

Huskers seeking national ranking, Big 8 lead

By Jim Hunt

A possible national ranking and the Big 8 Conference basketball lead will be on the line when UNL battles the nationally ranked Missouri University (MU) Tigers Saturday at 7:35 p.m. before a sellout crowd in the Coliseum.

The Huskers enter the game with a record of 4-0 in Big 8 play and 13-4 overall. The team has won its last eight games, the longest streak since the eight-game winning string of the 1948-49 Husker squad. The latest victory was a 52-48 win over Oklahoma State University Wednesday night at Stillwater.

Senior guard Jerry Fort led the Huskers in scoring against the Cowboys with 16 points. Junior forward Bob Siegel added 13.

All the Husker conference wins have been by six points or less.

Missouri enters Saturday's game with a 4-0 record in Big 8 play and has a record of 16-2 overall. The Tigers, ranked 13th and 14th in the latest AP and UPI polls, respectively, are fresh from a 72-58 win over Oklahoma Wednesday.

The 14-point win over Oklahoma was the Tigers' closest Big 8 game this season.

MU's only losses came at the hands of Hawaii and

defending NCAA champion UCLA.

The Tigers won the December Big 8 preseason tournament in Kansas City for the fourth time in the past five years.

Tigers led by Smith

MU is led by All-Big 8 guard Willie Smith. Smith, a 6 ft. 2 in. senior from Las Vegas, is a transfer student from Seminole (Okla.) Junior College, the same junior college Husker forward Allen Holder attended.

Smith is scoring 23.9 points a game after averaging 22.4 points a game last year, his first at MU.

The other MU starting guard is 6 ft. 3 in. junior Jeff Currie. He has averaged 5.9 points a game. Stan Ray, 6 ft. 9 in. freshman, starts at center. The 19-year-old is the leading Tiger rebounder and has scored 10.1 points a game.

The junior forwards are 6 ft. 8 in. Kim Anderson and 6 ft. 6 in. Jim Kennedy, both double-figure scorers. They have tallied 14.9 and 17.3 points a game, respectively.

The Tigers are coached by Norm Stewart, named the 1974-75 NCAA District Five coach of the year. Stewart is 10-8 against the Huskers in his nine years at MU.

Fort scores well against MU

UNL is led by Fort, a two-time All-Big 8 guard. Fort, a 6 ft. 3 in. senior from Chicago, is averaging 19.5 points overall and 22.5 points in Big 8 play and has had some high-scoring games against the Tigers. He hit 40 points last year in the Coliseum for the Husker one-game scoring record. Fort also scored 33 points against the Tigers his sophomore year.

Other Husker starters are Junior forwards Holder and Siegel, senior guard Steve Willis and senior center Larry Cox.

A year ago the Huskers, 4-0 in the Big 8, traveled to

Columbia to face the Tigers, 2-2 in conference play. Missouri pulled off a mild upset, defeating the Huskers, 88-74.

Game sold out

The loss marked the beginning of a Husker tailspin in which the team lost three of four games, dropping out of Big 8 title contention.

Three weeks later the Huskers gained revenge, beating the Tigers, 80-77, in Lincoln and upping Cipriano's career mark against MU to 14-13.

Saturday's game has been sold out since Wednesday, but radio broadcast of the game may be heard on KFAB, KLIN, KFOR and KRNU-FM.

sports shorts

UNL's wrestling team, unable to overcome an early 22-4 deficit, lost to the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Mavericks 24-18 Thursday night, despite getting three wins and a draw in the last four matches.

UNL, weakened by injuries in the lighter weights this season, ran into trouble early when Mike Vranich, 118 lbs., and Pat Arthur, 134 lbs., were decisioned and Kurt Kinney, 126 lbs., was pinned, giving UNO a 13-0 lead.

Tony Jennings, 142 lbs., Mark Borer, 167 lbs., and Bill Hoffman, 177 lbs., won by decision for the Huskers. Bob Johnson, 190 lbs., recorded UNL's only pin. Heavyweight Bruce Conger wrestled to a draw in the final match.

Two UNL men's teams take to the road this weekend. The track team will meet Kansas and Oklahoma Universities today in Lawrence. Husker swimmers face Missouri University and Southern Illinois University Saturday in Columbia.

The UNL women's basketball team hosts Midland College at 7:30 tonight in the Women's Physical Education Bldg. The squad improved to 9-5 with a 76-55 win over the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) Wednesday. Sophomore forward Sherry Brink led the Huskers with 22 points. Freshmen Darcy Williamson and Kathy Foley added 14 and 13 points, respectively.

on record

Telecasts are impractical; ticket policy needs altering

By Larry Stunkel

It seems strange that Milligan State Sen. Richard Maresh, author of LB828, which calls for closed-circuit telecasting of sellout UNL home football games, told UNL Athletic Director Bob Devaney "not to worry about the cost to the university" from such a project.

What else is Devaney to do except worry about costs, considering the Athletic Dept.'s financial bind, the Nebraska Legislature's overall scrooge-like attitude toward UNL and problems in getting money to maintain the new sports complex?

Devaney, in a Daily Nebraskan story Thursday, explained the problems the proposed telecast would present, such as a NCAA rule restricting telecasts that can be made. In addition, past history of similar closed-circuit telecasts indicate some have failed to generate

sufficient profit.

However, Maresh might be right in saying there is sufficient interest to make such an idea profitable.

Consider the number of ticket requests turned down each year and the people who consequently offer a premium price to scalpers.

It probably is the scalpers (and anyone else who sells football tickets for more than face value) who would suffer the greatest financial loss by such a program.

While there is a need to take advantage of the spectator interest in Nebraska football, the closed-circuit proposal has been poorly thought out and is impractical, if what Devaney says is true.

If the Legislature wants to take action to help generate athletic funds, maybe it should look to other areas.

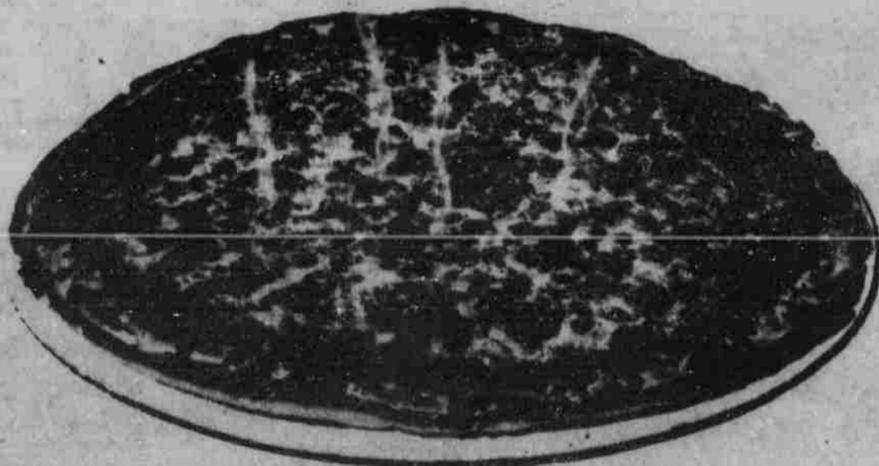
For example, consider the number of free and complimentary tickets given to media, university officials, players and other influential people. I also question the number of tickets university officials and players have the option to buy.

It also wouldn't hurt to suggest an increase in student ticket prices. Admittedly, \$17.50 is a great price for a season ticket, but \$25 isn't that bad compared to \$52.50 for a regular season ticket.

One excuse for not making changes in ticket policy might be the Athletic Dept.'s fear of losing favor with those whom the changes would affect. But then, why should the actions of newspapers, legislators and university officials be dependent on how many free tickets one receives?

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