

Husker cagers to battle Sooners for third spot

By Jim Hunt

Third place in the Big 8 Conference will be on the line tonight when the UNL basketball team travels to Norman, Okla., to battle the University of Oklahoma.

The Huskers, 15-10 on the season and 7-4 in the Big 8, moved into a tie with the Sooners by beating the University of Missouri 60-58 Saturday. While the Huskers were beating the Tigers, the Sooners, 15-8 in the season and 7-4 in the Big 8, were dropping a 79-65 decision to the University of Colorado in Boulder.

The Huskers and Sooners have split in two meetings this season. The Huskers beat the Sooners at the Big 8 Preseason Tournament 66-56, but OU dumped the Huskers 65-58 in Lincoln.

"Oklahoma played a fine game against us in Lincoln and we'll have to play a lot better game in Norman if we expect to win," Husker coach Joe Cipriano said. "Oklahoma plays very similar to us, both offensively and defensively, so we'll just have to play our game better, along with

controlling Al Beal, who has been playing very well for the Sooners during the Big 8 season."

Beal, a 6 ft. 9 in. freshman center, is averaging 8.3 points and 7.3 rebounds a game. In the Sooner's loss to CU, Beal led OU in scoring with 19 points.

Beal will be joined in the starting lineup by guards Eddie Fields and Cary Carrabine and forwards John McCullough and Drew Head.

McCullough and Carrabine are the leading scorers for the Sooners, averaging 14.7 and 10.8 points a game, respectively.

Sooner coach Dave Bliss said he was disappointed in his team's performance at CU.

"I was disappointed on our loss at Colorado and we'll have to come up with a better performance against Nebraska Wednesday night if we expect to win," Bliss said.

"UNL is a fine defensive team and I've always been impressed with the job Joe Cipriano and his staff does," Bliss said. The Huskers have been allowing their

opponents 60.1 points a game, 59 points a game in the Big 8 play, to rank sixth nationally in team defense.

The Huskers will be led by a pair of sophomores from Hammond, Ind., Carl McPipe and Brian Banks. McPipe has averaged 15.1 points and eight rebounds a game. Banks has averaged 14.2 points a

game.

Cipriano will be looking for his 200th victory as coach of the Huskers after coming to UNL in 1963.

Tipoff for the Husker-Sooner game is scheduled for 7:35 p.m. The game will be broadcast on KFOR, KFAB and KLIN radio.

sports

Women's team win at UNO would put UNL in regionals

By Rob Barney

Nebraska's women's basketball team travels to Omaha tonight for "an important game" with the University of Nebraska at Omaha, said head coach George Nicodemus.

"It's an important game for us," he said. "Whoever wins the best out of three series goes to regionals."

If the Huskers beat UNO tonight they would have to beat the Mavericks in their last home game of the season Monday to go to regionals. The regional meet will be March 10 through 12 at Decorah, Iowa.

However, if UNO defeats the Huskers in one of their two remaining regular season games, a play-off would be required next week in Omaha.

If the Mavericks beat the Huskers in both contests, they would go to regionals.

The Huskers have won all three encounters with UNO this season, 62-56 in Omaha, 54-41 in the championship of the Northwest Missouri State Invitational and at home three weeks ago, 75-52.

"They should know what we're going to be up to," Nicodemus said. "They should really be up, especially if Crouch (sophomore forward Jan) can't play."

Fractured foot

Nicodemus said Crouch would visit her doctor this morning to see whether or not she could play tonight.

Crouch, the team's leading scorer, has missed the last two games because of a

hairline foot fracture. Her place in the starting line-up has been filled by sophomore Marta Prichard.

For the UNO game, Nicodemus said, he might go with somebody different. Candidates for the starting job are Prichard and freshmen players Sue Roubal, Linda Jansen and Karen Frazee, Nicodemus said.

Other probable starters for the Huskers include center Jeanne Boller, guards Kathy Hawkins and Sherry Brink and forward Deb Lee.

The Huskers will have to battle a tall Maverick front line. UNO starts players 6 ft. or taller, including 6 ft. 4 in. center Niece Jochims.

Pressure outside players

"We're going to have to put pressure on their outside people," Nicodemus said. "We have to plug up the middle so they have to lob the ball inside. That will give our defense a chance to steal the ball."

"We will have to shoot about 50 per cent like we did in our last games against them. If we shoot like we did against Wichita State (27 per cent) in our last game we'll be in trouble."

The UNO game is the first of three games this week for the Huskers.

Friday and Saturday nights they will be in Tarkio, Mo., to play the University of Missouri and Tarkio State respectively.

The Huskers defeated Missouri 67-61 in the semi-finals of the Big 8 Conference tourney in Boulder, Colo., three weeks ago.

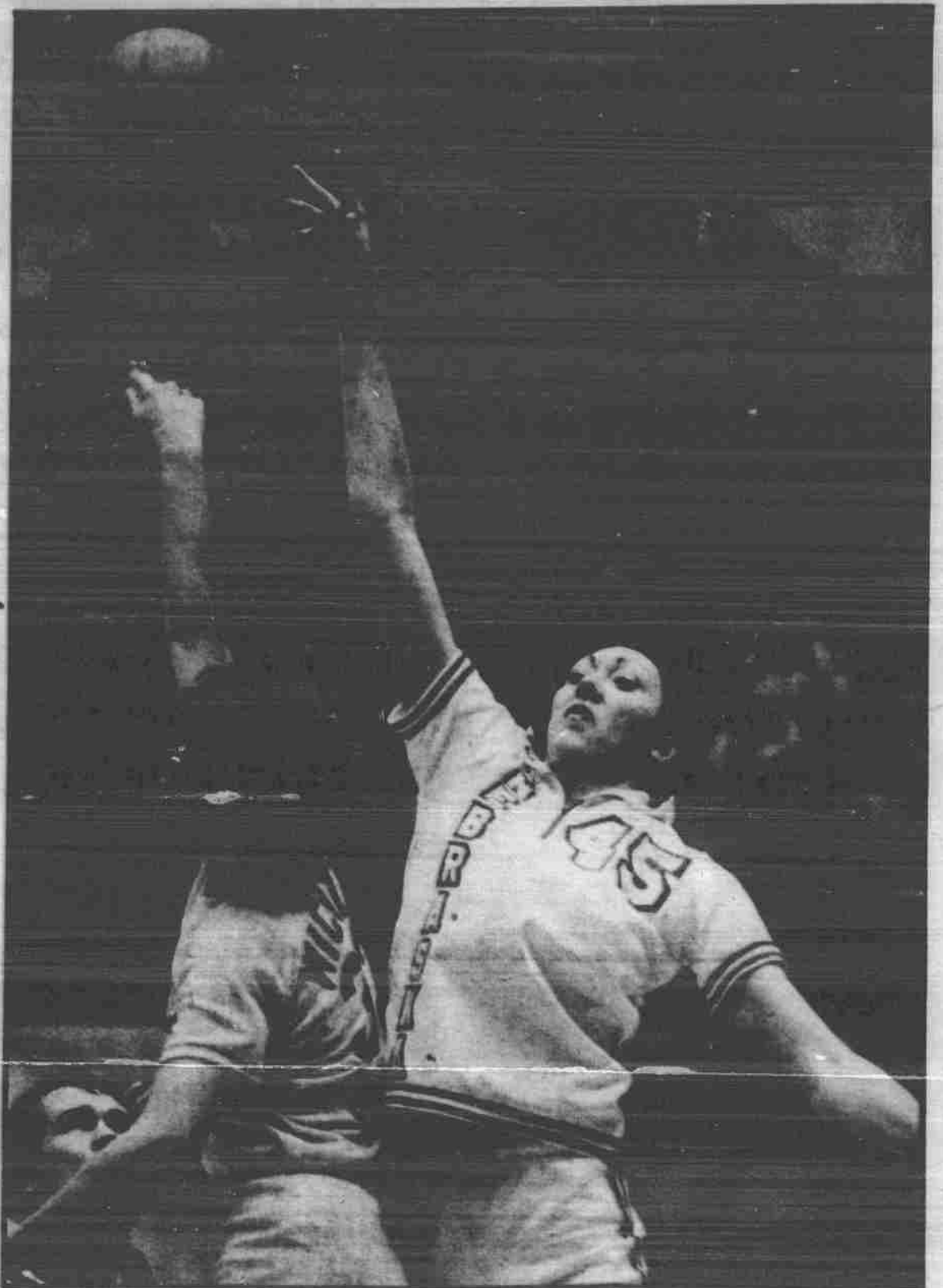


Photo by Ted Kirk

UNL's Jeanne Boller (45) easily out-jumps her Wichita State University opponent. The Lady Huskers final home game of the season is February 21, against UNO.

UNL squad up to bat in four weeks, 11 lettermen return

By Rob Barney

UNL's baseball team will swing into action in four weeks, playing at Baylor University, March 12.

Coach Tony Sharpe's team has been practicing Monday through Friday afternoons for five weeks in the fieldhouse to prepare for its annual trip south to start the season.

"We've been concentrating on conditioning and the basics, hitting and fielding," Sharpe said. "Next week we also will workout on Saturday."

The 1977 Husker baseball team comprises 29 players. However, last season's leading hitter, Bobby Thomas probably won't play.

"It doesn't appear that Bobby is going to play for us this year," Sharpe said. "He was out practicing with us a few times, but I'm not sure he is eligible to play."

Returning lettermen

"It will be disappointing if Bobby can't play, but we do have 11 returning lettermen to form a good nucleus."

The returning nucleus includes Senior Steve McManaman, second team All Big 8 Conference designated hitter, and honorable mention All Big 8 outfielder Senior Paul Haas.

"Paul has been a regular for three years and he's a hard worker," Sharpe said. "We're going to look to him for senior leadership."

Sharpe also is counting on Senior pitcher Kirk Eymon to provide leadership for the younger players, he said.

"He's been throwing for us for three years now and we're looking toward him to head up the pitching staff."

"Right now the pitchers are just getting to the point where they should be throwing close to full speed," he said.

Sharpe has high hopes for two freshman pitchers: right-hander Gary Nolting and left-hander Cliff Faust, both from Millard.

Two new members on the Husker team who could

see considerable action are outfielders Tim Carroll and Art Serafinski, Sharpe said.

Carroll is a junior college transfer from Arizona Western Junior College, where he played under Husker assistant baseball coach John Sanders.

Top prospects

Other top prospects mentioned by Sharpe are outfielder-first baseman Joe Scherger, and shortstops Chuck Schnoor and John Dingleline. Dingleline is a sophomore transfer from Toledo (Ohio) University.

Winter training program for all Husker athletes

By Jim Kay

For an athlete, staying in condition is not just a seasonal thing.

George Sullivan, head physical therapist for the UNL Athletic Dept., is in charge of a winter training program for Husker athletes. The program began Jan. 31 and will run seven weeks until spring football practice starts.

"I want to stress that this is not just a conditioning program for football players," Sullivan said. "There are others in here. They all must have passed a physical before we let them in."

Sullivan said the program, which meets five days a week, is worth one credit hour to participants.

"Monday, Wednesday and Friday we work on agility drills, quick weights and some speed work," he said. "Tuesdays and Thursdays the work is more with bulk weights. The main thing that is stressed is agility, strength and endurance."

Athletes tested

Sullivan said the athletes were tested on several things including conditioning, strength, and explosive power as well as the measuring of cardio-vascular response.

"When we are working on weights we have eight dif-

"John sat out last season after transferring," Sharpe said. "He did play quite a bit as a freshman for Toledo. He and Chuck should have quite a battle for the shortstop position."

Sharpe said no positions on the team are definite yet, but he said he is optimistic about the upcoming season.

"Most of our returning people have good talent and most of our new people have good talent. We had a good recruiting year. All the younger boys need is to gain some experience."

ferent stations besides the one testing station," Sullivan said.

"There is form running, speed drills, quick drills, a combination form and strength running with the use of ropes and agility drills, using a mini-obstacle course set-up," he said. "Also the endurance run, quick weights and rope skipping."

There are 20 to 22 athletes in each group and around 200 participating, Sullivan said.

The weight program is set up by weight-lifting coach Boyd Epley on a group basis. However, some athletes have individual programs for themselves.

Personal weight gain programs

"If a specified individual felt the need to gain weight, then we would work out a program for him to work with bulk weights," Sullivan said. "Others may prefer strength and endurance exercises."

Sullivan said the tendency for most of the athletes was to gain weight during the course of the program.

"I suppose some could actually lose weight if they wanted to," Sullivan said. "But because of the rigors of the program most of them will gain weight. Our main emphasis is just to stay in condition."