

Huskers have first home loss

By Rick Huls

A record-breaking crowd of 14,747 came to the UNL Sports Complex Saturday night to watch UNL, the Big 8 surprise of the year. But it was the Iowa State Cyclones who stole the show with a 65-59 win.

UNL, rated 19th during the Big 8 Tournament three weeks ago and 15th last week, surprised people by winning their first ten games of the season. UNL finished third in the Big 8 Tourney and avenged their first loss to Kansas State with a 77-64 win in Manhattan, Jan. 7.

But the ISU loss was the Husker's second straight, dropping them to 12-3 overall and 1-2 in Big 8 play. The Cyclones are 8-7 overall and 3-0 in the Big 8.

The scoring of junior Andrew Parker and the rebounding of sophomore Dean Uthoff helped the Cyclones give UNL their first loss at home this year. Iowa State is tied for first place with Kansas University and hosts the KU Jayhawks Wednesday.

Uthoff, a muscular 6-foot-11, 247-pound center who is the nation's leading rebounder, scored 16 points and pulled off 12 rebounds for the Cyclones.

In the first half, Uthoff hit six of seven fielders and two free throws for 14 points, to give Iowa State a 36-30 halftime lead.

But then it was 6-foot-5 forward Parker who doused Nebraska's hopes in the final 8 minutes. Parker, the Big Eight's leading scorer with a 23-point average, scored 13 of the Cyclone's last 15 points down the stretch after Nebraska had taken a 51-50 lead. He finished with 21 points.

Parker said the sudden success of Iowa State can be attributed to better team play.

"Earlier in the season, we were playing selfish ball," Parker said. "But since the Big 8 tourney, we've played well together."

The Iowa State junior drew boos from the crowd in the second half when he and Husker guard Mike Naderer were involved in a scuffle.

"I started clapping after he pushed me," Parker said. "But I told him when he fouled out that I was sorry because I started it. The crowd didn't bother me. They were pretty good really."

While Parker said the Cyclones had planned to run right at Nebraska, Husker coach Joe Cipriano had hoped the Huskers could beat Iowa State running.

"We felt we had to run to beat them, but when our leading scorers Brian (Banks) and Carl (McPipe) don't hit consistently we're in trouble," Cipriano said.

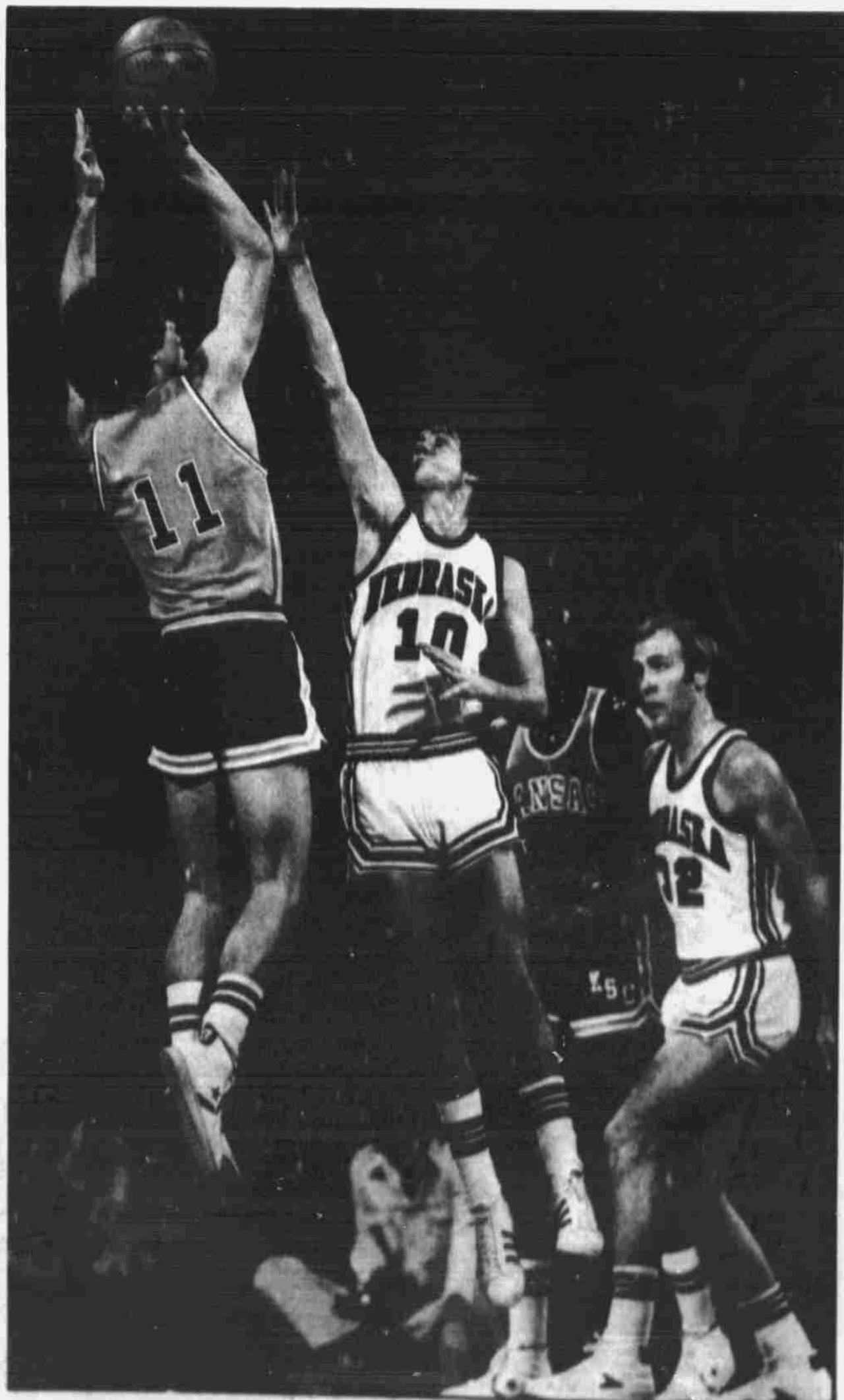
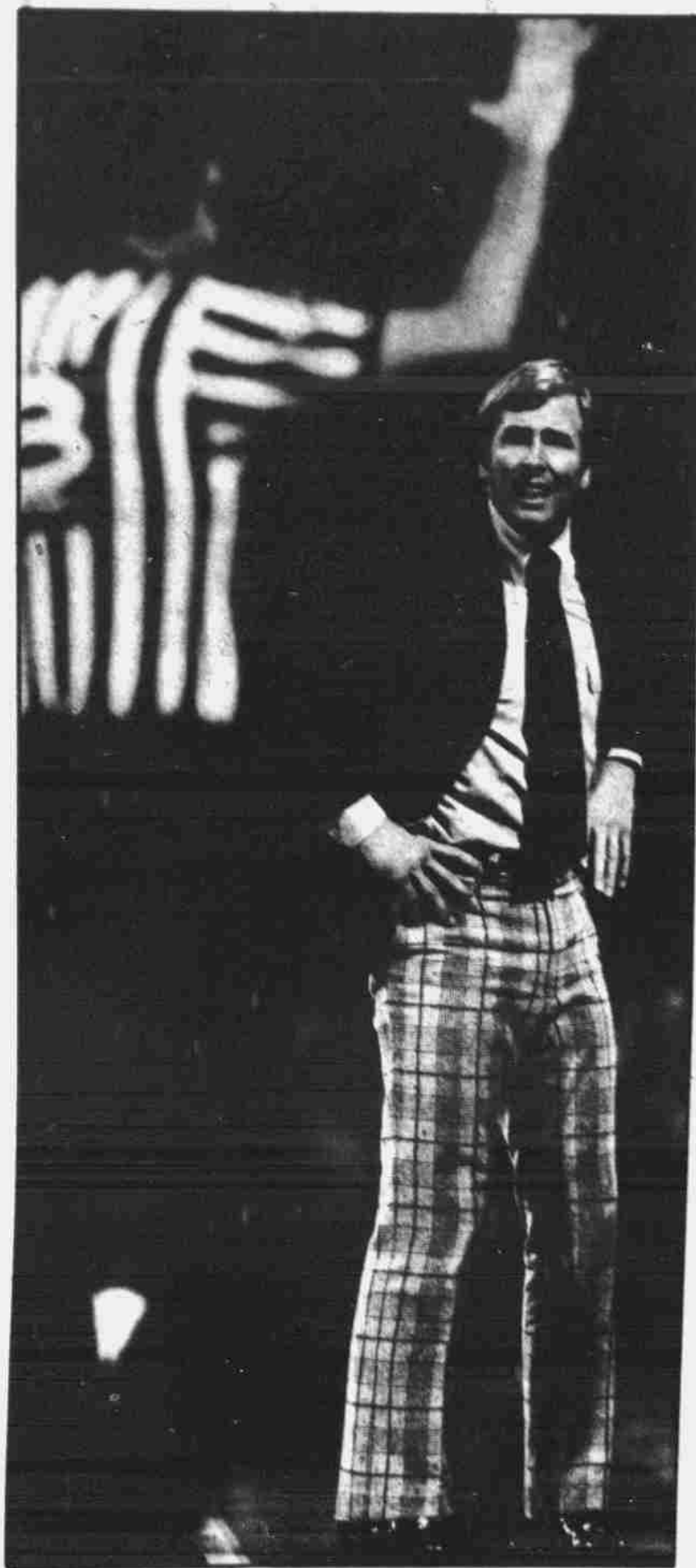
Cipriano said the Huskers played good enough defense to stay in the game, despite poor shooting.

Nebraska hit 23 of 68 shots from the field for only 34 percent while Iowa State hit on 48 percent of its shots. UNL also was out-rebounded, 42-32.

Cipriano said the Huskers have got to start playing with more patience.

"We're shooting much too quick. We don't take our time anymore. Maybe some other people will start getting more playing time."

Andre Smith led the Huskers with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Brian Banks had 12 and Carl McPipe added 10. Banks and McPipe together hit 9 of 30 shots.



Story by Rick Huls Photographs by Ted Kirk