

Sports



Staff photo by John Zoz

"Hey, Dad, calm down, we're up by 50," is what Nebraska volunteer Assistant Coach Bret Iba is probably thinking during Nebraska's 98-46 victory over Southwest Missouri State. Nebraska will play Kansas State tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Huskers hope to rebound against Craft-led Wildcats

By Kevin Warneke

The Nebraska men's basketball team will battle one of the co-leaders in the Big Eight Conference race when they host Kansas State tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska is coming off a 72-69 loss at Colorado, while Kansas State romped Iowa State 81-55, last Saturday.

The game marks Nebraska's first home conference game while Kansas State is on the road for the first time.

"Any home game is important; it's important that we don't lose two games in a row," Coach Moe Iba said. "It's early in the Big Eight, yet there are only two teams with no losses in Kansas State and Missouri. And we can take care of one of them Wednesday night."

Kansas State, 10-5 overall, is led in scoring and rebounding by center Les Craft. Craft has averaged 11.5 points and 5.8 rebounds a game.

"He is a good post man," Iba said. "He's one of the better ones in the conference. He's always played well against us before and we wouldn't think he would come in and not play well."

Sophomore Eddie Elder ranks second in scoring and rebounding with a 10.1 scoring and a 5.3 rebounding average.

Other starters include forward Tyrone Jackson and guards Ed Galvao and Fred Marshall.

Although they lost four starters from last year's team, Iba said that the Kansas State team still has talent.

"They are not down talent-wise, maybe by experience," he said. "But they've played 15 games and they're getting experience."

Iba said he does not foresee any lineup changes, which means that Nebraska will be starting Dave Hoppen at center, Stan Cloudy and Claude Renfro at forwards and David Ponce and Greg Downing at the guard positions.

Although Hoppen is on a scoring rampage, tallying 44 points in his last two games, Iba said that no changes were made in the offense to get the ball to him more often.

"Dave's play has been better than before," Iba said. "He's played awful good basketball."

He also said that anytime someone has the hot hand, the players try to get that person the ball.

"Hoppen's certainly a fine addition to their team," Kansas State Coach Jack Hartman said. "He plays with poise and composure that you wouldn't expect from a freshman at that position."

Iba also squelched any rumors that his players might be looking beyond the Kansas State game to Saturday's contest with Missouri.

"If they are, they're crazy," he said.

Swimmer says Huskers will paddle to Big Eight win

By Mark Quandahl

Nebraska swimmer and natural resource major, Rick Gilbertson, has a confession to make.

"My girlfriend, Cam Lutz, makes me study," he said. "She is my tutor."

"My first year down here it was rough," Gilbertson said. "I really didn't study that much in high school, so it hit me like a brick. But now I've got someone to help me."

When he isn't studying, Gilbertson, a sophomore from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, spends much of his time competing in breaststroke and individual medley events for the Cornhusker swimming team.

Gilbertson said he chose Nebraska because it was close to home and because of the impressive facilities at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"I was considering going to LSU until I saw their pool," Gilbertson said.

While at Cedar Rapids Kennedy High School, Gilbertson twice earned All-American status in both the 100 yard breaststroke and 200 individual medley. At Nebraska, he owns the school record in the 400 yard individual medley with a time of 4:00.49. Last year as a freshman he qualified for the NCAA meet in the 200 breaststroke and was the Big Eight champion in the 400-meter individual medley. At last year's Big Eight meet, Gilbertson also placed second in the 200 individual medley and scored 42 team points, which tied him for second place on the team with junior Kevin Weires.

"I think I do my best in the 200 breast stroke," Gilbertson said. "But right now I'm looking to improve my 400 IM."

He said that his school record in the 400 individual medley was "pretty nice," and that he is looking forward to winning it four years in a row at the Big Eight meet.

Although Gilbertson said competition will be stiff

at this year's Big Eight meet, he is still confident of a good Husker showing.

"We're going to smoke 'em" he said.

"The Big Eight is a good conference," he said. "There are some studs in there." He cited Kansas' Olympian Ron Neugent and fellow Huskers Matt Rye and Tim Brinner as the swimmers who will push him.

Gilbertson thought the Huskers were successful as a team because, "everyone helps everyone."

"And Cal (Bentz) is a good coach," he said. "He's really all right."

"Last year I set a goal to make the NCAA in three events, but I only made it in one," Gilbertson said. "This year I'm determined to make it in all three."

Gilbertson said he is looking forward to Friday's meet against Iowa State in Ames and Saturday's meet against Iowa in Iowa City.

"It'll be like going home," he said. "I'll be competing against the hometown boys."

Ideal Super Bowl salvages strange NFL season

This may be the understatement of the year but this has not been a normal season in the National Football League.

The season got off on the wrong foot when the Players Association threatened to strike if the owners didn't give them a percentage of the gross revenues. The confident owners either didn't take the players seriously

or wanted a strike because they wouldn't listen to the players. The owners offered better pensions and a higher minimum salary but were definitely against the shared revenue idea.

After two games, the players took a walk, and didn't come back. For the next eight weeks American football fans had a choice between Canadian football (How's it goin', eh? or CBS boxing, I mean, Sports Spectacular.)

Finally, the players decided they'd take the owners measly offer and get back to playing football. At this point the NFL Commissioner, Pete Rozelle, decided the playoff system had to be changed. The league went from its normal 10-team playoff to a National Hockey League-like, 16-team Super Bowl tournament.

But the strike wasn't the only thing strange about the 1982-83 NFL season. Admitted workaholic Dick Vermeil resigned from his job as coach of the Philadelphia Eagles. Vermeil, who had been known to spend 18-hour days working, resigned because he said he was burnt out with coaching. Vermeil has since been hired as football analyst with CBS Sports. Rumor has it that he'll be at the games by 2 a.m.

Another strange happening in the NFL season is that Ed Biles is still the coach of the Houston Oilers. The Oilers, with Biles as their coach, have gone from having a legitimate shot at the Super Bowl to battling the Baltimore Colts to stay out of last place in the AFC.

There were other strange occurrences as well. Sam McCullum was cut by the Seattle Seahawks after being one of the leaders in the Players Association. McCullum was picked up by the Minnesota Vikings and had a fine season. Leeman Bennett was fired after his Atlanta Falcons did another fold in the playoffs. Marv Levy was fired by the Kansas City Chiefs after receiving a vote of confidence from owner Lamar Hunt.

After all this craziness we've come down to the final two teams, Miami and Washington, in the Super Bowl. Thank you for these two teams, football gods.

In the season that might not have been, two of the more stable and respected teams will battle for the league title. These teams are not pass happy like most in the

NFL. They rely on defense and (gasp) strong running games.

This is the game I really hoped for. A decade ago, two teams that relied on defense and a strong running game played in the Super Bowl. They were coached by two of the most respected coaches in the league and they played a low scoring but exciting game. The two teams in Super Bowl VII were the Miami Dolphins and the Washington Redskins.

There are other similarities between Super Bowl VII and Super Bowl XVII. Miami's running attack is led by Andra Franklin who has many of the running characteristics of Larry Csonka. Washington's quarterback, Joe Theismann, could be thought of as a young (and thin) Billy Kilmer. Instead of the no-name defense that Miami had in 1973, the defense's nickname in 1983 is the Killer Bees (Bob Baumhower, Bob Brudzinsky, Doug Betters, Kim Bokamper, Lyle Blackwood and Glenn Blackwood).

Who's going to win the game? The fact that Daily Nebraskan prognosticator Jeff Goodwin picked Miami should cause me to pick the Rams by 20 (they have so much talent but a terrible owner). Being an old Miami fan, I'll have to pick the Dolphins by a touchdown. The prediction may be wrong if the ghost of Miami kicker Garo Yepremian should appear and hit a wide open Mike Bass for a Washington touchdown.

Bob
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