



Photo by Steve Boerner

UNL Center Larry Cox, who led the Big 8 in field goal percentage last year, hopes to improve his scoring for the upcoming basketball season.

# Pivot wants increased scoring punch

By Jim Hunt

Scoring more points is the major improvement that 6 ft. 6 in. Larry Cox thinks he can make to UNL's basketball team this season.

"We had a good defense last year," Cox said, "but we just couldn't score enough points. We need to have better scoring out of everyone. We can't leave it all up to Jerry (Fort)."

Last season, as a junior, Cox averaged 10.2 points per game and 10.6 points per Big 8 game. Cox also led the Big 8 in field goal accuracy with .589, hitting 93 of 158 shots.

"Larry Cox is a player who works extremely hard to improve himself," said coach Joe Cipriano. "He is a workhorse-type player that never gives up."

Although small for a center, Cox makes up by good defensive position and his long arms, Cipriano said, adding that since Cox

leads UNL's defense, he could be named defensive captain.

**The shorter, the quicker**

"I have always had to play against taller people," said Cox, a Denver native. "It is hard to play against a shorter player because they are a lot quicker."

Cox said he must try to reduce the number of "dumb" fouls he made last year by trying to reach over people for a rebound. Last season Cox was whistled for 100 personal fouls and fouled out of seven games.

"Not have the 30 second clock should help us in keeping some leads," Cox said. However, he added, it might hurt UNL because last year pressure from the defense forced bad shots.

"Larry, a two-year starter, surprised us by learning to play a defensive forward position last year," Cipriano said. "He may not be the most exciting player to watch, but he does everything well."

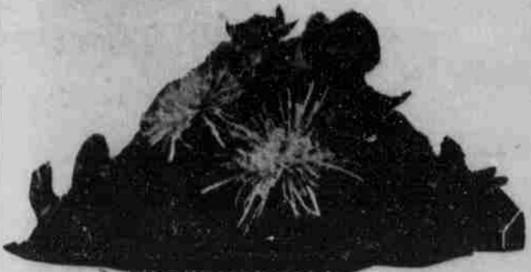
"The coaching staff at UNL is excellent," Cox said. "They have brought me a long way, especially on defense. In high school (Denver's Thomas Jefferson), we didn't concentrate a lot on defense so it took a lot of work. They have been very fair to me."

"UNL was close to the top in the Big 8 last year and I see no reason why the team can't take the Big 8 this season," Cox said. "This year's team will be similar to last year's except it will miss Steve Erwin on defense."

At the end of last season Cox was named to the academic all-Big 8 basketball team.

Cox, who has a 3.28 average in Business Administration, doesn't know his post-graduation plans, but said he would like to get into full time ministry work. He is involved with the Navigators, a religious organization on campus.

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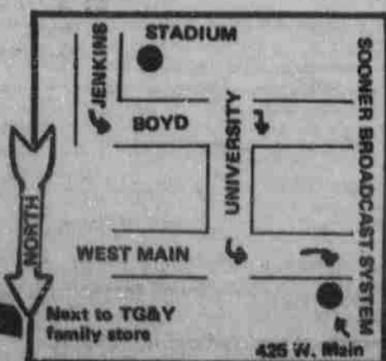
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