

Women cagers suffer 'obscurity'

By Scott Jones

George Nicodemus' problem is similar to that of the guy who invented the wheel. He can't convince the public that he has something they would like.

Nicodemus will display his invention, UNL's women's basketball team, next Tuesday against Wayne State College at 7:45 p.m. in the Coliseum. The scheduled game with St. Mary's College this Saturday has been canceled.

"A lot of people don't really know how good these kids are," Nicodemus said. "I'm probably a little prejudiced, but I know when players are good."

Indeed he should. Nicodemus coached two national Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) championship women's teams at Wahoo's J.F. Kennedy College before coming to Nebraska. He said he believes UNL has similar potential.

National title potential

"I've seen a lot of good teams and players in the U.S. and other countries," he said, "and we're capable of winning the national title."

"Nebraska basketball is not that big, but a lot of people don't realize Nebraska has a lot of potentially great women athletes," he said. "It will never get as big as in Iowa until the news media cover it as well as in Iowa."

Larger crowds also would help, he added.

"When we play at home, we get about 100 people," he said. "We went to Cozad (last Saturday to play Colorado) and had more than 700 people come to watch us. The UNL student population is four times that of Cozad, he said.

"The only thing we've got to do to be national champions is cut down on turnovers and shoot about 45 per

cent," which is well within UNL's capabilities, Nicodemus said. "Our only shortcoming is a lack of height."

The team now is 12-5, after winning four straight. To counteract what he called their lack of size, the team has developed a running game.

Foul trouble

"We have to run," Nicodemus said. "Crouch (Jan, a 5 ft. 11 in. freshman center) is the only big player we've got, and she has a tendency to get in foul trouble."

Nebraska used the fast break to ultimate advantage Tuesday in a 81-29 romp over South Dakota State University. Nicodemus said guard Kathy Hawkins, Omaha junior, had a "super game" with 18 points, four assists and 10 steals.

Darcy Williamson, an Arapahoe freshman, scored 16 points, followed by Lincoln freshman Brenda Lightbody with 11.

Hawkins and sophomore Sherry Brink, Lincoln forward, "have been playing great," Nicodemus said. In weekend wins over Midland College and Colorado University, Brink scored 14 and 17 points, respectively. Hawkins had 20- and 10-point productions in those games.

Williamson leads UNL in scoring with 13.5 points a game, followed by Hawkins at 12.4 and Brink at 11.8.

Nicodemus said UNL must stop Wayne State's "super ball players," Pat McKay and Connic Kunzman, to avenge an earlier 68-53 loss at Wayne.

McKay, a 6 ft. 2 in. freshman, scored 29 points and Kunzman, 6 ft. sophomore, 23 in that game.

UNL hosts state lifting meet

By Jim Hunt

UNL's weightlifting team will sponsor the 1976 Nebraska State Olympic Weightlifting Championships this Saturday at the Coliseum.

It will be the first time the meet has ever been in Lincoln, said UNL strength coach Boyd Epley. The meet traditionally has been in Omaha.

The meet is the first of three to be in Lincoln, according to Epley. The Nebraska Powerlifting Championships will be in the Men's Physical Education Bldg. April 10, and the Mr. Nebraska Physique Contest will be at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets, April 24.

Epley said special guest at the Mr. Nebraska Physique Contest will be Pat Neve, Mr. USA.

Weigh-ins for Saturday's meet will begin at 8:30 a.m., with competition starting at 10 a.m. Lifts are the two-handed snatch and the clean-and-jerk.

Competition will include the 114, 123, 132, 148, 165, 181, 198, 242 and superheavy weight classes.

The meet is open to Nebraska residents who are registered with the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Applications for AAU membership may be obtained at the meet for \$3.

Awards will be presented to the top three finishers in each class. Awards also will be presented to the outstanding lifter in the light and heavy divisions. Trophies will be presented to the top three teams.

The top finishers at Saturday's meet will go on to the Region VII championships and possibly the Olympic trials.

Epley said he expects 30 to 50 entries. Among the favorites are Omahan Jack Sempek in the 198-pound division and Jerry Hannan, UNL discus record holder, in the superheavy division, Epley said.

There will be a \$7 entry fee for competitors registering Saturday.

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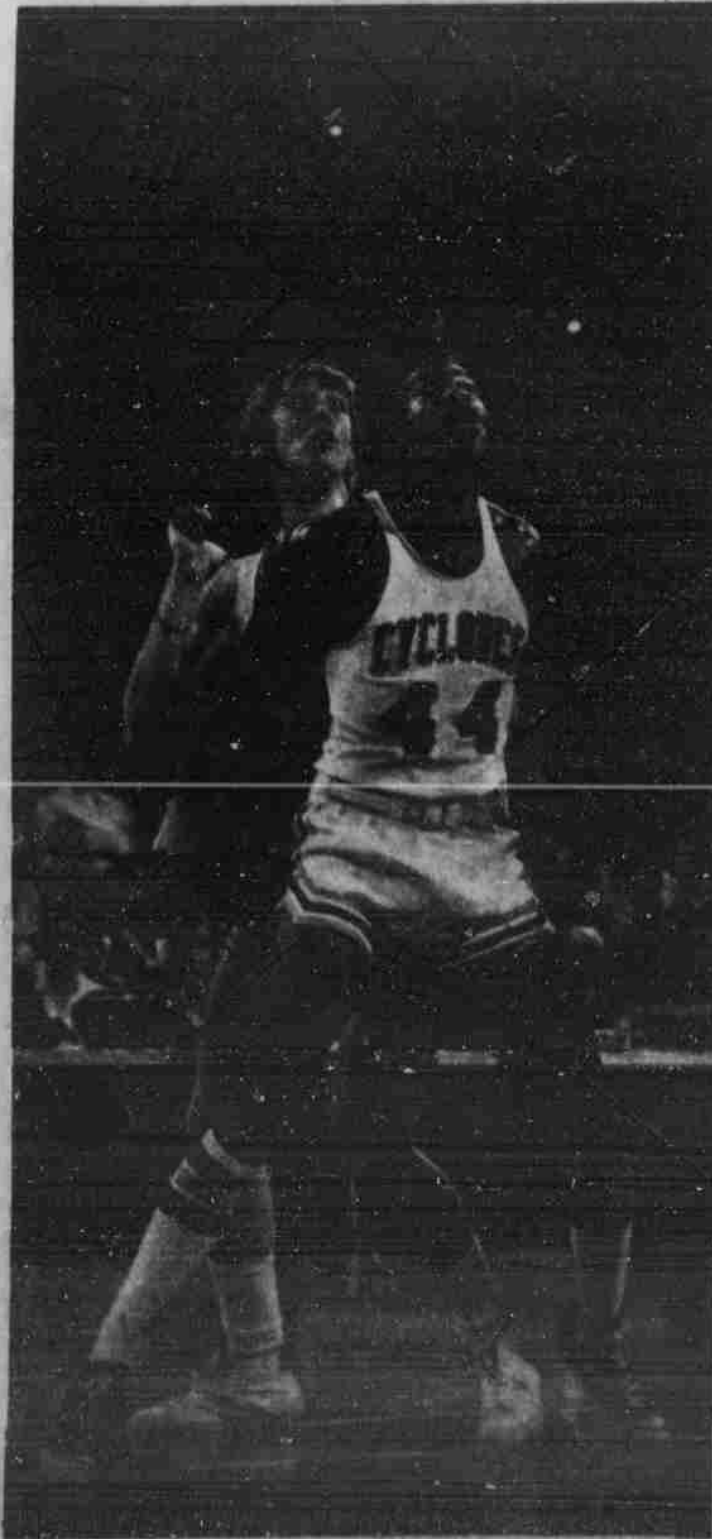


Photo by Kevin High
Iowa State forward Art Johnson (44), shown here in the Big 8 Conference tournament, will pose a double threat as the Cyclones take on Nebraska Saturday in Ames.

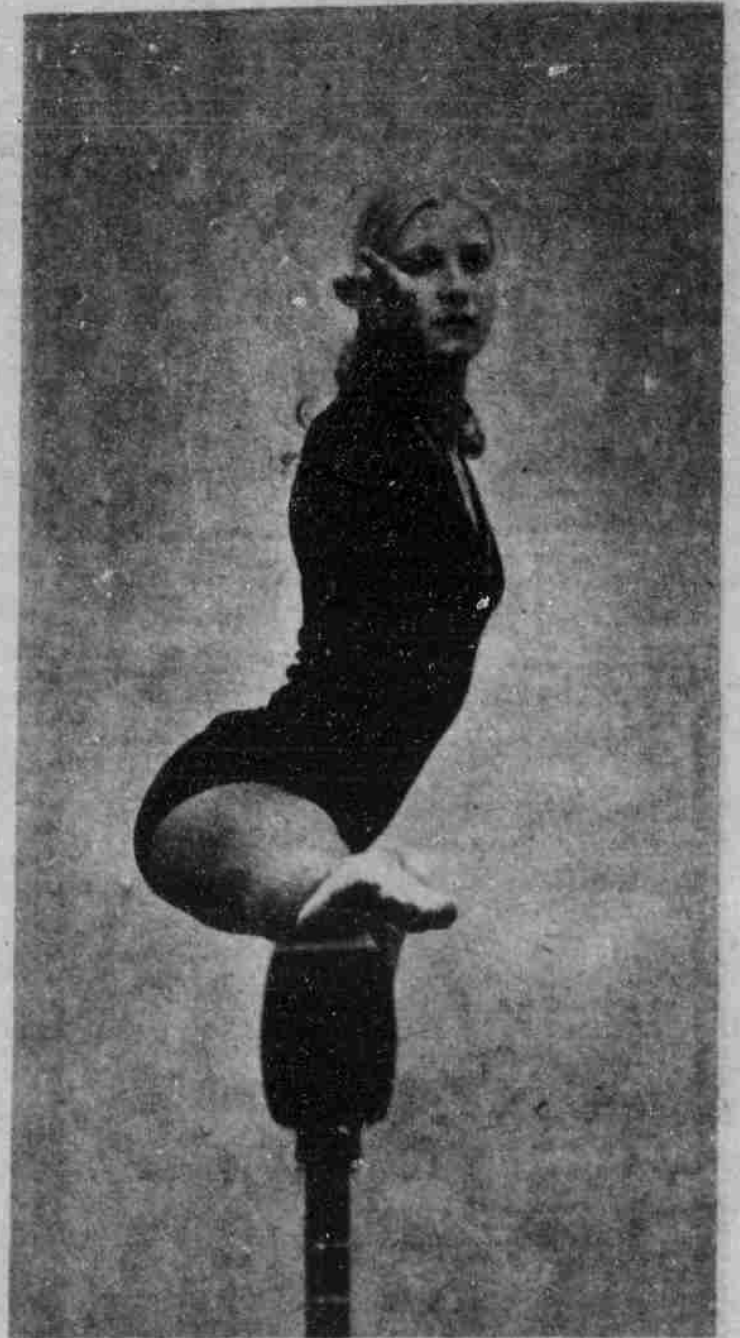


Photo by Ted Kirk

Junior Carol Lundeen of Holdrege will be one of the Husker gymnasts competing against Oklahoma State and Iowa Universities Saturday. The meet starts at 10:30 a.m. in Women's Physical Education Bldg. 119.

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Two openings remain for the ski touring trip to Boulder, Colo., Feb. 12 to 15. Cost is \$35 per person. Interested persons should contact the Recreation Office, 472-3467.

The UNL men's track, gymnastics and wrestling teams take to the road this weekend. Tracksters travel to East Lansing for the Michigan State University Relays Saturday. Gymnasts and wrestlers will take on Southern Illinois and Northwest Missouri Universities, respectively, both on Saturday.

The UNL Rugby Club is practicing Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Schulte Fieldhouse. Anyone interested in playing is invited. For more information, contact Larry Griffing, 432-2662.

The women's tennis team will have an organizational meeting at 4 p.m. Monday in Women's Physical Education Bldg. 313. For more information, call coach Gail Whitaker, 472-3926.

The women's rugby team will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Nebraska Union. For more information, contact Liz, 489-1581, or Marsha, 489-2790.

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Women's athletic funds rise despite low 'people power'

By Larry Stunkel

Aleen Swofford, UNL women's athletic director, said she has been pleased with the financial support the women's program has received from Lincoln.

Local banks and businesses have provided the bulk of the support which Swofford called "fantastic."

"We need more public response from out-state Nebraska," Swofford said. "We've hit Lincoln real well, but we're running out of people power."

Among efforts to reach out-state supporters was the recent marathon the women ran to five cities. This, along with a Winter Olympics event sponsored by Uncle Sams discolnetique raised \$1,800.

"The local media picked us up real well in the cities we visited," Swofford said. "Lately we've written letters to every woman physical education graduate who has moved out-state and out-of-state."

Swofford said the marathon and olympics were just two of five events the women's athletic program is sponsoring to raise money this semester.

Currently, the women are sponsoring a raffle, in which

the grand prize is a trip for two to the Nebraska Hawaii football game Dec. 4. The drawing will be Feb. 15.

Also on Feb. 15, a radio station will challenge women athletics in a basketball game in the Coliseum, followed by a sock hop. A local electronics dealer will furnish equipment for the dance.

Finally, a benefit dinner at one of the local hotels is in the planning stages, Swofford said.

She said she hopes to raise \$50,000 through the projects.

The Women's Athletic Dept. also has asked the Nebraska Legislature for \$70,000, but Swofford said the women's budget was one line on which cuts have been proposed.

Whether Swofford's efforts to raise money are successful, no one can accuse the Women's Athletic Dept. of dragging its feet and taking money from men's programs.

Swofford and Jay Davis, women's sports information director, along with other workers, have done a commendable job of drumming up support.