

sports

Cagers to debut Saturday in annual Red-White game

UNL basketball coach Joe Cipriano will unveil his 1976-77 basketball squad this Saturday in the annual Red-White clash.

Tipoff is scheduled for 8 p.m. Admission is free.

The Red-White game will be the Huskers only tune-up before they open the regular season Nov. 27 against the University of Iowa.

"The Red-White game will give us some experience," Cipriano said. "We've had so many injuries this year that one team will have six players and the other will have seven. Everyone is going to have to play a lot."

Not in good shape

Cipriano said the Huskers are not in good physical shape. He said he has never seen as many knee injuries in one season.

Rickey Harris, Brian Banks, Carl McPipe and Paul McDonald have been hampered by knee injuries this fall.

Cipriano said Banks has missed about 15 days of practice with his knee injury.

"It hurts any team when you can't keep your five best players together," he said.

Banks said, "I'm just afraid that I might put out more than I should in the Red-White game and hurt my knee again." Banks is a 6 ft. 1 in. sophomore guard from Hammond, Ind.

"I don't want to get hurt the week before the season opens," he added. "If I feel it (the knee) start to go I'm going to get out of the game and rest it."

Banks said he thinks the team will be ready to open the season against Iowa.

"Right now I think we will be ready to play in a week and a half," Banks said. "We still need to get more team oriented and need to play together more. I think we will be ready, if not, Coach Cipriano will get us ready."

Yet Cipriano said he has not determined a starting five.

Junior college players

"I still don't think some of our junior college players—that we feel have a chance of playing for us—are working hard enough," Cipriano said.

Cipriano said his team still isn't ready to start the season.

"We haven't put it together by a long shot," Cipriano said. "We'll have to wait and see how they react in a game situation."

Cipriano said Iowa has an advantage over the Huskers because Big 10 Conference teams are allowed to play three intrasquad games before the season where Big 8 teams are allowed just one intrasquad game.

The Red team will include forward Bob Siegel and Val Martin, forward-guards Allen Holder and Terry Novak, centers Carl McPipe and Curt Hedberg and guard Brian Banks.

The White team includes centers Rickey Harris and Herman "Bo" Jackson, forwards Stanley "Skeeter" Jackson and Mark McVicker, and guards Eric Coard, Paul McDonald and James Caldwell.

The game also will be the team's first formal appearance in the new UNL Sports Complex. Banks said the new complex is better than the Coliseum, where games had been played.

"The complex has a lot better lighting," he said. "It also has a nice jumping floor, it has real good footing."

"The Coliseum floor was real slippery. It seemed like I wore out a pair of shoes every three days there."

Cipriano said the move may mean the team loses some of the home court advantage it enjoyed in the cramped Coliseum.

But the degree of home court advantage will depend on how many attend games in the new Complex, he said.

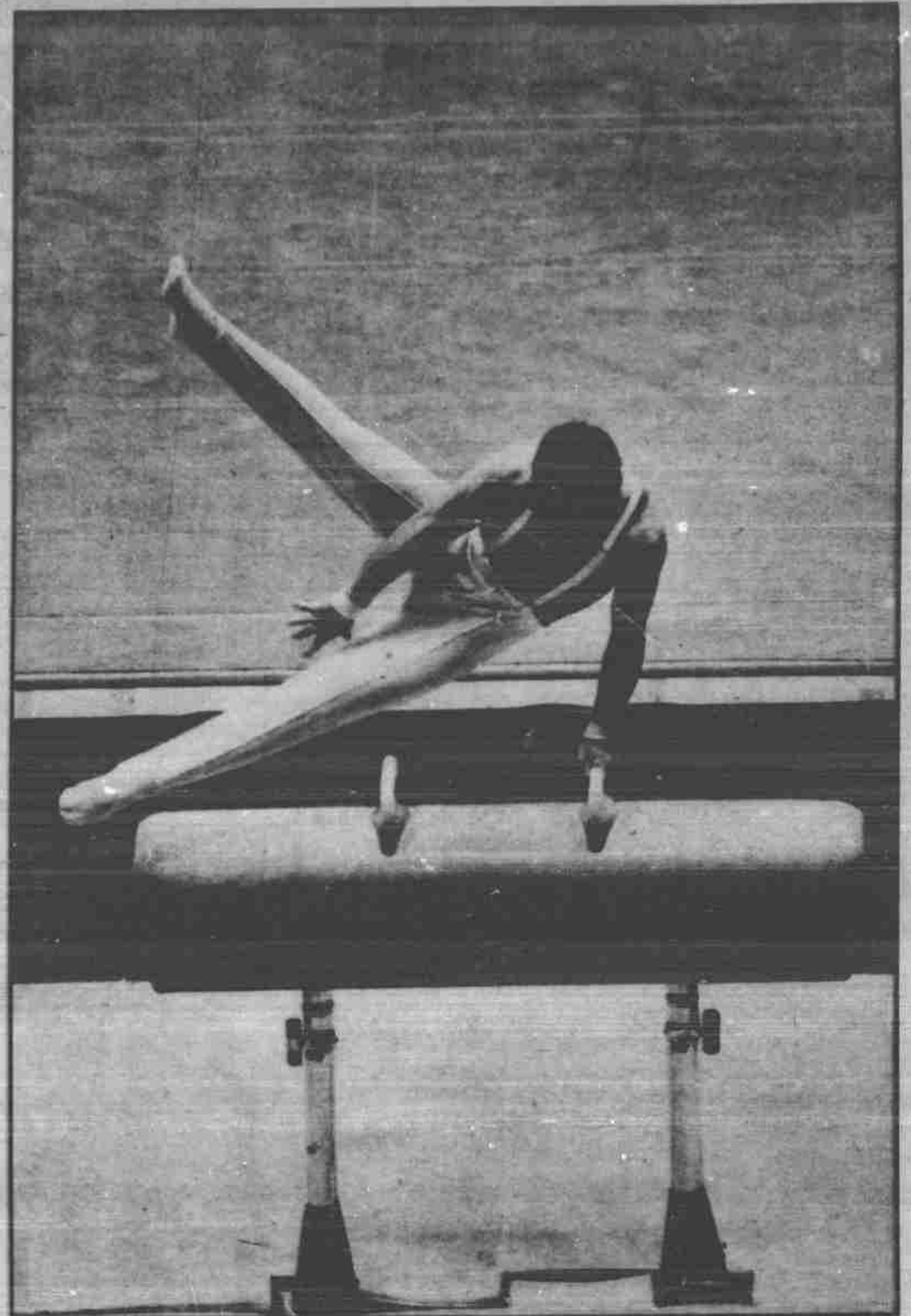


Photo by Ted Kirk

Husker gymnasts will not be able to enjoy Thanksgiving with their families unless their families are in Chicago. Wednesday UNL will face the University of Illinois—Chicago Circle in a dual meet. On Friday, the Huskers participate in the Midwest Open in Chicago. Gymnastics Coach Francis Allen said the Open is one of the biggest pre-season meets. Team scores are not kept at the meet, Allen said, it is individual-only competition.

Thanks to football, Athletic Dept. is in black again

By Pete Wegman

College football is big business. That's a statement which should hardly shock anyone who follows intercollegiate football these days.

Probably the best way to determine how "big" college football is, is to look at athletic department budgets. UNL offers a prime example of the size and importance of football.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1976, football supplied the bulk of the UNL Athletic Dept.'s revenue, generating about 95 per cent of the department's gross revenue, according to Bill Fisher, Athletic Dept. business manager and concessions director.

Of the nine intercollegiate sports supported by the Athletic Dept., football was the only one to make a profit.

Wrestling	2,043	18,921
Swimming	1,643	812
Gymnastics	2,636	4,835
Tennis	382	824
Golf	680	348
Women's athletics		

	Expenditures 1975	1976
Football	\$3,338,511	\$3,473,294
Basketball	324,747	423,488
Track	174,005	218,449
Baseball	112,130	118,307
Wrestling	71,982	79,143
Swimming	55,470	48,185
Gymnastics	51,852	62,770
Tennis	21,776	30,431
Golf	25,237	24,481
Women's athletics	25,000	80,000

	Net Revenue or (Deficits) 1975	1976
Football	\$620,192	\$786,858
Basketball	(118,736)	(163,798)
Track	(166,966)	(206,863)
Baseball	(109,635)	(113,123)
Wrestling	(69,139)	(60,222)
Swimming	(53,822)	(47,373)
Gymnastics	(49,015)	(57,935)
Tennis	(21,374)	(29,607)
Golf	(24,548)	(24,143)
Women's athletics	(25,000)	(80,000)

Fisher said basketball could break even financially in the near future.

"They've sold so many season tickets (approximately 8,500 for the 1976-77 season). When I started here, we sold only 400 season tickets for basketball."

Last year, the basketball squad competed in the 3,500-seat Coliseum. This season's schedule will be played in the new 15,000-seat UNL Sports Complex.

The biggest factor in increasing expenditures has been inflation, according to Fisher. However, he added that the Athletic Dept. intentionally has spent at a rate greater than inflation in the minor sport areas.

"Over the last five years, we've been putting a little more muscle into our minor sports," he said. "We've been ignoring inflation, trying to improve the quality of the sports."

Fisher said he doubted the Athletic Dept. would drop any minor sports if a financial pinch occurred.

Wouldn't dent budget

"We're not really making a dent in our budget if we

cut sports like tennis and golf," he said. "However, it would be disastrous to curtail football."

Past "Fourth and Twenty" columns have mentioned the myriad of NCAA regulations made in the name of economy, which are in effect reducing college athletics to a common level of mediocrity. What are Fisher's views on the subject?

"The only place where it's (the regulations) noticeable is in football," Fisher said. "The amount of grants-in-aid has declined since the limit of 30 a year was put on, but grants in the other sports have been increasing, so there's no savings there."

Fisher attributed the balance in Big 8 Conference football play this year to the NCAA equivalency rule, which has standardized the number of scholarships given in each sport.

"My own judgment is that the balance you're finding now in Big 8 football you'll find more in other sports in the future, too," he said.

Complex should increase revenue

Fisher said the new sports complex should increase the Athletic Dept.'s gross revenue since attendance should increase while the expenditures for maintaining the complex are paid through a tax appropriation, rather than by the department.

Fisher said two additional means for increasing gross revenue—sponsoring a professional football exhibition game each summer in Memorial Stadium and increasing the stadium's size—are impractical.

"My understanding is there will not be a pro game next summer. We just couldn't make money on it," he said.

"We've also been approached by people outside of the Athletic Dept. who want us to build a VIP box, like the press box, in the East Stadium," Fisher said. "However, I don't know of anyone in the Athletic Dept. who is now interested in increasing the stadium's size."

Copies of the Athletic Dept.'s budget can be obtained Fisher's office in the South Stadium Office Bldg.

Husker fans should keep in mind one fact: if football is to continue to support the other minor sports, UNL must have a winning football program.

fourth and twenty



\$4,000 last year

The Athletic Dept. made about \$4,000 in the last fiscal year, according to the Athletic Dept.'s latest financial report.

Total revenue for the year was \$4,562,352 while total expenditures, capital outlays and debt retirement equaled \$4,558,561, for a net gain of \$3,790.

In the previous fiscal year, the Athletic Dept. had a net deficit of \$18,844.

Last year was a typical year for the department, Fisher said.

"For the last three years we've about broken even," he said. "In fact, we've run pretty well on a break-even basis ever since I've been here." Fisher became business manager in 1961.

A sport-by-sport breakdown for the last two years follows:

	Revenue 1975	1976
Football	\$3,856,703	\$4,280,153
Basketball	206,010	259,888
Track	7,038	11,585
Baseball	2,503	5,184