

sports



Huskers fall victim to Gopher's superior shooting

By Jim Hunt

Superior inside shooting by University of Minnesota (MU) center Mike Thompson led the Golden Gophers to a 66-58 victory over the Huskers Wednesday night before 8,369 fans at the UNL Sports Complex.

Thompson, a 6 foot 10 inch, 225 lb. junior from Nassau, Bahamas, tossed in 33 points, including 27 in the second half.

The Golden Gophers were down by as much as seven points during the second half when guard Allen Holder put the Huskers up 34-27 with a six foot jump shot with 15:16 left in the game.

It was the Huskers' ability to force the Golden Gophers out of their match-up zone defense that gave Nebraska the lead in the second half.

However, the Gophers rallied by shooting 52 per cent from the field to provide the winning margin.

The center play proved to be important for both teams. The Huskers were led by 6-8 center Carl McPipe. McPipe, a sophomore from Hammond, Ind., pumped in 20 points before fouling out with 2:42 left in the game.

Husker Coach Joe Cipriano said it was the Gophers' first real test of the basketball season. MU entered the game with a 3-0 record, averaging 100 points a game.

Poor shooting was the key to the game, Holder said. "We took a lot of bad shots," he said, "We didn't play smart basketball after 10 minutes left in the game."

"We forced them into a man-to-man (defense) and that should have been to our advantage. We should have won

the game."

Husker guard Brian Banks said the man-to-man was also very important.

"If they would have played us man-to-man the entire game, we would have won," said Banks, who pumped in 15 points. "They couldn't stay with us."

The loss dropped the Huskers to a 3-3 for the season. Coach Cipriano's Huskers have yet to win a game in their new \$15 million sports arena.

Banks said the Huskers are a better team than their record indicates.

"We're not getting breaks toward the end of the game," Banks said. "I thought we could have had Minnesota tonight. We just made some stupid mistakes."

Cipriano will take the Huskers to Champaign, Ill. to take on the University of Illinois Saturday night. The Huskers are 0-2 against Big 10 Conference schools so far this year.



Photo by Tom Kink

The University of Minnesota's Mike Thompson goes to the basket unopposed as he tallies two of the 33 points he scored against the Huskers Wednesday night.

Small size no problem for potent KSU cagers

Editor's note—This is the second in a series examining Big 8 Conference basketball teams.

By Mike McCartney

Kansas State University (KSU) may lack overall experience, size and a pivot man, but the Wildcat cagers have proven early they have a team to contend with.

KSU already has shot down four out of its first five opponents. Their latest victory was a 103-85 win over Southern Methodist University last Saturday. KSU lost to North Texas State University Monday.

KSU coach Jack Hartman, who guided the Wildcats to a 20-8 record and a National Invitational Tournament bid last year, may have found some experience and a pivot man in the first five games.

Both experience and the pivot position come in four, 6 ft. 5 in. frames. So far, seniors Larry Dassie, Darryl Winston, Dan Droge and freshman Curtis Redding have combined for an average of 55 points, 24 rebounds a game and a shooting percentage of 56 per cent.

"Larry (Dassie) is playing with confidence and consistency," Hartman said. "I think he has established himself as a solid player."

Tony wants accuracy for customers; runners not losers in gambling game

By Pete Wegman

Editor's note—This is the second in a series about gambling in Nebraska and at UNL.

Tony is a runner for a Lincoln bookie. He's had his job for about a year and a half. Before becoming a runner, Tony was a bettor like so many other people.

"I was convinced through betting that so many people

fourth and
twenty



were losers," said Tony (not his real name). "I saw that and decided to get on the other side."

For Tony, running bets is almost a full-time job. His work week starts on Wednesday when the Lincoln bookies get the point spreads for the upcoming weekend games.

The national betting line comes from Las Vegas, and not Jimmy the Greek, contrary to popular opinion. Tony said the point spreads typically will vary among regions.

For example, in Nebraska, the Huskers usually are favored by two to three points more than they are on the Las Vegas line.

Sheets distributed

Thursday afternoon and evening Tony distributes the sheets to his various contacts throughout Lincoln and prepares for the weekend onslaught of phone calls from bettors.

Tony said he spends half of Saturday, all day Sunday and about two hours Monday night on the phone, getting bets from his contacts and passing most of the bets to "the man above him."

The following Wednesday, Tony collects from the losers, accepting only cash, and then pays the winners on Thursday.

However, Tony said this year he has "never been paying, just collecting."

This year has been exceptionally good (for runners and bookies). He said he collects from about 35 bettors weekly.

Tony said disagreements between bettors and runners on the amount owed are rare. He said to guarantee accuracy, he always repeats the bets back to the bettor when they are phoned in.

Losing big

Sometimes people who lose a large sum, such as \$1,000 to \$2,000, may have trouble paying the runner immediately, according to Tony. Then a payment plan is worked out, where the bettor pays a predetermined amount weekly and does not have the privilege to bet.

What if he still does not pay?

"That guy's name is floating around town like dirt," Tony said. He refused to elaborate.

The bet-taking system works like a totem pole. When Tony gets his bets, he phones them in to the "man above him," who, in turn, passes them on until they reach the bookie. Tony said he wasn't sure how many people his bets went through before reaching the bookie.

Tony said there are about 15 to 20 bookies in Lincoln, each with four to seven runners. He said he has about \$15,000-20,000 in bets pass through him weekly, adding that about \$30,000 is bet through each bookie in Lincoln on Monday night football games.

This writer did some rough calculations. If Lincoln has 15 bookies with five runners each, and each runner has \$15,000 bet through him weekly, about \$1.1 million is bet weekly in Lincoln. Keep in mind, that is a very rough figure.

Nebraska is a big betting state, mainly because of Big Red football," Tony said.

Tomorrow, a look at why Nebraska is such a "big betting state," as Tony talks about who bets, why they bet and what they bet on.

But KSU's prized player is junior guard Mike Evans. After a slow start in the Wildcats' first three games, he scored 24 points against SMU.

"Mike (Evans) is one of the best guards in the country," Hartman said. "Mike has excellent individual skills and, at the same time, he has a great appreciation of team play. Plus, he's a fine leader on the floor and off."

Gymnasts carrying on despite few members

By Jim Kay

One thing Judy Schalk should not have to worry about this year is running short of uniforms for her women's gymnastics team members.

Schalk is the head coach for the five-member UNL women's gymnastics team.

"I need six girls to fill all the spots," she said. "And I need six girls who can perform in the all-around events. Only three of the five girls now on the team are working all-around and I'll have a fourth who has never done it before they try it at our upcoming meet."

The meet will be the gymnasts' only home meet of the semester. The meet will include Drake University and Central Missouri State University and begins at 2 p.m. Saturday at the UNL Women's P.E. Bldg.

Despite the small squad, Schalk said she wasn't shopping for gymnasts to fill her program.

"I cleaned house when I first came here and started building my own program. I cleared out the ones who couldn't cut it."

She added that she had a sixth gymnast who would be joining the team at the beginning of next semester.

The team consists of Kathi Ruddick, Crissy Robinson, Tammy Driscoll, Peggy Liddick and Sandy Czaplewski.

Although it is still early in the season, Schalk said, the team appears to be strong in the vaulting and floor exercise events. She also said the area most lacking was the team members' confidence in themselves.

"They need to find confidence and a little experience, especially in events like the balance beam where any nervousness is going to cost you," Schalk said.

The gymnasts opened their season a week ago with a triangular meet victory over South Dakota University and Bemidji State University.

"I knew we were building up to higher scores," Schalk said, "possibly around 114. So I was pleased to see us hit 118 because it's a big help this early in the season."

Schalk said the team must score 118 points in five different meets this year to qualify for the regional tournament in March.

Saturday's meet will be the last for the gymnasts until Jan. 21, but Schalk said she plans to take three gymnasts to Corpus Christi, Tex., for a gymnastics clinic during the semester break.