

# Injured freshman hopes for future hardship ruling

By Jim Hunt

Although the UNL basketball team is enjoying one of its finest seasons ever, it has been a disappointing year for forward Eric Eckelman.

The 6-foot-7 Eckelman, one of the promising freshmen on the UNL squad, has been forced to sit out the entire season with planter fasciitis, an injury to his right foot.

The injury affects the planter fasciitis muscle which runs from the heel and stretches up the middle of the foot to the toes, Eckelman explained.

"It (the foot) is all right as long as I don't try to do too much on it," Eckelman said. "It's all right as long as I don't walk too hard or too long on it, like across campus. As soon as I do a lot of walking or running on it, it gets inflamed."

Eckelman said he has seen three of four specialists and has received the opinions of three or four other surgeons. The doctors now are beginning to think surgery is the only solution, he said.

"They've put a cast on it for a few weeks, shot me up and gave me pills," Eckelman said. "They've done everything conservatively possible to heal it."

If surgery is required it probably will be performed over spring break, he said.

"The doctors say there's not too much known about it," Eckelman said. "Mine is a first for around this area. All the other people who have had it have healed in about three weeks."

"There's a doctor in Cincinnati that has done this type of surgery and done it successfully."

Eckelman said he first injured his foot in December of his senior year in high school and had to play the rest of the season injured. He injured the foot again last August and again the second day of running drills at UNL, Sept. 13, he said. Eckelman said he felt the muscle tear.

UNL Basketball coach Joe Cipriano is trying to get Eckelman a hardship ruling so he can retain his freshman eligibility for the 1978-79 season, Eckelman said.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Freshman Eric Eckelman hoped to play varsity basketball when he came to UNL this fall, but a foot injury has forced him to watch the games from the sidelines all season.

Eckelman came to UNL after a successful career at Northside High School in Muncie, Ind. His senior season he averaged 24 points, 15 rebounds, and nine assists a game while earning all-state and all-regional honors.

Although he has not been able to play, Eckelman said, he has been to almost every practice.

"I hope I would have seen a lot of playing time, but I don't know for sure," Eckelman said. It's a different story watching and being in there running through the offense."

"I think the team is doing real well," Eckelman said. "They've made a lot of believers this season. They play smart, don't throw the ball away much and play good defense. When they put it all together they have a good effort."

"Potentially we knew we could play this well," he said of UNL's 18-3 record. "With Brian Banks, (Curt) Hedberg and (Terry) Novak, we have a real smart team."

## Women will host dual track meet

UNL's womens track squad, which won its opening meet last weekend against Colorado University 66-47, hosts a dual meet against Kansas University, today at 4:30 in the Sports Complex.

The Huskers, coached by Carol Frost, set eight school records in the Colorado meet at the Sports Complex indoor track.

High jumper Patty Gleason leaped 5 feet 4 inches to break the old school mark by two inches. Donna Fox ran a 5:03.7 mile, breaking the old record by two seconds as she finished in third place.

Janet Bornemeier set a school record in the 600-yard run with a time of 1:25.6 Julie Seaton broke the 440-yard dash school record with a 2:41.7 time.

Cindy Tatum was a double winner for UNL last weekend. Tatum set school records in the 60-yard dash with a 6.9 second time and in the 300-yard dash with a 36.6 second time.

## sports

# Cager conquest could cinch top spot in Big 8 playoffs

By Rob Barney

Coach Joe Cipriano's cagers could assuredly cinch an upper division spot for The Big 8 Conference playoffs, with a victory over Kansas State University tonight.

A 7:35 tipoff is scheduled at the Sports Complex.

UNL is 7-2 in Big 8 play and 18-3 overall, tying the 20-5 record of the 1965-66 UNL team. UNL is ranked 18th by United Press International and 19th by Associated Press.

KSU is 5-4 in conference play and 14-7 overall.

Tonight's game is the third match between the two schools this season. Jack Hartman's club downed UNL 69-60 in the semi-finals of the Holiday Tournament in December.

UNL defeated KSU in the Big 8 regular season opener 77-63, in Manhattan.

Cipriano's crew has a six-game win streak while the Wildcats have won three in a row, including an 86-60 victory at Colorado last Saturday.

Road victories have been hard for KSU. They are 5-6 in games away from home. UNL also is the only team to beat them at home in 11 decisions.

KSU features one of the best one-two punches around with 6-foot-1 guard Mike Evans and 6-foot-5 forward Curtis Redding.

Evans became the Big 8's all-time career scorer last week with 1,982 points. His record surpasses the 1,940 points scored by Cliff Meely of Colorado from 1969 through 1971.

The senior from Goldsboro, N.C. is averaging 20.1 points a game this year. Redding is averaging 20.4 points a game.

"They (KSU) are a very fine shooting team," Cipriano said. "Once they get hot nobody is going to stop them."

The assignments for stopping Evans and Redding will go to Brian Banks and Terry Novak.

UNL, which avenged its only conference losses last week with victories over Colorado and Iowa State, has a different situation this game.

"We had revenge on our minds all last week," Cipriano said. "The shoe is kind of on the other foot this time."

"The Kansas State game could be the toughest game we have played all year. We played very well in the second half against them in our last game."

In its last meeting, UNL scored 22 points the last ten minutes of the game.

Besides Redding at one forward, KSU starts 6-foot-5 Ronaldo Blackman at the other forward and 6-foot-7 Steve Soldner at center.

"This is a game where Carl should be able to dominate on the boards," Cipriano said. "If he hits the boards and plays defense, everything else should fall in place."

"The team has always got up well for K-State. I hope this will be no exception. They (KSU) have a great deal of team speed and of course they have Evans," he added.

Reserved seat tickets are sold out for the game, according to UNL sports information director Don Bryant, but \$1 and \$2 general admission tickets remain.

**Starting Line-ups**

<b>Kansas State (14-7)</b>			
Curtis Redding	6-5	So.	F
Rolando Blackman	6-6	Fr.	F
Steve Soldner	6-7	Jr.	C
Mike Evans	6-1	Sr.	G
Scott Langton	5-11	Sr.	G

<b>Nebraska (18-3)</b>			
Terry Novak	6-4	Sr.	F
Curt Hedberg	6-8	Jr.	F
Carl McPipe	6-8	Jr.	C
Brian Banks	6-0	Jr.	G
Bob Moore	6-3	Jr.	G

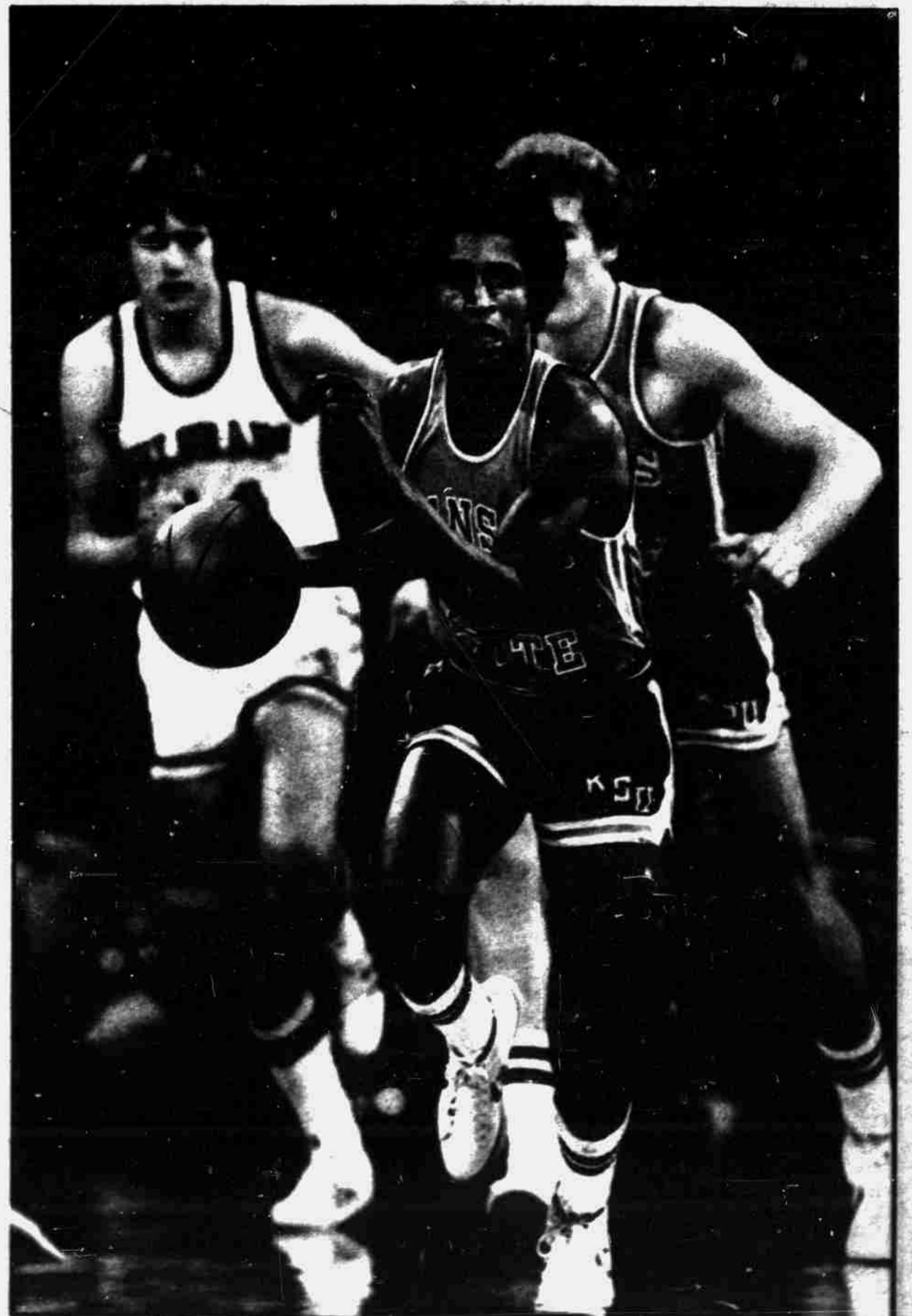


Photo by Ted Kirk

Kansas State University's Mike Evans will bring his hot scoring hand to the Sports Complex tonight and try to end UNL's six-game winning streak. Evans became the Big 8's all-time scoring leader last week with 1,982 career points.

**Red Cross is counting on you.**

A Public Service of This Newspaper & The Advertising Council

