

sports

Women's basketball team 'must-win game'—Gallagher

By Pat Beecham

UNL's women's basketball team resumes its intrastate rivalry with UNO Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, and it is a "must-win game" according to Head Coach Lorrie Gallagher.

After a poor showing in the Big Eight tournament Gallagher said she and the Huskers feel that they have something to prove.

"This is an important game for us," Gallagher said. "We are a better team than we showed at the Big Eight tourney."

Since the tournament, the Huskers have defeated Northwest Missouri State and Iowa State to improve their record to 16-11 and would like to continue their winning ways against UNO, Gallagher said. To do so they will have to overcome a UNO's height advantage, she said.

Problems with center

UNO's 6-5 center is averaging 13 points and nine rebounds a game and will present the Huskers with some problems and UNO's Barb Hart, who didn't play in UNO's 77-59 loss to the Huskers earlier, will play this week.

If the Huskers stick to what they have been doing in practice however, they should come away with a victory, Gallagher said.

"We've been working real hard on our defense in practice," said first year assistant Coach Paulette Gerbert, "it hasn't been as good as we would like it to be."

Gallagher also feels that defense is going to be the key in the game, she said.

"We are going to have to play solid defense to win the game," Gallagher said.

"We will have to block out to keep them off the boards because of their height," she added.

Gallagher pleased

Gallagher is pleased with the Huskers' offensive improvement. UNL had four girls in double figures the last game and finally has a balanced scoring attack, Gallagher said. She also expressed pleasure with the improvement of the guards Donna Unwin and Ami Beiriger.

With Oklahoma State, a team the Huskers lost to in the Big Eight tourney scheduled for Saturday, the possibility of looking past UNO could present a problem, but Gallagher said this won't happen.

"We learned from the Big Eight tourney to take one game at a time," Gallagher said. "We were looking past Colorado in the opening round to Kansas and got beat. With this being an intrastate game and all, we should have no problems with looking ahead."

Gerbert doesn't think that the Huskers will be looking ahead either, she said. She feels that with enough girls from Nebraska on the team, the girls know the importance of the game and will be ready to play. She also thinks the Huskers have improved since the Big Eight tourney.

"The Big Eight tournament was really a disappointment," Gerbert said. "The girls have been playing a lot better since then," she added.

When the time does come to play OSU though, Gerbert says the Huskers will be ready.

"We play OSU Saturday and we are going to beat them," she said.



Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

Nebraska freshman Chris Leigh puts defensive pressure on a Northwest Missouri State ballhandler. Nebraska meets UNO in a double header with the men's team Wednesday night.

Coach Iba praises cagers despite loss to Wildcats

By Shelley Smith
Sports Editor

UNL Acting Head Coach Moe Iba said he was pleased with everything about the Huskers' basketball game with Kansas State Saturday—everything, that is, except for the loss.

"They (UNL) played awfully well," he said at Monday's basketball press luncheon.

"But it turned into kind of a checkers match. I felt we were fortunate to get

into overtime, and I felt we had a chance to win it. Then in the second overtime we missed some free throws which really hurt us in the ball game," he said.

He said his main concern now is to get the same kind of play from the Huskers when they meet Oklahoma Wednesday night.

The Huskers, led by league leading scorer Andre Smith, will have a tough time matching up in height with the towering Sooners, Iba said.

Last year, Oklahoma won the Big Eight

championship with the aid of Cary Carabine and John McCullough—both of whom have since graduated.

However, Iba said, their graduation didn't mean much.

"They have a lot of players back this year, and they know how to win. This is going to be as big a ball game for them as much as it is for us," he said.

Iba said the Huskers may have a problem because they are playing at home.

"We've played better on the road than we have at home. But we need to play a

real good ball game at home," he said.

"Against Kansas (at home) we played a good ball game, but last week against OSU we played a little flat," he said.

Iba said he's not really worried about the poor crowd showing at the Huskers' home games, because there is nothing he can do about it.

"Even if there's only five people in there Wednesday night, I'm not going to use this as an excuse to get beat," he said.

The Huskers have surprised a lot of skeptical fans, Iba said.

NCAA may change realm of women's athletics

By Kim Hachiya

Actions taken at the NCAA convention in New Orleans in early January have raised more than a slight cloud of dust in the realm of women's athletics.

The NCAA, traditionally an organization devoted solely to male athletics, voted to begin sponsoring national championship tournaments in five women's sports for the smaller Division II and III schools.

Beginning in 1981, the 282 Division II and 180 Division III NCAA members will offer championships in women's basketball, field hockey, swimming, tennis and volleyball.

Because UNL is a Division I school, it will not be affected by the current decision. But according to women's Athletic Director June Davis, the move into Division I could be coming soon.

"Obviously if the NCAA is offering Division II and III championships, the next step in the total move would be to hold them in Division I," Davis said. "I think the NCAA will see what happens in the smaller divisions and once they have established that, they will begin to move in that Division I's direction."

Loss of control

Davis fears the NCAA's move into women's athletics could result in women losing control over decisions affecting them in athletics.

"I don't want to see women's programs taken over by the NCAA without input by women," she said. "If it's changed, we need to keep women in decision-making positions. Women worked and fought hard to establish

good women's programs. A takeover could mean there is no longer a place for the women who helped develop the programs."

Davis said she also questions the NCAA's motives.

"It seems incongruous," she said. "The NCAA wants to offer women's championships but the NCAA is fighting Title IX (federal sex discrimination in education and athletics regulations).

"It's strange because five years ago, the NCAA did not want to bother with women. Now they have this suit and they want to enter the field. I'm puzzled by their attitude."

UNO affected

Connie Claussen, coordinator for Women's Athletics at UNO, is even more concerned than Davis. UNO is a Division II school and thus will be immediately affected by the decision to sponsor the women's tournaments.

Claussen said most of the affected schools will be forced to choose between NCAA memberships or membership in the AIAW, the women's organization comparable to the NCAA.

Because the NCAA championships will not be offered in all women's sports fielded at UNL, Claussen wonders what will happen to the excluded sports.

"UNO has programs in cross country, track and field and softball. The NCAA does not," she said. "I feel we will have to choose one or the other (either the NCAA or the AIAW) because the recruiting rules differ and this may make some or all of your team members ineligible in either organization."

Failing financially

Claussen also mentioned a fear expressed by the AIAW at the NCAA convention—the death of the AIAW because

of the lost financial base.

The NCAA, because of huge profits realized from its national men's basketball tourney and from televised football, is going to pay all tournament and travel expenses for competing teams.

"This could be a substantial savings to the schools," Claussen said. "With money the way it is now, it may sway the decision of the various institution presidents as to which tourney to attend. In four or five years the AIAW may be to that point (paying expenses) but they certainly aren't there yet."

Although neither Claussen or Davis could say why the NCAA acted, Claussen said she thought perhaps the developing audience, especially television audiences, for women's athletics may have been a factor in why the NCAA has moved in.

"The AIAW has just negotiated a television package. But the NCAA could give us more publicity and bargaining power for television," Claussen said.

Although UNL is Division I and did not vote on the issue, Keith Broman, UNL's Big Eight faculty representative and NCAA delegate sat in on the debate.

"The most persuasive thing I saw," he said, "was that many Division II and III schools were not being represented by the AIAW. This is the first chance for those athletes to vie for national championships."

Broman added that because the changes will not take place until 1981, things such as differing rules and recruiting standards can be worked out.

He also felt women will be able to remain in control of their sports through NCAA legislation and the fact that more women are involved in the NCAA.