

Sports

Nebraska rivals get another shot



Dave Hoppen grabs a rebound from two Tulane players in the first round of last year's National Invitation Tournament.

Nebraska (17-11) at Creighton (17-13) Omaha Civic Auditorium, 8:05 p.m.

The Starters:

Pos.	Nebraska	Yr.	Ht.	Pts.	Reb.
G	Eric Williams	Sr.	6-2	7.7	2.4
G	David Ponce	Sr.	5-10	8.0	1.5
C	Dave Hoppen	So.	6-11	19.7	6.8
F	Ronnie Smith	Jr.	6-9	2.5	2.5
F	Stan Cloudy	Sr.	6-4	13.9	6.7
Team Average					65.5 28.2

Pos.	Creighton	Yr.	Ht.	Pts.	Reb.
G	Vernon Moore	Jr.	6-2	15.0	3.1
G	Gary Swain	Fr.	6-3	5.5	2.0
C	Benoit Benjamin	So.	7-0	16.0	9.7
F	Karlus Gripado	Fr.	6-6	1.4	1.4
F	Gregory Brandon	Sr.	6-7	14.9	10.9
Team Average					69.1 37.1

The Media: The game will not be televised in Lincoln, but will be shown on Omaha's Cox Cable Channel 9. KFOR is Lincoln's radio outlet for the Nebraska Basketball Network.

The Game: Since losing to Nebraska in December, Creighton's young Bluejays have undergone flight training.

Knicks center Willis Reed, in his third year at Creighton.

The Bluejays have improved in nearly every statistical category, including 49.5-percent field-goal accuracy and 71.9 percent from the line.

Sophomore center Benoit Benjamin is living up to his freshman billing, blocking 155 shots while averaging 16 points and nearly 10 rebounds.

Brandon's 10.9 rebound average is Creighton's best since George Morrow averaged 11 caroms during the 1980-81 season.

Creighton's playmaker is junior Vernon Moore, who averages 15 points. "He's an excellent point guard," said Nebraska Coach Moe Iba. "He penetrates the middle well, then feeds off the ball."

Freshmen Gary Swain and Karlus Gripado won starting positions in mid-season from Reggie Morris and Kenny Evans.

Iba said he expects Creighton to open in a zone defense, which has dealt the Huskers fits all season. "They started out in a zone in the first game," Iba said. "I think they will change up their defenses, however."

Nebraska "will have to go out and get after Creighton," Iba said, although he may resort to a zone if Husker center Dave Hoppen gets in foul trouble.

Iba said he is not especially looking forward to playing in Omaha, "but you go where they (the NIT) tell you to go."

"It's like a conference game," he said. "We beat them here and now we go to their place."

The NIT will again use a red, white and blue basketball, but a 45-second shot clock replaces the 30-second clock used last year.

"We practiced Monday with a ball we had from last season," Iba said. "It's slick. We may not even have it if Creighton isn't supplied a ball."

NIT Tonight

Tonight, the Bluejays will earn their wings if they defeat 17-11 Nebraska in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament in Omaha.

Creighton's first post-season tournament berth in three years resulted from the Bluejays' 17-13 record and runner-up finish in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament.

"I wanted to play in a post-season tournament," said forward Gregory Brandon, Creighton's only senior player. "I really didn't care which one. This was my last chance."

Ten of Creighton's 12 squad members are freshmen or sophomores, and their late-season maturity has made coaching easier for former New York

Black athletes an untapped source of aid

Economically, the black community in America ranks as one of the top ten "nations" in the world. However, emphasis should be on equalizing the situation domestically. One key component of such equalization would be the black athlete. The following paragraphs lay out a model for what *could be*.

Using Harry Edwards' 1979 data, we find that there were some 1,144 professional football players, of which 454, or 40 percent were black. In professional basketball during that same period, 79 percent of 286 players involved — 228 — were black.



Matthew Stelly

These figures represent more than touchdowns and slam dunks, but a potential economic base on which we, as a people, could build.

In professional basketball, the average annual salary is \$226,000. Although, undoubtedly, more blacks have joined the pro ranks by now, let us use the figure cited in Edwards' data. This adds up to a whopping \$51,528,000. While it is rumored that professional football players made more on an annual basis, let us use the same average salary as a bare minimum. Based on a yearly salary, the NFL's black performers collectively would represent \$103,282,000 among them. We are not even taking into consideration the earnings of black performers in the Canadian Football League or the United States Football League, nor are we counting those involved in the Continental Basketball League. But, even omitting these groups of athletes, the total for one year's time between the two main groups is a staggering \$154,810,000.

Now, suppose that the athletes, out of a sense of commitment to the respective contexts to which they owe their existence, decided to pool their monies. This pool, referred to as the Black Community Marshall Plan, would consist of only *one percent*

of the total sum cited above. The money actually going into the fund, then, would be \$1,548,100. This may not sound like very much, but to demonstrate how much it really is, let us use north Omaha as a focal point and see just how far the \$1.5 million would go.

The average median income in the Omaha area is \$15,000, but for black Omahans it is but half that (\$7,500). If this money were used for job development, it could provide 100 jobs at the citywide income average of 200 jobs based on the black median income. In either case, possibly 100 or 200 fewer black families would be divided because of lack of funds and/or the forced dependence upon federal assistance.

The average value of a house in Omaha is \$28,000, but in the North Omaha ghetto it is a scant \$7,000. The \$1.5 million could be spent to upgrade existing housing in an area where, at one time, the demolition to construction ratio was 5 to 1.

Black organizations are more dependent now than ever on funding from corporations and "charitable funds" (meaning that by extension, the direction and intensity of black groups is also controlled). The Black Community Marshall Plan could provide funds that would give these agencies some semblance of self-determination, enable these groups to provide scholarships and technical assistance to area youth, and do more for future generations than promote recreation or leisure activity.

If there is a drug or alcohol problem in a poor area, might not these funds be used for rehabilitation? And how far would this \$1.5 million go if used to help in research on sickle cell anemia, high blood pressure, cancer and other diseases that are killing black people by the thousands?

How would the communities be chosen? Black athletes, as well as any sociologist, know which ghettos need priority assistance — and well they should. After all, not only do most of these gladiators come from ghetto areas, but the auditoriums and gyms in which they play are, in most instances adjacent to or

within an urban area. With the possible exception of Phoenix and Boston, black athletes directly or indirectly come into contact with ghetto life as soon as they get off the plane or before they enter the hotel. Therefore, there is such a wide selection of urban centers and smaller black communities to choose from that this fund would have plenty of areas from which to select.

However, this money should be used on a matching fund basis. After all, the cities that these communities are in do have some obligation to those areas, and black athletes should not have to bear the brunt of this obligation. But matching funds to supplement the \$1.5 million in the proposed plan would go farther: The money would promote a collective vocation between the predominately white power structures and the black community, and it would be one of the few programs aimed at the ghetto that did not intentionally seek to foster dependence.

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Rec Scoreboard

(Sportsmanship ratings in parentheses)
Men's Indoor Soccer Playoffs
 Phi Gamma Deltas A def. Theta Xi by forfeit
 Delta Tau Delta B def. Chi Phi B by forfeit
 Delta Tau Delta C (4.0) 1, Phi Delta Theta A (3.7) 0
 Abel Ten def. Beta Theta Pi B by forfeit
 Gunners (4.5) 3, Beta Theta Pi C (4.5) 2
Co-Rec Wiffleball
 Pi Phi/Hashers 5, Cather Three A 2
 Quotation Marks def. Pound Thirteen/Cather Two by forfeit
 Cather Eight/Pound Twelve 18, Wacky Waffle Wiffers 7
 Bases Loaded def. Selleck 8200/7300 by forfeit