

nebraskan sports

UNL cagers have to stop 'The Rocket'

By Scott Jones

Nebraska's basketball team will have to stop "The Rocket" Wednesday when they host St. Mary's College of Moraga, Calif., at 7:35 p.m. in the Coliseum.

"The Rocket" is Ralph Walker, a 6 ft. 3 in. senior forward who averaged 17.1 points a game as a starter last year. Third-year St. Mary's coach Frank LaPorte calls Walker "one of the most exciting players ever to play at St. Mary's."

St. Mary's enters the game with a 0-3 record. They lost 78-71 to California (Santa Barbara), 89-62 to Southern California (USC) and 84-75 to Sacramento State last Saturday.

Kansas State, considered a top contender in the Big 8, also has lost to USC, 81-80.

One other returning starter, Rick Bernard, a 6 ft. 3 in. guard, will join Walker in the starting lineup. Bernard averaged 10.3 points per game last year.

Other St. Mary's starters should be lettermen Joe Appel, 6 ft. 8 in. senior center, Norm Bumgarner, 6 ft. 6 in. junior forward and redshirt Dan Dion, a 6 ft. junior.

The Gaels, a nickname referring to Celtic people, were 14-12 last year and fourth in the west Coast Athletic Conference with a 7-7 record.

LaPorte has a 30-24 record after two years at St. Mary's.

Nebraska head basketball coach Joe Cipriano said Rickey Harris, who grabbed 11 rebounds and scored nine points as a



Photo by Ted Kirk

Husker Bob Siegal shoots during Saturday's 75-63 loss to Washington.

reserve Saturday against Washington, may start against St. Mary's.

Cipriano said the 1-3 Huskers didn't run their offense well and "did a very poor job of blocking off the boards" in losing, 75-63, to Washington Saturday. The Huskies outrebounded Nebraska, 38-23.

Athletic Dept. to leave 30 players home to cut costs

By Larry Stunkel

Band members aren't the only ones UNL's Athletic Dept. couldn't afford to take to the Fiesta Bowl Dec. 26. About 30 Husker football players also will be left behind, Nebraska head coach Tom Osborne said Monday.

Leaving the players home is one of several moves the Athletic Dept. is making to stay within the trip's \$90,000 budget, according to Athletic Director Bob Devaney.

Devaney said the department has cut back around \$10,000 (not including the \$42,000 band cost) by:

- not taking as many players as in past bowl games.

- cutting time spent at the bowl site (from 11 days to seven days). The team leaves for Tempe Dec. 20.

- cutting meal allowances from \$20 a day to \$18 for everyone except football players.

- slicing in half the bonus football coaches usually receive for working over Christmas vacation.

- reducing number of special events (such as entertainment) players and their wives have attended during past bowls. Devaney said players and their wives will attend only those events sponsored by the Fiesta Bowl.

Devaney added they had "dickered" with hotel and plane officials to reduce those costs as much as possible.

Reasons cited by Devaney for cutting costs include reduced revenues from the Fiesta bowl compared to major bowls like the Sugar Bowl or Orange Bowl, the fact that regents directed Devaney to stay within the budget, and the amount of

money the Big 8 Conference allocated to UNL.

According to Devaney, the Big 8 sets the amount of money a school can spend on the bowl trip in relation to proceeds from the bowl. The Big 8 gives the participating school part of the revenues, then divides the remaining money eight ways between conference schools.

He reiterated that the decision not to take the band does not reflect any conflict between the band and the Athletic Dept.

"People must remember the band is not solely an Athletic Dept. function," Devaney said. "It is also a university function. We give as much or more than any university athletic department for the band."

Success factor

"We know they are great and they contribute to the success of our team," he added.

The Athletic Dept. has picked up the band's total tab for a number of years, according to Miles Tommeraaen, vice-chancellor of business and finance. This has included paying for new uniforms, travel and lodging for bowl games and some regular season contests.

"The Athletic Dept. also contributed about \$7,000 to the band's trip to Europe last year," Osborne said. "There weren't any football players on that trip."

Osborne expressed disappointment in being unable to take more players, since some of those staying home "have been practicing all season and haven't had a chance to suit up for any games this year."

Osborne said the bowl game is for the players and should reward a good season.

Transfer swim captain seeks team unity

By Jim Hunt

Team unification is the goal of this year's UNL men's swim captain, Pat DiBiase.

"I hope to be able to pull the team together more," said DiBiase. "I think that a more unified team would help raise our standings in the Big 8."

DiBiase was elected team captain before he had even participated in a meet as a Husker.

The 20-year-old junior from Omaha transferred to UNL after attending Kansas University (KU) for a year.

As a freshman at KU, DiBiase qualified for the NCAA national meet in the

100 and 200 yrd. breaststroke.

Last weekend DiBiase combined with sophomore Bryan Moss and freshman Ed Johnson to win the 300 yd. breaststroke relay and set a new meet record in that event at the Big 8 Relays in Boulder, Colo.

Their 3:02:7 time bettered the old record by five seconds. DiBiase said it was a personal highlight for him because he was a member of the Kansas relay team which established the mark in 1973.

DiBiase said some hardships arose after he transferred.

First, he lost a year of eligibility and was forced to sit out a year of competition because he transferred to another Big 8

school.

He then sold his car to raise money to stay in school, since he was not on scholarship at UNL last year.

Although he was ineligible, he was allowed to practice with the team. It was hard watching the team leave for a meet and being unable to go along, DiBiase said.

Finding good swimming competition was difficult, he said and added he swam in some AAU meets and qualified for the AAU national meet last spring.

sports shorts

The UNL women's basketball team will travel to Fremont's Midland College tonight for a 7:30 p.m. game.

UNL is 3-1 on the season after defeating Tarkio Saturday.

There will be an intramural basketball managers meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in the Nebraska Union small auditorium.

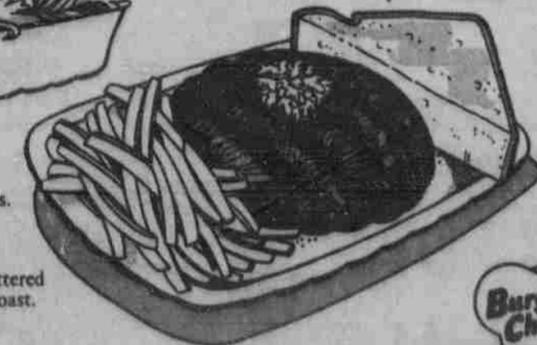
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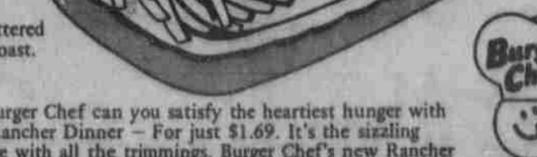
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