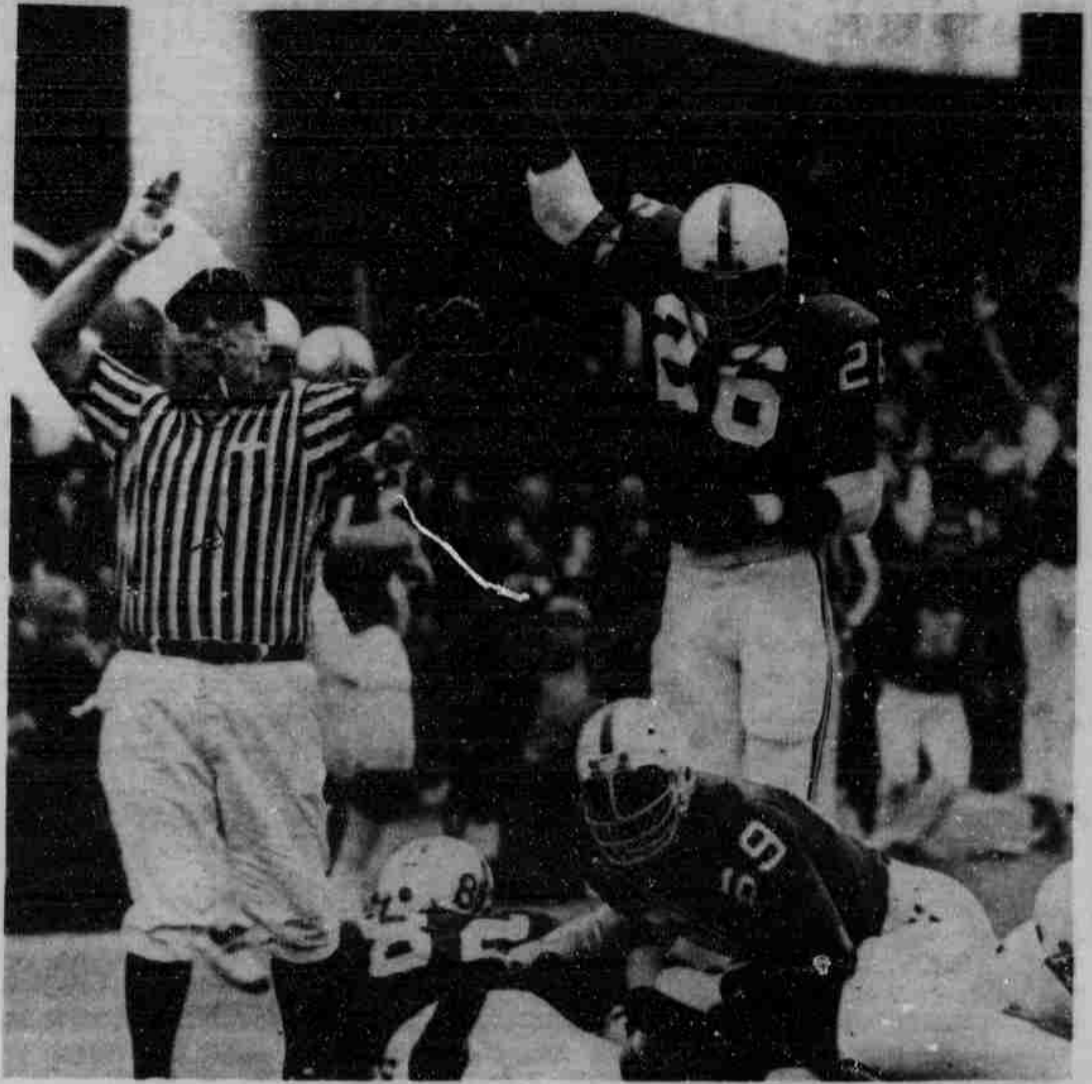


Photo by Mike Theiler

Though sometimes at odds, a ref and a player can agree.

sports

Veteran cage team faces toughest schedule ever

Facing what head basketball coach Joe Cipriano has termed "possibly the toughest schedule in the school's history," a veteran UNL basketball team has begun practice for what many experts say should be a title contending season.

Cipriano, entering his thirteenth year as coach, has a 165-141 record. The team finished 14-12 last year, fourth in the Big 8.

The team returns nine lettermen, including four of last year's starters.

Leading the team is two-time all-Big 8 guard Jerry Fort. Averaging 20.2 points per game last year, he was UNL's all-time leading scorer and will enter his senior year with 1,369 career points.

Other returning starters include seniors Larry Cox and Steve Willis and junior Bob Siegel.

Shooting leader

Cox, a 6 ft. 6 in. center, averaged 10.2 points per game and lead the conference with a .589 shooting accuracy mark.

Willis, a 5 ft. 11 in. guard, averaged 10.3 points per game. Siegel, a 6 ft. 7 in. forward, averaged 10.3 points per game and led Big 8 forwards in rebounds, averaging 10.5 in conference games.

Other returning lettermen include juniors Phil Chambers, 6 ft. 5 in. guard and Rickey Harris, 6 ft. 7 in. forward; sophomores Eric Coard, 6 ft. 1 in. guard, Curt Hedberg, 6 ft. 8 in. forward and Terry Novak, 6 ft. 4 in. guard.

Ron Taylor, 6 ft. 10 in. forward, has been declared scholastically ineligible for the first semester and probably will be red-shirted, Cipriano said.

Indiana recruits

Three freshmen recruited from Indiana this year are: Brian Banks, 6 ft. 1 in. guard from Hammond, Val Martin, 6 ft. 7 in. forward from South Bend and Carl McPipe, 6 ft. 8 in. center from Hammond. Another freshman recruit was Fernando Chevannes, 6 ft. 5 in. forward from Panama City, Panama.

The team also picked up Alan Holder, a 6 ft. 3 in. guard who transferred from Seminole Junior College in Oklahoma, averaging 15 points and 10.3 rebounds per game last year.

UNL featured a strong defense last season, but lacked a consistent scoring

punch. The team was second in Big 8 defense allowing 69.1 points per game.

The offense only averaged 69.1 points per game, last in the Big 8.

Cipriano said freethrow shooting and rebounding need improvement. Last season UNL hit .665 per cent of their free throws.

Improved rebounding

Improvement in rebounding strength is expected from Harris, Hedberg, McPipe and Holder, Cipriano said.

"There is going to be a lot of competition this year," he said. "We are very deep at the guard positions, but need to find some players to back up the center position."

"Harris and Hedberg should be battling for one forward position with possibly four newcomers giving them competition."

This season the Big 8 will not use a 30 second clock. Cipriano said that although this won't change UNL's game, it

will mean developing a delay game.

Cipriano is assisted by Moe Iba and Lonnie Porter, in their sixth and fourth year at UNL respectively.

Joining the staff this year is graduate assistant Jennings Austin.

UNL's 1975-76 basketball schedule:

Nov. 28—Illinois; Nov. 29—Northwestern; Dec. 2—at Iowa; Dec. 6—Washington; Dec. 10—St. Mary's; Dec. 19-20—at Roadrunner Invitational, Las Cruces, New Mexico.—UNL, New Mexico State, Denver, Pacific; Dec.—at Veenderbilt.

Dec. 26, 27, 29, 30—at Big 8 Tournament in Kansas City; Jan. 3—South Dakota; Jan. 6—South Carolina;

Jan. 17—at Kansas State; Jan. 21—Oklahoma; Jan. 24—at Colorado; Jan. 28—at Oklahoma State; Jan. 31—Missouri.

Feb. 4—Kansas; Feb. 7—at Iowa State; Feb. 11—at Oklahoma; Feb. 14—Colorado; Feb. 18—Kansas State; Feb. 21—at Missouri; Feb. 28—Oklahoma State; Mar. 3—at Kansas; March 6—Iowa State.

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