

Current coach leads candidates

Hill will reapply for women's job

By Terry Hyland

UNL women's basketball Coach Kelly Hill said she will apply for the coaching position she now holds when the job is opened for applications sometime after the current season ends.

June Davis, UNL women's athletic director, said affirmative action mandates require that the coaching position be opened and advertised nationally to allow all applicants to apply. She said no decisions have been made about when the job will be opened and no search has begun for applicants.

Hill, who was named interim coach when Colleen Matsuhara resigned after the 1982-83 season, said she is planning to keep her coaching job.

"I'll probably be the first one to apply for it," she said. "I have to look at it positively and optimistically that I'll be rehired."

Hill, 25, was given a one-year contract when Matsuhara resigned. She had been an assistant coach at Nebraska for three years.

She said she understands that the affirmative action procedures are necessary and that she has received no guarantee that she would retain her job.

"I'm going to have to go through the same evaluations as the others," Hill said. "I'm sure quality coaches will apply."

She said she thinks her experience and knowledge of the UNL system will benefit her in competition with other applicants. Hill said the success of her team could also give her an advantage. The Huskers are 13-7.

"I think we've done a respectable job in the conference this season," she said.

Davis said Hill's experience at UNL will work in her favor in the selection process.

"She's done a good job this season," she said. "We're looking forward to her applying for the job."

Hill said her players and assistant coaches have not discussed the situation. She said she would like to clarify her status as basketball coach soon so recruits would know if she will be at Nebraska next season.

Several players contacted said the team is aware of the situation and that they hoped Hill would be rehired.

"Kelly is a good coach," said Stacy Imming, a freshman starting guard. "We all want to try to have a good season so she can stay here."

Debra Powell, a junior starting guard, said if the team has a good season, it will prove that Hill is a good coach.

She said Hill is well-liked by the players, both on and off the court.

"She's a friend more than just a coach," Powell said.

Hill's continuance as coach is also important to the future of the program, she said.

"We're in the building process," Powell said. "If a new coach comes in, we'll have to start over."

Freshman starting center Angie Miller said the players are concentrating on having a successful season.

"Kelly has a lot of pressure on her to win so she

can keep her job," she said.

Brad Munn, UNL's affirmative action officer, said all vacated coaching or faculty positions are advertised according to affirmative action procedures. He said after applications have been received, a search committee makes recommendations and compiles a list of qualified candidates. The athletic director makes individual reference checks, conducts interviews and hires coaches after consultation with the committee.

Lack of players leading to losses

Nebraska's women's basketball Coach Kelly Hill compared her team's 106-78 loss to Big Eight opponent Missouri, Saturday, with its loss suffered to the Tigers earlier in the season at Lincoln.

"It was the same kind of game," Hill said of Missouri's victory. "They just scored more points."

Missouri jumped to an early 12-point lead, 17-5, with 16:55 left in the first half. Nebraska was unable to get any closer than five, 25-20, with 11:55 remaining. From there, Missouri, behind the seven-of-nine first-half shooting of All-American Joni Davis, increased its lead to 19 at the half, 58-39.

In the second half, the tenth-ranked Tigers built on their lead, winning their fourth consecutive game and retaining possession of first place in the Big Eight with a 7-1 record. Nebraska drops to 3-5 in the league, and 13-8 overall, after losing its last three conference games.

Nebraska has been plagued by a lack of players and a lack of rebounding, Hill said. Only nine players suited up for the Missouri game.

"It's not like players grow on trees," Hill said.

Nebraska's Debra Powell scored a game-high 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Angie Miller added 18 points. Davis led the Tigers with 24 points. Teammate Mary Brueggstrass added 20 points and nine rebounds.

U.S. skiers grab top slalom medals

From The Reuter News Service

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — Debbie Armstrong and Christin Cooper captured giant slalom gold and silver medals for the United States as the glamour Alpine ski program got off to a belated start at the Winter Olympics Monday.

Blizzards forced officials to revamp the entire ski schedule and Armstrong had the honor of taking the first crown of the slopes.

It was the first gold medal for the U.S. in the Winter Games.

Armstrong overhauled Cooper, who led after the first leg, to win the title by four-tenths of a second.

Tamara McKinney, last year's World Cup champion, came close to producing an American sweep of the medals, but Perrine Pelen of France split them with a surprise third-place finish. Pelen also took the bronze at the 1980 Lake Placid games.

Armstrong's success ended a disappointing 12-year spell in which U.S. skiers had failed to strike gold in the Olympics. Barbara Cochrane was the last American to win a gold when she captured the slalom at the 1972 Games in Sapporo, Japan.

East Germany, the leader in gold medals to date, won its sixth gold on the sixth day of action when Karin Enke won the women's 1,000-meter speed skating event.

She sliced 2.5 seconds off Soviet skater Natalia Petrusseva's Olympic record. Petrusseva won the bronze when she finished behind Enke's teammate Andrea Scheoene.

Enke also triumphed in the 1,500-meter event last Thursday and gained the 500-meter silver on Friday.

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