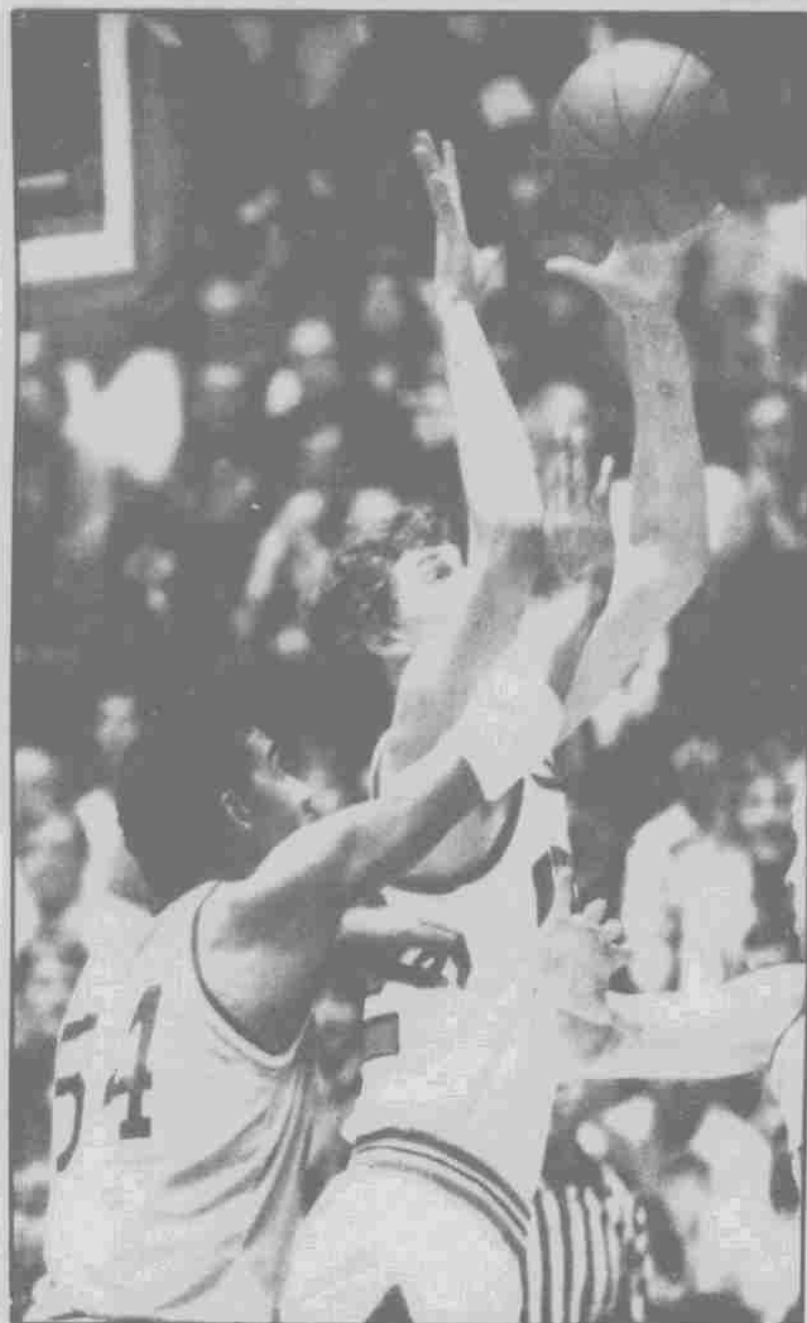


Sports



Staff photo by John Zoz
Dave Hoppen rebounds against Tulane's John Williams in last night's 72-65 defeat of the Green Wave.

Huskers trounce Tulane in NIT play

By Bob Asmussen and Kevin Warneke

It became a Cloudy night for the Green Wave of Tulane Thursday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Nebraska's 6-4 junior forward Stan Cloudy scored 20 points as Nebraska beat Tulane, 72-65 in a first-round National Invitational Tournament game.

Nebraska hit the opening basket only 27 seconds into the game, as Dave Hoppen's jumper ripped the net. Hoppen sank his second basket with 18:14 remaining in the first half to give Nebraska a 4-0 lead.

From then on, neither team could take total command as the lead changed nine times before the end of the half.

Claude Renfro gave Nebraska a six-point lead when he slammed home his rebound of a Greg Downing missed shot with 13:45 to go in the first half.

Lenard Johnson's layup with 10:08 in the half gave Nebraska its biggest lead, 22-15.

But the Green Wave fought back and outscored Nebraska 10-2 in a span of 4:38 to take a 27-24 lead with 5:14 remaining.

With 3:54 remaining in the half, Hoppen's hook shot from inside the lane put Nebraska ahead 30-29.

The lead seasawed back and forth until Stan Cloudy's tip-in of David Ponce's desperation shot sent Nebraska to the locker room with a 36-35 first-half lead.

Hoppen and Ponce each contributed 10 points to aid the Husker first-half cause, while Howard Jenkins kept Tulane close with 12 points.

Nebraska's first-half effort was aided by the crowd of 12,053.

"That was the loudest crowd we've had all year," Nebraska Coach Moe Iba said. "The players couldn't hear what we were saying."

"I knew they came ready to cheer, so I wanted to be ready to play," Ponce said.

"The crowd always helps you out," Cloudy said. "Maybe if you're in Tulane with a nine-point lead, maybe it wouldn't have turned out that way."

The nine-point lead Cloudy referred to was with 5:14 left in the game, when he hit a 12-foot jumper from the right side to give Nebraska a 62-53 lead.

The Huskers were able to accumulate this lead, with a controlled offense that committed only one turnover up to that 5:14 point.

Tulane had numerous opportunities to get back into the game during the last five minutes, but 42 percent shooting from the field in the second half hindered the Green Wave.

Tulane had its opportunity to grasp victory, thanks to poor free throw shooting by the Huskers down the stretch.

The usual steady free throw shooting of Hoppen failed to materialize as he missed five straight free throws in the last 4:37 of the game.

"I was glad they didn't matter," Hoppen said. "I had no idea what went wrong. When I missed those two free throws in a row (at 4:37) I just started thinking about them too much."

Two consecutive slam dunks by Cloudy and Renfro iced the game for the 20-9 Huskers.

Cloudy, with 10 of 17 shooting from the floor, led the Huskers with 20 points. He was followed closely by Hoppen and Ponce's 16 points a piece. Renfro added 10.

Elton Webster led Tulane with 15 points. Jenkins was held scoreless in the second half and finished with 12 points.

John Williams scored 10 points and Paul Thompson, averaging 17 points a game, was held to 10 points.

Nebraska out-rebounded their counterparts 37 to 31, led by Cloudy, who pulled down 14 caroms. Renfro had nine.

Rumors point to coaching changes

Rumors. You hear them all the time. Half the time they're true and half the time they're not. One other thing about rumors is that they are always interesting.

To illustrate my point, I'll introduce two rumors in my column today. One will be true while the other may or may not. Try and guess which is which.

Rumor No. 1:

A certain coach of a certain athletic team at a certain university in Lincoln may not have the same position

Bob
Asmussen

next year. This coach has been with the university for a good many years and his position may be one that is considered sacred. But, as we all know, life is tough in the Big Eight, especially for coaches who are not incredibly successful.

The rumors have been flying in regard to this person for quite a few years. Is he gone? Why is he still around? Will he ever lead us to victory again? All valid questions, none of which have very good answers.

So the big problem is: What to do with this person with all these years of dedication? I know what you do

with him. You don't fire him, you don't demote him but you promote someone else. Who do we promote? I know, the successful coach of another program at the same school.

See what I mean? Rumors really are interesting. They are also confusing. It probably would have helped if I had mentioned the name of the person whose job is being diminished, or the program that he coaches. It would have been helpful, but for me it also would have been stupid. That's the other fun thing about rumors, if you're a reporter at a newspaper that puts the rumors in print, and then turn out to be true . . . the athletic department will never speak to you again, and you'll be doing the women's page in Biloxi, Miss., for the rest of your natural life.

Rumor No. 2:

A certain Daily Nebraskan sports editor is beating around the bush. He's afraid that if he mentions the coach's name or the program he'll get in serious trouble. This is the rumor that is true. I'm afraid for a lot of people, but especially for myself. It's taken me this long to mention the coach in question, Frank Sevigne, and the program in question, the Nebraska men's track program. See, that didn't hurt too bad, at least not until tomorrow.

I guess what it all comes down to is a question of journalistic integrity. It is a question for me of whether I write what I know or not. In my heart, I know the right thing to do is to write what I know. Common sense, on the other hand, tells me to do what will enhance my relationship with the athletic department.

Also, I've got a friend who might be affected by the fact that this news is out early, and that is another problem. He trusted me enough to tell me what he knew, and for that I thank him. At the same time, I wish he would understand that I'm writing this for the sake of truth and nothing else. Oh sure, I like to beat the Lincoln Journal to a story just like everyone else, but in this case, I know I'm not beating them to the story because they have the same information I have.

In my opinion, you can look for some measures about Coach Sevigne to be taken Saturday at the NU Board of Regents meeting. Women's Coach Gary Pepin will likely be promoted to share Sevigne's duties. The status of Dick Railsback and Mark Fluitt, Sevigne's assistant coaches, is up in the air at this time, but more will be known later this week.

Here's one for honesty. Hello Biloxi.

Ten swimmers head to NCAA

By Mark Quandahl

Nebraska Men's Swimming Coach Cal Bentz is obviously pleased with the achievements of the 10 Cornhuskers who have qualified for the NCAA meet to be held March 24 through March 26 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"This group of people really applied themselves to the goals we had set," Bentz said. "And the payoffs were bound to come."

Bentz said the 10 qualifiers tied the Husker record for the number of participants in nationals, and were entered in more individual events than ever before in Nebraska history.

Tim Brinner qualified to participate in the medley relay, and the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke. Rick Gilbertson got the nod for the 200 breaststroke while David Hecker will participate in the 800-yard freestyle relay. Jim Korff will be included in the 400 freestyle relay. Matt Rye is in the 200 breaststroke, and Earl Welliver qualified for the 400 medley relay, the 400 freestyle relay and the 800 freestyle relay. Kevin Weires also qualified for the three relays as did former All-American Cliff Looschen, who will also be in the 100 and 200 backstroke and the 100 and 200 freestyle.

Bentz said he thought everyone who qualified for the Huskers would do "just fine."

"We're going to swim really fast," Bentz said. "And let the team place take care of itself."

"We're going to really concentrate on individual performance, and after the smoke clears, we should be sitting pretty well," Bentz said.

Bentz said the team was in the "taper and rest" phase of training until they take off for Indiana on Tuesday morning.

"This meet is probably going to be the fastest in the world this year, as is usually the case," Bentz said.

In the diving competition, Coach Jeff Huber said Dave Goodwin will compete on the 1-meter board, while Reynaldo Castro will be on both the 1- and 3-meter boards.

"If they can get in the groove, and if they get hot, they'll score really well," Huber said.

"Both are capable of getting in the top six."

"This is the strongest group of qualifiers that we have ever sent to nationals," Huber said. "And that goes not only for us, but for the whole zone." He said the better the zone qualifiers do at nationals, the more spots will be reserved for them next year.

"Every person we have entered is capable of scoring," Bentz said. "And we have more scoring opportunities than ever before, so all we need to do is to make sure that everyone hits."

"We feel really good," he said.

"At this point in the season, we've done the things we've set out to do."

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