

UNL's Iba did big-name coaching job last season

During the past basketball season the UNL men's basketball team was placed in a delicate situation.

The team was picked for a sixth place finish in a poll by the Big Eight Coaches. The Huskers' youth and inexperience was the logic behind this prediction. Then, in November their coach was forced to the sidelines with a

guest opinion

serious illness. At this time, many basketball experts had written Nebraska off. With 10 sophomores and freshmen on the roster and an assistant coach as the leader, the program must have been in chaos. It was not!

The 1979-80 NU men's basketball team was coached by Moe Iba. And what a job of coaching he did. Everyone knows the accomplishments: an NIT bid, second place in the Big Eight, etc.

But, it was how Iba had Nebraska playing that reinforces my opinion of him as a coach. The team knew the roles they had to play. Iba had the Huskers' working hard on defense, taking special care of the ball, and shooting only high percentage shots. While some fans screamed for a "run and gun" style, Iba knew he lacked rebounding depth to play that type of basketball.

In a recent Daily Nebraskan editorial, Shelley Smith stated that renewing Coach Iba's contract would continue the "second-rate" basketball at UNL. She feels the university needs a "name" coach to become a national caliber team. Iowa State University has taken this approach. They have just hired Johnny Orr away from Michigan. ISU is paying Orr \$45,000 a year, plus some high paying fringe benefits which could raise Orr's yearly income above \$100,000. The total makes Orr believe that he is the highest paid college basketball coach in the nation. I may be mistaken, but I don't believe that this university is ready

to pay that kind of money.

The NU Board of Regents decision to renew Coach Iba's contract is a positive move. There are many ways to build up a program, and one is with a young, hard working coach. Many people forget that UCLA hired an unproven coach a few years back. All this coach did was produce 10 national championships and build a dynasty that probably will never be equaled. When UCLA gave the job to John Wooden, he had no proven record. However, it was known that Wooden knew the game of basketball. If this basketball season at UNL proves nothing else, the record should show that Moe Iba has proven his basketball knowledge.

Smith also attacked the strength of UNL's basketball schedule. If she will inspect any Big Eight team's pre-conference schedule, she will find it is common to schedule weaker competition in the early part of the season. This builds confidence among the players, especially the younger ones. But, let's not forget that the Huskers lined

up against the likes of Louisville, Purdue and Minnesota before they started conference competition.

It appears to me that UNL's basketball program is not in the condition in which Smith perceives it to be. The team played some very good basketball near the end of the season. The program was directed by an assistant coach who was finally given the authority to make his own decisions. Coach Iba's performance has been recognized in the form of various coaching honors. His most recent award, the NCAA District Five Coach of the Year, comes from his peers.

Failure to renew Coach Moe Iba's contract would have been a huge mistake. To discuss this possibility is not only ridiculous, but also truly unfair to a very fine coach.

Gregg Calvin
Senior
Recreation

Complaint-free week doesn't count

By Liz Austin

At last a complaint-free week.

Unfortunately since it was spring break, it doesn't count.

ombudsperson

Actually, the Daily Nebraskan can't complain about complaints. They are an essential means of letting the newspaper know which areas need improvement.

Opinions on finals and dead week to be determined in student survey

By Bill Graf

UNL students will have a chance to voice their opinions about dead week and finals week policy.

A survey questionnaire prepared by the Student Alumni Board will appear in Wednesday's Daily Nebraskan. The survey will ask students if they are satisfied with the current dead week and finals week policy and if they believe the policy is followed by the faculty at UNL.

The current policy states that all students must be informed of a course's requirements including test dates, project and paper due dates. Any deviation from the published syllabus must be approved by unanimous vote of the students, the dean of the college and the other faculty members teaching that course.

Sharon Comisar, chairman of SAB's committee investigating the reconstruction of dead week policy, said the survey is in response to complaints that the policy hasn't been strictly followed in the past.

"The survey's results may show that the students are happy with the current policy," Comisar said.

Although no action will be taken as a direct result of the survey the findings will be presented to ASUN, the faculty senate and the UNL academic affairs office.

"If the survey shows the students want a better way or new way of handling dead week hopefully ASUN will take it upon itself to draw up a resolution (asking for a change) and present it to the faculty senate," she said.

SAB will have a booth in the Nebraska Union and East Union from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to collect surveys. Also there will be a SAB representative collecting surveys from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the residence halls' cafeterias, she explained.

Comisar, a junior in Teachers College, said SAB first considered the need to revamp dead week and finals week policy a year ago during a "brainstorming" session at their spring retreat.

The survey is the result of the work done by the SAB committee to investigate the reconstruction of dead week policy which was formed last fall, she said.

Comisar said she has contacted the other universities in the Big Eight about their finals week policy.

All of the schools except the University of Kansas responded to her inquiry, she said.

The majority of the schools wrote that they have had problems similar to UNL's, she said. However, she added that some of the schools have stayed with their old policies after considering other policies.

History professor elected to national historian spot

Frederick C. Luebke, UNL professor of history, has been elected to the Nominations Board of the Organization of American Historians, which is the national association of professors of American history. He will serve a two-year term, starting April 9, at the annual meeting of the organization to be held in San Francisco.

Luebke is the author or editor of five books, three of which treat Nebraska or Great Plains history. In May the University of Nebraska Press will publish his most recent book, *Ethnicity on the Great Plains*. He has been a UNL faculty member since 1968.

Most reader complaints have been legitimate, and it seems like the newspaper has made a lot of mistakes this semester.

Though the reputation of the newspaper would have been better had the mistakes never been made, they have been valuable learning experiences for the staff.

Suffering from the results of a mistake leaves a much greater impact than a mere warning of what might happen.

The staff has lost pride but gained knowledge as a result of these errors.

But the staff consists of students whose major reason for working at the Daily Nebraskan is to learn—a goal that is definitely being accomplished this semester.

Though it seems like there have been a lot of mistakes made, there is still a lot that everyone on the staff could learn.

With only four weeks in the semester left, the Daily Nebraskan hopefully can draw on the knowledge acquired from the past weeks and publish a fairly mistake-free paper.

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