

Sports

Husker cagers squash Frogs, head to New York

By Barry Trevarrow

"New York! New York! New York!" The chant echoed through the Bob Devaney Sports Center Thursday night as Nebraska cruised to a 67-57 victory over Texas Christian University. The win landed the Cornhuskers a berth in the Final Four of the National Invitational Basketball Tournament being held in the Big Apple's Madison Square Garden.

Nebraska has drawn traditional power DePaul in a semi-final game to be televised tonight.

The win caps a three-game tourney sweep which saw the Huskers defeat Tulane, 72-65; Iona, 85-73; and TCU. Loud sellout crowds, afflicted with a sudden case of basketball fever, had as much to do with the final two wins as the players.

"The crowd was unbelievable," said Ken Williamson, Iona's associate head coach.

"The fans have been just super," freshman center Dave Hoppen said. "I wish we could take 'em all to New York with us."

Stan Cloudy exploded for 24 points in the win over Iona. Nebraska started fast by hitting its first five shots, while shooting 56 percent for the first half. Iona, however, refused to buckle and held a 34-28 lead with four minutes left in the half. The Gaels continuously took the Huskers with tough one-on-one plays, mostly by guard Steve Burt. Burt scored 14 first-half points and finished with 22.

The Huskers cracked down defensively and took a 40-39 halftime lead on Greg Downing's outside jumper. Downing



Staff photo by Dave Bentz

Nebraska center Dave Hoppen and forward Lenard Johnson engage in a rebounding battle with TCU's Doug Arnold (33) and Nick Cucinella (34). Nebraska beat the Killer Frogs 67-57 to advance to tonight's NIT semi-final against DePaul.

finished with 10 points.

Turnovers plagued Iona the rest of the game as they went on to commit a total of 30 miscues. Nebraska outscored the Gaels 45-34 in the second half. Senior Claude Renfro turned in a career-high 16 points with a sparkling six for eight shooting performance. Hoppen had 15 points while David Ponce added 11. Reserve Lenard Johnson provided backup strength with seven points and three rebounds in 11 minutes of play. Cloudy led all Husker rebounders with eight.

Cloudy, who scored 20 points in the first-round victory over Tulane, continued to lead the Nebraska march to New York by scoring 18 points and yanking down nine rebounds against TCU. The "Killer Frogs" shot only 38.2 percent. They fell behind 36-19 at halftime.

"We just worked much harder and out-hustled them," Cloudy said. "All five of us gave it all we had and it paid off." Hoppen added 16 points and blocked four shots.

Greg Downing scored 10 points while

Renfro added eight and Ponce had six. Nebraska led by as much as 24 points in the second half. TCU just couldn't handle the Husker momentum.

"I thought it would be a lot tougher," Hoppen said. Indeed, TCU had defeated 1981 NIT champion Tulsa and Arizona State on the road before crashing in Lincoln.

Ponce explained the recent Husker success.

"We've got a close team," Ponce said. "At first, we didn't know each other too well. Since then, we've jelled and we play together. When we're smart, there's not too many teams in the country who can beat us. I think we've disproved those who say we don't have much talent. We've got talent plus hustle."

"We're going up there (New York) with the idea of winning the thing," Ponce said. "I think of the Knicks-Lakers championships when I see the Garden. I've never been there but I have relatives in the area. It'll be great just being on the floor."

Nebraska, now 22-9, will face Ray Meyer's Blue Demons with the winner taking on either Wake Forest or Fresno State. DePaul clawed their way to a 20-11 record this season after tipping Mississippi at home Friday. In the first few years of his coaching reign, Meyer coached against Hank Iba, the father of Husker coach Moe Iba.

"This team's got a chance if we play," Coach Moe Iba said. "I told 'em we're just two games away from winning this thing."

Indiana basketball star to play for Nebraska

By Kevin Warneke

Brian Carr is ready to leave Indiana.

The 6-1 guard has verbally committed to attend UNL to share his basketball talents with the Cornhuskers.

Carr said after visiting Nebraska in October during homecoming he decided Nebraska was the place to play basketball.

"I really liked the coaches and the facilities," he said. "I also liked the people and they made me feel that Nebraska was the place for me."

After considering attending Miami of Ohio and Dodge City Community College in Kansas, Carr said that Nebraska's coaching staff was the deciding factor.

"I had more contact with Coach Baack," he said. "I liked the way he pats you on the back if you do well but gets on your face if you need it."

His high school coach, Steve Shondell at Muncie

Burris High School, also was a deciding factor in Carr's decision to come to Nebraska.

"We talked it over, but we didn't tell him where to go," Shondell said. "We influenced him, but the final decision was his."

Shondell said that Carr should have no trouble getting used to playing Nebraska's style of basketball, because Muncie Burris also plays that style.

"He should fit in real well," he said. "We play a very disciplined offense and our defense is mainly man-to-man."

Carr finished his high school career by leading Muncie Burris to a 15-6 season, but they were defeated by Muncie Central in first round of district action.

In that game, Carr scored 23 points, after missing his first six shots and being held scoreless in the first quarter.

"He played very well for three quarters," Shondell said.

Despite the fact that he led his team in scoring, averaging over 23 points a game, Carr said that scoring wasn't one of his strengths on the basketball court.

"I can handle the ball real well and pass well," Carr said. "But I'm only a fair shooter. I like to dish the ball off."

Passing is one of his strengths, Shondell said, which is easily proved by the fact that he averaged over eight assists a game.

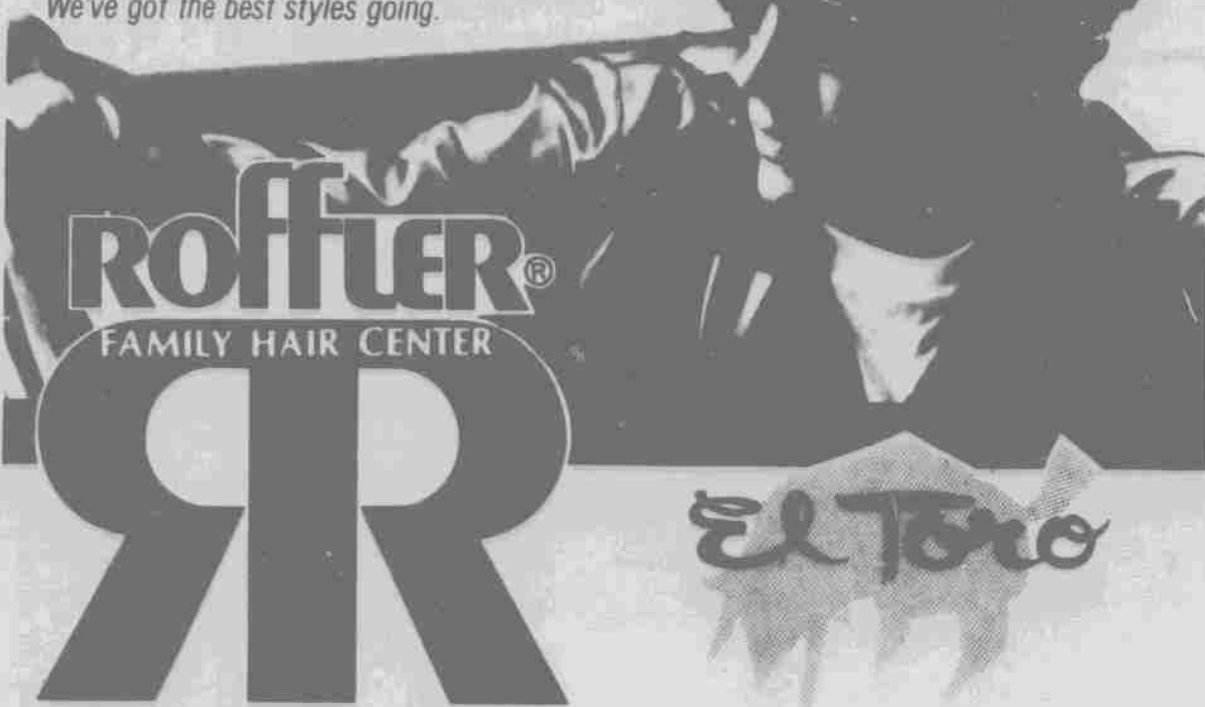
If he does have one weakness, Shondell said, it would be his lack of physical strength.

Carr said that he was looking forward to playing under Nebraska Coach Moe Iba.

"I've heard a lot about him," Carr said. "Nebraska always has had a good basketball program, but he's really turned it around."

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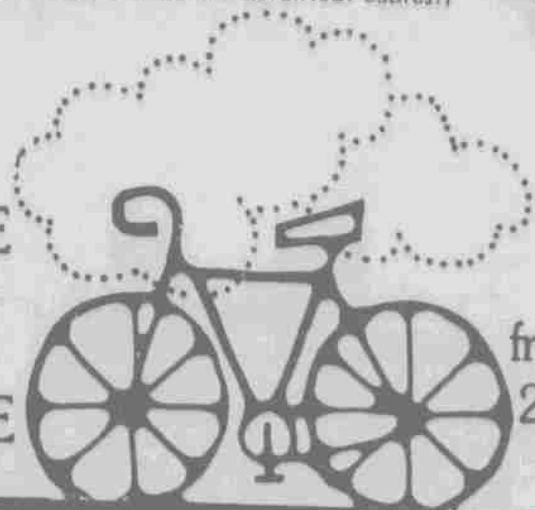
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