

nebraskan sports

one at a time

Incompetence encouraged fans' 'sardine philosophy'

By Jim Zalewski

Even though the basketball team fell to an impressive 10th-ranked Missouri University club last Saturday, they can get back in the race by beating Kansas University tonight. But UNL ticket administrators can never recover the respect they lost and explain the general incompetence they displayed Saturday night.

As anyone in the mob (and it was a mob) waiting for the Coliseum doors to open could attest, there was no semblance of order. No lines formed. Bodies wedged together at the sight of any opening, with most people displaying the sardine philosophy.

It's too bad Tom Osborne wasn't in one of the office windows overlooking the crowd. When the doors opened

at 6:30 p.m., he could have discovered numerous new blocking and wedging techniques that might prove beneficial in a future goal-line situation.

Geritol power

And it wasn't just "crazy kids" doing all of the pushing, as one man remarked after reaching safety inside. An elderly husband and wife behind me must have chugged Geritol all day, judging by the mighty shove they put forth once the magic hour arrived.

Cattle travel through stockyard chutes in a more orderly fashion. A man next to me remarked, "Don't fall down, or you'll never get in." If a person fell in that mob, he would be more concerned about living than seeing a basketball game.

Making matters worse, band members crowded to the front and demanded early admittance. They had the best seats in the house, but they had to be first.

And where were the men in blue? If you don't completely halt at a stop sign, three cruiser cars appear out of nowhere. But there was no evidence of anyone with authority trying to organize the teeming mass.

More questions appear to have no reasonable answers. Why wait until 6:30 p.m. to open the doors? If people want to arrive at 5:30 p.m. and sit down, why not let them? And there was no preliminary game to entertain the sellout crowd.

Upbeat strains

Early entrants who jockeyed for strategic seating positions were treated to musical strains from the crack Missouri pep band. Reminiscent of a group one would see at a Holiday Inn lounge or a cheap bar, they played such swinging, upbeat tunes as *Kansas City* and *Love Will Keep Us Together*.

If there was a drastic time shortage because of that afternoon's gymnastics meet, why couldn't the meet have been moved up an hour or two? Noon is not an inordinate time for athletes or fans.

The UNL Athletic Dept. attempted to handle a major college basketball game and failed miserably. UNL never will host the Midwest regionals in the new sports center with the crowd control policies displayed Saturday.

It's past time for the Athletic Dept. to escape their football mentality and realize that a significant number of people also care about other sports. Basketball fans and other sports fans should be guaranteed the orderly entrance and exit that football fans have enjoyed for years.

Huskies braced for KU attack

By Jim Hunt

Coach Joe Cipriano and the UNL basketball team tonight will try to accomplish something they haven't done very often against a Kansas University (KU) basketball team—win.

The Huskers will meet the Jayhawks tonight at 7:35 in the Coliseum hoping to collect their first victory over KU since the 1972-73 season. KU has taken seven straight games from the Huskers, including a 69-66 victory during the Big 8 Conference tournament this season.

The Huskers will try to bounce back from last Saturday's 62-57 loss to Missouri, which dropped them to second in the Big 8 standings with a record of 4-1. They are 13-5 overall.

"I think we can come back against KU," two-time All-Big 8 guard Jerry Fort said. "We just have to keep our heads up."

The Jayhawks are coming off a 62-57 win over cross-state rival Kansas State University, which vaulted them into a third-place tie with the Wildcats—with a 3-2 Big 8 record.

"KU is going to come in here fired up," Cipriano said. "After last Saturday's win over Kansas State, they know they are in a contender's role."

"KU is a big, strong and physical team, with a front line that averages 6 ft. 10 in. We will have to play at our best to beat a tall and talented KU team."

KU is led by 6 ft. 9 in. junior forward Norm Cook. Cook, a member of the United States Pan-American team, is averaging 14 points and seven rebounds a game. Cipriano called Cook one of the finest players in the country.

Other KU starters are Ken Koenigs, a 6 ft. 10 in. sophomore averaging 10 points a game, 7 ft. freshman center Paul Mokeski, averaging 11 points a game and sophomore

guards Clint Johnson and Milt Gibson.

Leading the Huskers will be Fort, who has averaged 20.4 points a game in Big 8 play, and Bob Siegel, a 6 ft. 7 in. junior from Fairbury, whose conference average is 11 points and 5.6 rebounds a game.

The Coliseum will open for the game at 4:45 p.m. with an intramural preliminary game starting at 5:15 p.m. The game is expected to be sold out, but radio broadcasts may be heard on KFAB, KLIN, KFOR and KRNU-FM.

sports shorts

The UNL Rugby Club will practice tonight and Friday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Schulte Fieldhouse. Anyone interested in playing is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Larry Griffing, 432-2662.

Applications still are available at the Recreation Dept., 1740 Vine St., for a ski touring trip to Boulder, Colo., Feb. 12 through 15. Cost is \$35. A meeting is today at 4:30 p.m. at the Recreation Dept.

UNL's swim team saw its dual record dip to 2-3 with losses to Missouri University (MU) and Southern Illinois University (SIU) last Saturday. Pat DiBiase, undefeated in duals, defeated both MU and SIU in the 200-yard breaststroke. John Dahir beat MU in the 200-yard butterfly and Dave Watermeier took first against SIU and second against MU in both the required and optional one-meter diving.

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