

Huskers host Colorado in first round of tourney

By Bill Dunbar

The Nebraska Cornhuskers host the Colorado Buffaloes in a first round playoff game in the fifth annual Big Eight Basketball Tournament tonight at 8:10.

Nebraska drew the Buffaloes in a coin flip with Kansas after the two teams and Kansas State tied for second in the Big Eight with 9-5 records. Kansas State drew Oklahoma because of a regular season sweep of Colorado. Kansas and Nebraska split with the Buffaloes.

Wrestler takes first in Oklahoma

Nebraska's Johnnie Selmon became the first UNL wrestler in 19 years to clinch an individual first place medal in the Big Eight wrestling tournament at Stillwater, Okla. Sunday.

Selmon was voted the tournament's outstanding wrestler, winning a 21-4 superior decision from Iowa State's Joe Gibbons in the semi-finals and pinning Missouri's Kris Whelan in 3:08 in the finals.

Selmon, who wrestles at 134 pounds, advances to the NCAA championships March 11 through 13 at Princeton, N.J., with a 27-3-1 record. Nebraska has had only one NCAA champion, Mike Nissen, who won the 123-pound championship in 1963.

The Cornhuskers finished fourth in the five-team tournament with 37 points. The Huskers have steadily improved in tournament play, after scoring no points for a dead-last finish in 1977.

Oklahoma won the team championship, edging the Iowa State Cyclones, 80-77.5. Third place went to Oklahoma State with 56.75 and Missouri finished last with 30.25.

Two other Huskers, heavyweight Daryl Meyer and 188-

first round," Colorado Coach Bill Blair said. "There's something about playing Nebraska in Lincoln that we enjoy."

Colorado has beaten Nebraska the last two times in Lincoln and Nebraska Coach Moe Iba hopes the third time will be the charm.

"We had a real good effort against Oklahoma," Iba said. "The players showed a lot of intensity in considering they had no chance to win the conference. We've had good practices and I think we'll play well against them this time."

Iba said the game against Colorado probably will be the best game of the four because it will be televised by KBMA (Cable Channel 2) out of Kansas City.

Colorado comes to Lincoln after a 67-56 loss to Iowa State in Ames Saturday night, but Blair said he doesn't think that game will have much bearing on the Tuesday night game.

Nebraska must stop Jo Jo Hunter, something it hasn't been able to do since Hunter transferred to Colorado from Maryland.

"Jo Jo loves to play against Nebraska's man-to-man defense," Blair said. "He has a pro-type game and shoots better with a man in his face. He seems to have trouble against zone defenses and I've never known Moe Iba to use much zone defense."

Iba said the game is important because the only way Nebraska can be assured of going to the NCAA tournament is to win the Big Eight post-season tournament.

"The NCAA will probably give two berths to the Big Eight," Iba said. "We'll probably have to win in Kansas City to receive an invitation."

pound Scott Morgan also advanced to the NCAA championships.

A wrestler had to finish in the top three in his weight category to advance automatically to nationals, but 10 wild-card entries, chosen by conference coaches, also will go to the nationals.

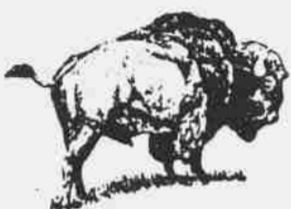
Four Huskers have a chance at wild-card berths: 142-pound Al Freeman, 150-pound Ray Oliver, 158-pound Jim Scherr and 167-pound Jeff Dillman. They finished in fourth place after Sunday's consolation matches.

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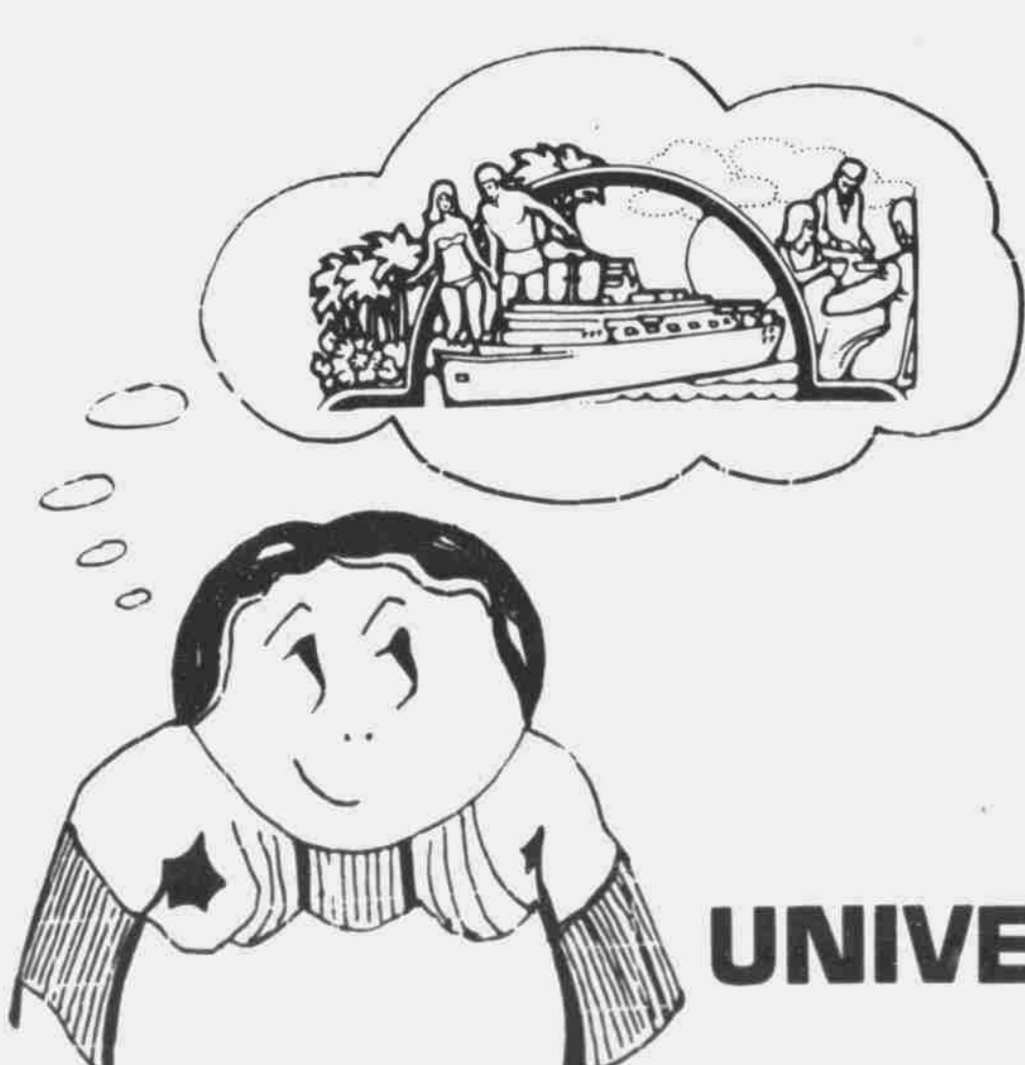
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