

# Sports



Staff photo by Craig Andresen

Claude Renfro drives with the ball against Colorado's Vince Kelley. Renfro and the rest of the Nebraska Cornhuskers will host Iowa State Saturday in a key Big Eight game.

## Huskers face Big Eight rival weekend

By Ward W. Triplett III

Nebraska basketball coach Moe Iba made sure not to go overboard when he discussed the outcome of the Big Eight Conference race last fall. In various forms and on many occasions Iba said he hoped the team would finish in the upper division.

But after Wednesday night's manhandling of Kansas State at Manhattan, the 6-3 Cornhuskers are almost guaranteed that upper division finish, and Iba is looking at a higher goal.

"Our game Saturday is very important to us," he said. "We can still win the conference providing somebody beats Missouri before we get to them, so we really need Saturday's game."

The antagonist Saturday was the Husker's first conference victim. Iowa State had run off a seven-game consecutive win streak in the non-conference schedule, before bogging down when the Big Eight race began. Nebraska added to the woes by handing the Cyclones a 59-54 setback in Ames Jan. 18.

Since then, the Cyclones have won five of eight games, with home-court wins over Oklahoma State and Missouri. Iba said a personnel switch was responsible for the Cyclone resurgence.

"I think Iowa State has really improved their basketball team since we played them there," he said. "They moved one of their players (Ron Harris) from guard to forward, and put 6-3 freshman Jeff Hornacek in the starting line-up. What is done is given them more quickness and ability. Since they did that, their team has been playing well."

Hornacek scored 19 points in the Cyclones 69-65 victory Wednesday night at Colorado. He is joined in the starting line up by Harris, a 6-3 junior forward, Barry Stevens, a 6-5 sophomore forward, Terrance Allen, a 6-0 junior guard and 6-11 senior Ron Falenschek.

Stevens, who almost single-handedly beat Missouri with a conference high of 40 points, is the leading scorer with a 17.7 average. Harris and Allen both average double figures at 14.5 and 10.4 points per game, respectively. Falenschek scored 19 points against Nebraska at Ames

last year, but was ineffective against Husker Dave Hoppen last month. Falenschek averages only 5.6 points per game while Hornacek was scoring at a 3.8 clip before Wednesday's game.

Hoppen is still the Husker's leading scorer at 13.1 points per game, followed by Stan Cloudy, Claude Renfro, Greg Downing and David Ponce.

The game is equally important for Iowa State, because the Cyclones, at 5-4, are tied with Oklahoma State for fourth place in the conference race. Missouri still leads the conference at 7-1, prior to Thursday's game with Kansas. Oklahoma, which beat Oklahoma State at Stillwater by a David Little basket with two seconds left and Nebraska are tied for second, in front of Iowa State and Oklahoma State. The last three teams are too far off the pace to count, except for spoiler roles.

Iba said Nebraska will have to keep Iowa State's big guns off stride to prevent a Cyclone revenge victory.

"Stevens has always been a good scorer," Iba said, adding that he had watched a videotape of the Missouri game. Iba said Stevens has had some great games but his performance varies — depending if he gets into the flow of the game or not.

"What we'll have to do is stay after him, and push him off his spot when he gets the ball."

Nebraska can improve its overall mark to 16-6 with a win. Iowa State is 13-9 overall.

The Nebraska women's basketball team will be trying to break a nine-road-game losing streak when they meet Oklahoma State and Oklahoma this weekend. The Cowgirls, at 1-9 in the conference, are currently holding down last place, the Sooners are 6-5 and fourth after beating the Cowgirls 86-85 in overtime Wednesday. It will be the Husker's first meeting with Oklahoma State; the Sooner game will be a rematch. Nebraska won the home game 85-78. Sooner coach Maura McHugh claimed the game was won partially by the referees.

"I won't need to motivate our players for that game," Nebraska Coach Colleen Matsuhara said. "McHugh's comments were billboard material."

The Huskers are 2-6 in the conference and 12-10 overall.

## How parity made college basketball accept the upset

If Mr. Webster were a half-court hoops fan, he wouldn't just define parity as "equality in power." He'd also say it describes very accurately what's happening in the game of college basketball today.

Look at the polls, the norm today seems to be a new No. 1 team every week. Being No. 1 in the polls is like a hot potato. Nobody seems to want it. Knocking at the

### Al McGuire

door have been Indiana, Kentucky, St. John's, Mississippi, UCLA, Virginia, plus a flotilla of others.

The reasons for this are many.

The most obvious one is the freshman rule, which does not allow the dynasty colleges to stockpile the blue-chippers like they did years ago. What you used to do was bring in a great freshman team, break 'em in as a sophomore and play 'em as juniors and seniors. Today, a blue-chip freshman wants to play right away or he'll go somewhere else where he will, because most keepers have their eyes on the pros down the road. And, unlike in football, turning a program around and taking a trip uptown costs only a couple of blue-chippers and the right complementary players.

What all this has done is spread the high school blue-chippers throughout 50 to 60 schools in Division I, which is a first big step toward equality.

Another thing, the NCAA has lowered the amount of scholarships you can give. At no time can you have more than 15 basketball players on scholarship. They can bring in 15 one year, or spread it over four years, but at no time can there be more than 15 on a scholarship.

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## ISU hopes win here leads to tournament

By Jeff Goodwin

Iowa State fans must be wondering what Cyclone forward Barry Stevens is going to do for an encore.

A week ago Tuesday, Stevens popped in 40 points against Missouri to lead the Cyclones to a 73-72 overtime win against the conference leaders. His last basket was the game winner as time ran out.

"That basket was one of the greatest moments of my life," Stevens said. "It was a big win."

Stevens didn't shy away from the pressure of taking the final shot.

"At the end of the game I wanted the ball," Stevens said. "I felt I was hot."

For his efforts, Stevens was named the Big Eight player of the week as well as the national player of the week

by Sports Illustrated.

Stevens said the Cyclones, who currently have a 13-9 record overall and a 5-4 record in the Big Eight, have hopes of making a post-season tournament.

Stevens said Iowa State's lack of height hasn't been a problem.

"I think that we still have a small team," he said, "but we're playing better together. Jeff Hornacek and Ron Falenshek (guard and center) have really played well."

Stevens said his lack of height isn't a problem either.

"I'm only 6-5, but I'm usually covered by a guy 6-8, so I use my speed and quickness. A lot of times, I'm the biggest man on the floor so I have to rebound."

Stevens, a sophomore from Flint, Michigan, chose Iowa State over Minnesota.

"I felt eventually I'd start at either school," Stevens said, "but I felt I'd play sooner at Iowa State."

Stevens realizes that, as a sophomore, he has yet to mature fully as a player.

Stevens said the pressure of winning his national awards would not affect him.

"It puts pressure on you for awhile," he said. "It came as quite a surprise. My teammates told me I was going to get some national rank."

Stevens said it is critical for the Cyclones to start winning games on the road.

"We've won here (at Ames) and now we're trying to get some wins on the road," he said.

Stevens, who is currently the fourth leading scorer in the Big Eight with an average of 17.7 points a game, said that he has hopes for a future in professional basketball but that that moment is still some time off.

"I try not to think about the NBA right now," he said. "I'm still young."

Stevens said he likes playing under Iowa State Coach Johnny Orr.

"I think he's the type of coach that's not real wound up," Stevens said. "He's a smooth, mellowed-out guy."

With a few more players like Stevens, Orr could almost become comatose.



Photo courtesy of Iowa State Sports Information office

Iowa State's Barry Stevens is on the way to the basket in a game at Ames Hilton Coliseum. Stevens was named Sports Illustrated's National Player of the Week for his performance against Missouri and Kansas State.