## Creighton success leads to Bluejays' tourneyinvitation <br> By Stu Pospisil

Creighton's basketball renaissance has been rewarded with the Omaha school's first post-season ournameńt appearance in three seasons,
The Bluejays, who finished with a $17-13$ record after their first two losing seasons since 1976-68 National Invitation Tournament.
Creighton, which finished in the Missouri Valley Conference cellar last season, came within a halfcourt shot Saturday of defeating Tulsa for the league title and a NCAA tournament berth.
The Bluejays advanced to the MVC championship game defeating Bradley and NCAA contestant Illinois State, the latter losing at home for the first time in two seasons.
Vernon Moore, Willis Reed's first recruit as coach, Benoit Benjamin and Gregory Brandon have revived Greighton's fortunes.
Each averages 15 points or more per game, and the 7-0 Benjamin and Brandon rank among the Division I rebounding leaders.
Moore's field goal accuracy has improved form 41.2 percent as a freshman to 60.0 this season as a junior.
"Last year, we had too many freshmen, and that caused us to be unstable," Reed said. "That extra year of maturity these guys now have should make a big difference for us."
Nebraska defeated Creighton 65-58 in December as Dave Hoppen outscored "BigBen" 27-10. The Bluejays then won seven of its next nine games, losing only to DePaul (in overtime) and Illinois State. With a 9-3 record Creighton then slipped to a 12-11 mark, losing six road games and two at home (to Dayton and Tulsa, both in the NCAA field).
Creighton's homecourt success, winning 13 of 17 games played on the Omaha Civic Auditorium floor, could present problems for Nebraska.
Other NIT first-round games include: Old Dominion at Notre Dame, Georgia at Tennessee-Chat tanooga, Lamar at New Mexico, Southwest Louisi ana at Utah State, Florida at South Alabama, St. Peter's at Tennessee, Ohio State at Xavier, Florida State, Georgia Tech at Virginis Tech, Wichita State at Michigan, Santa Clara at Oregon, Fordham at Weber State, Boston College ot St Josephs and Pittsburgh at La Sall College at St, Josephs, and


Rec
(4) Scoreboard

Andre Smith scored 15 points and John McLaughlin added 14 as Norgas won the all-university intramural basketball championship, 52-47 against The Shrooms Sunday night at the Coliseur. League championship game earlier this season. Norgas won that game by one point. Norgas finished the season undefeated.
Sunday's game was tied at 21 at haltime, but Norgas, behind the shooting of Smith, McLaughlin and John Pflug, pulled away to lead by as many as six points before securing the final margin.
Three Shroom players fouled out of Sunday's game including leading scorer Nate Udofia. Udofia finished with 11 points.

UNL's Office of Campus Recreation is trying to arrange a game between Norgas and the University of Nebrasa-Omanas intram champion for Scheele said.


Centers Dave Hoppen of Nebragka and Benolt Benjomin of Crelgnioa batide for pontion in a game earile three in a row for the T -hetran antinet BirPem and the three in a row for the inakers against Big Ben and the Blaejays.

## Letter

Just wanted to let you know that feel the people of Nebraska should be mighty proud of Moe Iba. He has great knowledge of the game, is a winner and should have support from all the Big Red fans in attemptingtogetNe know more hoops th I will ever know and is a genuine credit to the game.

As for me, I find it hilarious to read that a couple of your students were promoting me to coach th bye were to say bye bye, Belleve me, you have the happy coaching on TV with ESPN where 1 am undefeated.

Best wishes and once again tell the Big Red fans to get behind Moe 100 percent as he certalnly deserves thelrsupport. I hope some day we can look at the top 20 and see Nebraska as one of the teams.

Dick Vitale ESPN



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