

# Can cagers make a comeback?

Coach Joe Cipriano will try to get his team back on the winning track Saturday when UNL's basketball team hosts Colorado University (CU) in a 7:35 p.m. game at the Coliseum.

The Huskers will be trying to rebound from a 65-60 loss to Oklahoma University Wednesday night that dropped the Huskers to 6-2 in the Big 8 Conference play and a tie for second place with Kansas State.

The Huskers will need a win to keep up with Missouri University, which took a 72-71 victory over Oklahoma State University Wednesday. The Tigers, now 7-1 in Big 8

play, host Iowa State University Saturday.

"Colorado is a good team that has not gotten many breaks this year," Cipriano said. "Dave Logan is a fine athlete who can hurt you if you give him the chance. Even though Colorado's record is not impressive, they are still a very competitive team and we will have to come up with a total team effort to beat them."

CU is led by two-sport star Logan. The 6 ft. 5 in. senior guard is averaging 14 points and 6.5 rebounds a game.

Other starters for the Buffs are guard Jay Sferra, forwards Greg Mueller and Dave Bolen and center Larry Vaculik.

Vaculik, a 6 ft. 8 in. sophomore from Omaha Ryan High School, is averaging 8.3 points and seven rebounds a game.

"As a team, we've returned to the same form we were in last December," CU coach Sox Walseth said. "We're playing sloppy basketball and making mental errors. Losing all those one- and two-point conference games that we did has certainly taken its toll."

Colorado is 4-16 on the season and 1-7 in Big 8 play but has lost five games by less than five points.

The Huskers are led by Jerry Fort. Fort, a 6 ft. 3 in. guard from Chicago, is averaging 19.9 points a game. He hit 20 points in the loss to Oklahoma.

CU leads the series with the Huskers 43-30. The two teams have met once this season, with the Huskers taking a 66-64 victory in Boulder.

# nebraskan sports

## Uphill dash awaits Husker trackmen

By Dennis Onnen

The Nebraska track team is no longer the Big 8 Conference doormat, but the Huskers do not appear quite ready to step across the threshold and regain the indoor crown they won in 1972 and 1973.

After a last-place finish in the Big 8 indoor meet last spring, the Huskers showed they were on the way back with a 92-39 win over Iowa State University (ISU) in the opening meet Jan. 24. However, they lost a triangular meet to Oklahoma University and defending Big 8 champion Kansas University one week later.

"This is a very strong year in the conference," said John Korky, UNL assistant track coach. "To finish in the upper division is not going to be an easy thing."

Although several Huskers have marks that put them in UNL's all-time top ten, some may be hard pressed to place high in the conference meet. Sophomore Dean Herzog of Lansing, Kan., exemplifies the Huskers' frustrations.

He highjumped 6 ft. 11 in. in the ISU meet, the highest ever for a Husker, indoors or outdoors. But he stands only third in the conference. Missouri University freshman Nat Page has cleared 7 ft. 1 in. twice and ISU's Steve Kuehl has jumped 7 ft.

In the triangular meet, sophomore Steve Millard of No. Bellmore, N.Y., hurled the shot put 54 ft. 4 3/4 in., fourth best in Husker history. Yet he placed fifth in the meet.

Three other Huskers, now ranked third on the all-time charts, are sophomore David Green of Jamaica, who has jumped 49 ft. 8 in. in the triple jump, freshman Doug Phelps of Hastings, who high jumped 6 ft. 10 in. and sophomore Harold Stelzer of Scituate, Mass., who ran 8:52.1 in the two mile.

The Huskers next see action Saturday against the Air Force Academy and Utah University in Colorado Springs, Colo. Korky said Air Force has lost just one of its last 15 home duals and will be tough to beat.

## sports shorts

UNL women athletes will take on KFMQ radio disc jockeys in a basketball game at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in the Coliseum. After the game there will be a raffle drawing, followed by a sock hop. The events are planned to raise money for the Women's Athletic Dept.

Center Rik Bonness and wingback Tom Heiser have been named to the 1975 All-America football team.

A money-raising aquathon will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon to help send members of the UNL women's swim team to the national meet in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Team members will swim a maximum of 200 laps apiece in the 25-yard Women's Physical Education Bldg. pool. Coach Pat Sullivan said she hopes to raise \$1,000.

Independents Steve and Dave Kramer, senior and sophomore from Lincoln, respectively, won the intramural paddleball doubles championship Tuesday night.

## on record

# American's Olympic talent undermined by pro sports

By Larry Stunkel

For those who bemoan the United States Olympic team's lag behind the Soviet Union and East Germany, in the Winter Olympics, at Innsbruck, Austria, there is one explanation:

Professionalism.

Unlike the United States, Russia and East Germany have no professional sports. Thus, top athletes in those countries compete in a number of Olympics, while some American amateurs graduate to the rich fields of professional sports after one Olympic outing.

American sports, which have no professional hierarchy, generally lack competitive interest.

Sports like bobsledding, luge and ski jumping are basically hobbies in the United States. In other countries, they can be obsessions.

The Russian hockey team, which defeated the United States 6-2 last Friday, is comprised of Russian army veterans. Some have been playing for more than 10 years.

However, the American hockey team, organized last August, is comprised mostly of college students. Some are only 19-years old.

Russia's Olympic team is composed of players from the two Russian teams that toured the United States last fall

## Correction

The proposed rate increase for single rooms in UNL residence halls is \$50, from \$1,490 to \$1,540, according to UNL Housing Director Richard Armstrong. Monday's Daily Nebraskan incorrectly reported that the increase for single rooms would be \$35. That figure is the increase for double rooms, which will be raised from \$1,190 to \$1,225, Armstrong said.

and beat many of the top National Hockey League (NHL) clubs.

The Russian team is made of the country's best hockey players—the best American players are in the NHL and World Hockey League.

The Russian team stays organized since team members are stationed at the same base. This may seem unfair, but the United States could do the same thing if the top players could be convinced to enlist.

Figure skating is another area. The Russian couples champion were in their tenth year of international competition. American stars eventually turn professional, like Peggy Fleming, the last American figure skater to win a gold medal.

Another factor is that Russia and the Eastern European countries give their athletes greater subsidies than the United States does.

It costs an American athlete a lot of money to compete and train in most sports, like skiing and skating. The United States Olympic Committee practically begs for money just to send these athletes to the games.

An amateur athlete who remains an amateur in the United States really has nothing to gain. Glory doesn't buy much food.

# Confidence is swimmer's key

By Jim Hunt

Confidence is the key to success for UNL distance swimmer Pat Murphy.

"Sometimes I underestimate my ability," said the sophomore from Coronado, Calif. "But I am beginning to realize that if you don't believe in yourself you shouldn't be swimming."

Murphy said he came to UNL because he said he thought he had a better chance of swimming here than at some of what he called powerful California schools.

Last year as a freshman, Murphy placed sixth in the 1,650-yard freestyle in the Big 8 Conference meet.

"Being a freshman, I was kind of nervous," Murphy said. "I might have a chance to win this year, but I am shooting more for a good time to qualify for the national meet."

Murphy said he wants to have one of the top times in the 1,000-yard freestyle going into the Big 8 meet because the top six times are seeded in the men's 1,650-yard event.

He said it is harder psychologically to train since he is

the only distance man on the squad.

Murphy and the rest of coach John Reta's swimmers will be in action tonight at Lawrence, Kan., in a meet with Colorado and defending Big 8 champion Kansas Universities.

"Kansas is a team with a lot of versatility and depth," Reta said. "They are led by Tom Kempf, who can swim anything from the 1,000-yard freestyle down to the 200-yard freestyle."

One of the featured races in the meet should be the 200-yard breaststroke, Reta said. The race will include swimmers with the top three times in the Big 8. Huskers Pat DiBlase and Bryan Moss rank first and third respectively, and Jed Blankenship of Kansas ranks second.

After Friday's meet, the Huskers travel to Oklahoma University Feb. 20, and Oklahoma State University Feb. 21 before the Big 8 championships at Iowa State University in Ames March 3 through 6.

Reta said that no swimmers from the Big 8 have qualified for the national meet yet.



UNL swimmer Pat DiBlase, junior from Omaha, is the Big 8 Conference leader in the 200-yard breaststroke.

Photo by Steve Beatty

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