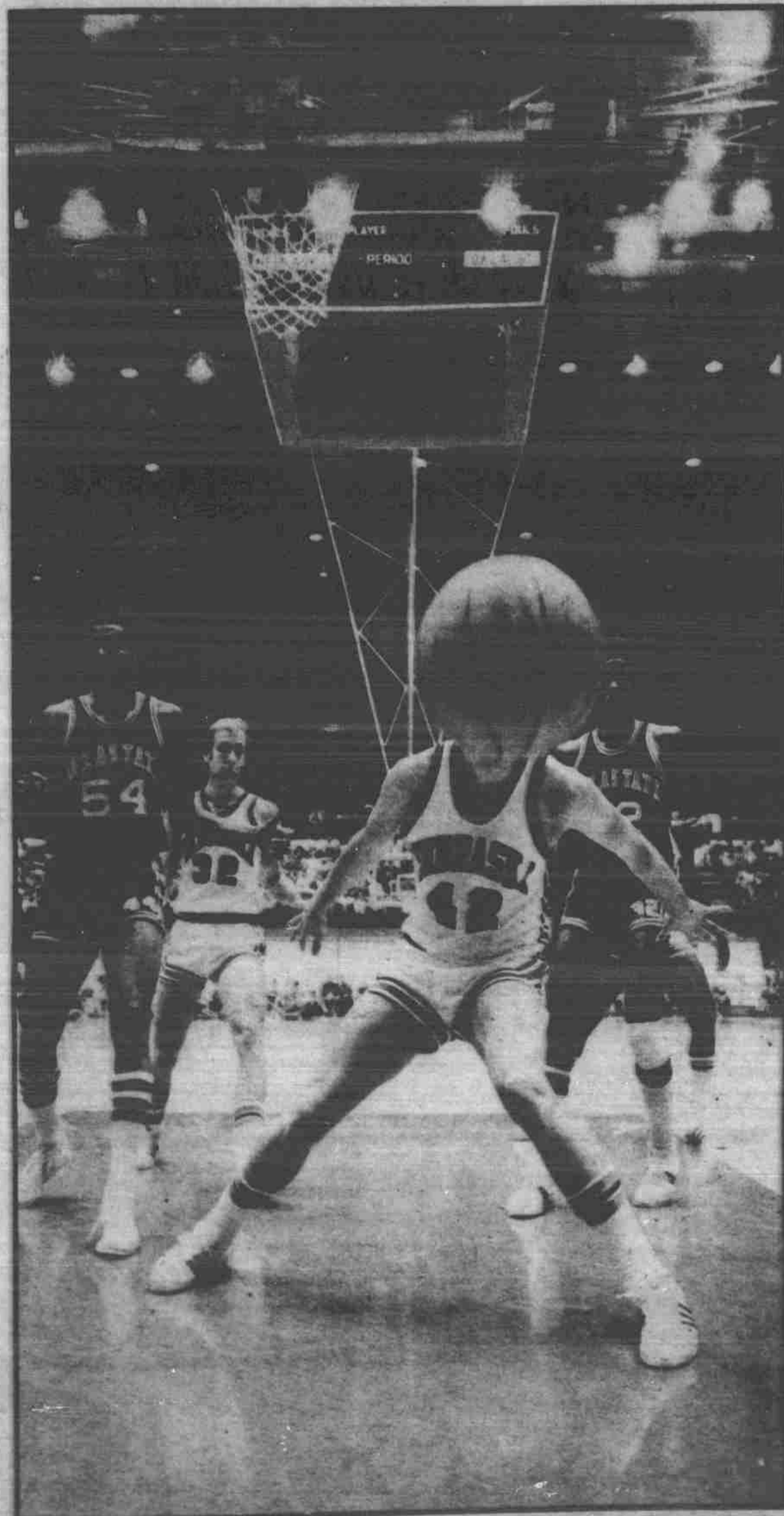


Huskers discover free throw antidote



Basketball coach Joe Cipriano found out Saturday that not stressing free throw shooting might be a key to success.

The Huskers, who have been plagued by poor free throw shooting all season, hit 18 of 21 attempts from the free throw line to provide the winning margin in Saturday's 66-54 victory over Oklahoma State University.

The Huskers have been hitting only 60 per cent of their free throws this year, but tossed in 85 per cent of their opportunities Saturday.

"This is the best free throw shooting we've had in a long time," Cipriano said. "We haven't worked as much on our free throws this week."

UNL shot all 21 of its free throw attempts in the second half. That was a big factor in the Huskers overcoming a three point Cowboy lead in the first half, Cipriano said.

OSU, jumped to a quick 5-0 lead in the first half on the offensive play of forward Olus Holder. However, the Huskers rallied with 12 straight points to take a 12-5 lead.

The Cowboys whittled away at the Huskers' lead and took a 23-20 halftime lead with Huskers Allen Holder and Carl McPipe on the bench with three fouls.

Holder, McPipe and Brian Banks turned the game around for the Huskers in the second half. The Huskers out scored OSU 10-4 early in the second half and took the lead for good on Banks' layup with 17:12 remaining in the game.

UNL's Allen Holder and his first cousin OSU's Olus Holder, led the two teams in scoring. Olus Holder hit 18 and Allen Holder pumped in 17.

Last week, senior guard Allen Holder learned that Olus was his cousin. Allen is from Las Vegas and Olus is from Chicago.

Allen's father learned that Olus' father was his brother. The men apparently lost contact years ago.

The Huskers placed three other players in double figures besides Holder. McPipe finished the game with 16 points and senior forward Bob Siegel and junior Terry Novak had 11 and 10 points respectively for UNL.

Novak, who was criticized by fans who thought he played poorly during last Wednesday's game against KU, expressed pleasure with Saturday's crowd of 8,563.

"I was really pleased with the support (from the crowd) we received today," Novak said. "They got us going in the second half when we needed it."

Novak, who led the Huskers with six rebounds, received a standing ovation from the crowd when he fouled out of the game with 2:11 remaining.

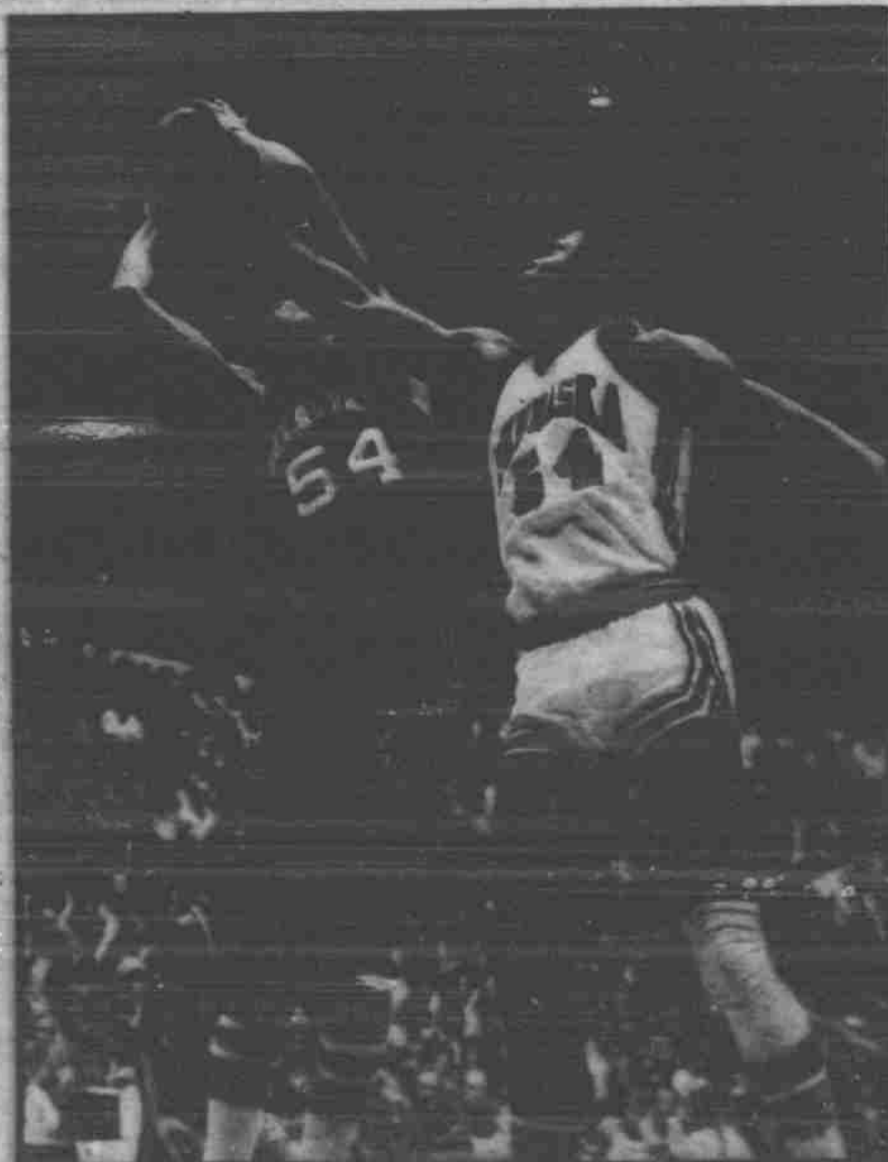
Cipriano also praised Banks for his defense and offensive play-making in the second half.

Banks had seven points and nine assists for the Huskers and drew the task of guarding OSU guard Ronnie Daniels.

"I had to contain Daniels," Banks said. "He was the key to their whole offense. I contained him well last year and knew I had to again this year."

The win pushed the Huskers' record to 12-9 on the season and 4-3 in the Big 8 Conference. They will travel to Boulder, Colo., Wednesday to battle the University of Colorado.

OSU dropped to 8-11 overall and 2-5 in the Big 8.



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