

Huskers to try breaking Wildcat winning streak

By Jim Hunt

If UNL's basketball team can win its Big 8 Conference season opener against Kansas State University (KSU) in Manhattan Saturday, it will break the Wildcat's 18 home game winning streak.

"Kansas State is excellent at home and we will have to play one of our best games to win," UNL head coach Joe Cipriano said.

Cipriano scouted KSU at the Big 8 preseason tournament, when the Wildcats took third, and each team member shot over 50 per cent.

Guards Chuckie Williams and Mike Evans lead KSU. Williams, a 6 ft. 3 in. All-Big 8 selection last year as a junior, will enter the game with a 22.9 scoring average. Evans, a 6 ft. 1 in. sophomore, is averaging 15 points a game.

On the front line, the Wildcats have 6 ft. 10 in. center Carl Gerlach, 6 ft. 5 in. forward Darryl Winston and 6 ft. 6 in. forward Bobby Noland.

Gerlach, a three-year letterman, is averaging 10.8 points a game and leads the team's rebounding with an 8.9 per game average. Winston is averaging 12 points a game.

Larry Dassic, a 6 ft. 5 in. junior college transfer from Dodge City Community College, is averaging five points per game as a substitute forward.

Jumping team

"Most of their shooting comes from their guards," Cipriano said. "They are a good jumping team with Winston, and Gerlach is much improved over last year."

Cipriano said KSU plays a zone defense but occasionally presses man-to-man.

The Huskers enter the game with a 9-4 record, winning their last four games and eight of their last nine. Not since the 1965 record of 8-2, have the Huskers entered the Big 8 season with such a good start.

Two-time All-Big 8 guard Jerry Fort and center Larry Cox lead the Huskers. Fort, a 6 ft. 3 in. senior from Chicago, is averaging 18.6 points a game. Cox, a 6 ft. 6 in. senior from Denver, averages 14.1 points a game and ranks among the nation's top shooters, hitting 70 per cent of his shots. Cox also is UNL's leading rebounder, averaging 6.5

a game.

Other Husker starters are: Bob Siegel, a 6 ft. 7 in. junior forward from Fairbury, who averages 9.8 points a game; Allen Holder, a 6 ft. 3 in. forward from Las Vegas, averaging 6.2 points; and Steve Willis, a 5 ft. 11 in. guard from Indianapolis, averaging 6.2.

Impressive at tournament

"UNL, I thought, was very impressive at the Big 8 tournament," said Kansas State head coach Jack Hartman. "They are playing outstanding defense and are getting good scoring from their front-line people."

The Wildcats lead the series between the two schools, 81-59. The teams met three times last year with Kansas State winning two, 80-63 at the Big 8 tournament and 65-64 at Manhattan. The Huskers took a 74-61 win in Lincoln.

UNL had the last win over KSU in Manhattan in a 1974 58-54 victory. The Wildcats have compiled a 236-45 record in Ahearn Fieldhouse since its opening in 1950.

The Manhattan clash will be the Big 8 Game of the Week. The telecast starts at 1 p.m. with tipoff at 1:10 p.m. on KMTV, Channel 3. Radio broadcast of the game may be heard on KFOR, KLIN and KFAB.

Other Big 8 games Saturday send Kansas to Missouri, Iowa State to Oklahoma State and Oklahoma to Colorado.

nebraskan sports

Gym team expects contest for second

By Susie Reitz

The UNL women's gymnastics team is expected to be a close contender for second place with South Dakota State University (SDSU) at the SDSU four-team meet Saturday, UNL coach Karen Balke said.

Grandview College of Iowa, which scored 99 points in its season opener, is expected to take first, she said, but UNL's 10-member team could score close to the top. Augustana College of Sioux Falls, S.D. also will compete.

"This is the best team I've had—they work well under pressure and compete well," she said.

Evidence of the team's ability is the school record of 87.31 points scored to win the Emporia (Kan.) State College meet in December. In that meet, UNL beat Central Missouri State University (CMSU) for the first time, Balke said. CMSU had 77.42 points, Emporia State 73.11 and Wichita State University 61.41.

UNL took the meet's top three places in vaulting and the balance beam.

Barb Baker, a freshman criminal justice major from Omaha, won both events and the all-around competition. In the uneven parallel bars, Kathi Ruddick, a sophomore nursing major from Omaha, placed first.

Other top Husker finishers include: Vaulting—Mary Scott, Omaha freshman studying elementary education, finished second and Cindy Anderson, an Omaha freshman German major, third; balance beam—Carol Lundeen, Holdrege junior studying nursing, finished second and Anderson, third.

Sophomore athletic training major Sandy Czeplewski of Grand Island injured an ankle in the meet, but will be ready to compete Saturday, Balke said.

Wrestlers face Missouri Saturday

By Pete Wegman

Although the Big 8 Conference wrestling championships are more than a month away, UNL's wrestling squad may determine Saturday night how it finishes in the six-team meet.

Iowa State University (ISU), Oklahoma State University (OSU) and Oklahoma University (OU) appear to have clinched the top three positions—all three are rated in the nation's top ten—with Missouri and Nebraska battling for the fourth position.

Missouri University's (MU) Tigers, honorable mention in the Amateur Wrestling News ratings, will face UNL in the Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

"It's a toss-up right now between us and them," said UNL coach Orval Borgialli.

"Missouri might have a little better athletes, but our kids have a tremendous mental attitude. Psyche is about 80 per cent of wrestling, and I think we're psychologically ready."

The Huskers have not wrestled since a loss to second-ranked ISU Dec. 13 in Ames. The month layoff should help the Huskers, Borgialli said.

on record

Faulty flooring delays use of the new basketball court

By Larry Stunkel

Don't hold your breath waiting for the UNL basketball team to play its first game in the new sports complex. It may be a while.

The basketball area isn't that far from completion. In fact, it had been hoped the Huskers would play their first game in the new building Jan. 21. The seating, wiring, plumbing and entrances in the building now are near completion. But the basketball court is not ready.

It seems that last November when the floor was about to be laid, the sub-flooring (the series of boards and other materials that provide the main foundation for the actual playing surface) failed inspection and had to be returned.

By the time the new materials arrived, the man who was supposed to lay the floor had another job.

Once the man arrives, it still will take four to six weeks to lay the court. Then the floor will have to be marked, sealed and polished before play can begin.

More optimistic UNL officials set the coliseum completion date in time for the State High School Basketball Tournament in March.

The remaining parts of the structure (indoor track, swimming pool, wrestling room and locker rooms) are expected to be completed by January 1977—two years behind the original completion date of January 1975.

Husker football coach Tom Osborne gained some nice guy points when he said he would not accept a \$3,000-plus salary increase recommended by UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney, prompting the NU Board of Regents at its last meeting to vote down the extraordinary merit salary raises for the coaching staff.

A story in the Jan. 10 Omaha World-Herald indicated Osborne made the decision with respect to the salary situation of the rest of the UNL faculty. However, Osborne and his staff did receive the five per cent plus \$480 approved by the regents last fall.

Despite the raise, Osborne still ranks fifth compared with salaries of other Big 8 Conference football coaches. Before the raise he ranked seventh, even though his teams have been first and second in the Big 8 standings.

It's tough to feel sorry for someone who makes more than \$30,000 annually as Osborne does, but remember that he is recognized by his fellow coaches as one of the nation's best.

Each of his teams has finished in the nation's top ten, and all have made bowl appearances.

However, the new football coach at Florida State University (a team that has only won two games in two years), will be paid about \$37,000. A quick check of the average coaches' salaries among the nation's top ten football teams, probably would reveal that Osborne ranks far below the mean. But then, winning isn't everything.

Money is tight, according to Devaney. Devaney may have a tough time telling the Nebraska Legislature how much money the Athletic Dept. needs after the salary increases he proposed.



Photo by Kevin Higley

The seats are done, but the new coliseum won't be ready until at least March because of a delay in installing the floor.