

Iba wants many Moe years at Nebraska

By Kevin Warneke

Nebraska basketball Coach Moe Iba isn't planning on going anywhere.

The third-year Husker coach said he is happy working in Lincoln and plans on being around for some time.

Iba and the Huskers have received some negative comments from fans, especially during the conference season in which the Huskers finished 7-7 and in third place.

Because Nebraska was picked to place high in conference standings, Iba said, the fans had high expectations. When the team doesn't live up to those expectations, people complain, he said.

"You're going to have this every year, that's the fans' prerogative," he said. "You just have to live with it. There's nothing I can do about it."

Iba said he thought Nebraska should have done better in the Big Eight race.

Disappointed with finish

"We're not happy with finishing third," he said. "I don't think any competitor is, but that's where we finished."

Even though the Huskers did not meet preseason predictions of a second-place finish, Iba said he still considered the season a success.

Iba said he came up with his assessment because the players worked hard and gave a good effort.

"That's all you can ask of your players," Iba said. The balance of the Big Eight teams led to some of the Husker failures, Iba said.

Close games

"We played so many close games. We won some and we lost some. Everybody in the conference beat everybody else," Iba said.

Nebraska also had the misfortune of finding the victories hard to come by at home.

"People played us smart at home and we had some nights where we didn't shoot well," he said. "When we were on the road we played very well."

Iba said he didn't have the answer to why the Huskers didn't play up to par.

"It's been a very peculiar year. I don't have the answers," he said. "You can't take anything for granted but you have to do well at home and on the road to play well."

A good showing in the National Invitation Tournament could change the opinions of some disen-

franchised fans, Iba said.

"I don't know what they expect," he said. "Getting in the NIT for the second year in a row could help, but playing on the road is going to be difficult."

Comparing this year's team to the 1982-83 squad which made it to the NIT final four, is difficult, Iba said.

This year's squad shot the ball better from time to time and the rebounding was a little bit better, Iba said, but last year's team was better defensively and handled the ball better.

No matter which team is better, Iba said, Nebraska should feel the effects of last year's strong NIT finish in recruiting this year.

Because recruiting was almost completed by the time the Huskers were eliminated from the NIT, Iba said, he doubted that it had any effect on the recruits signed last year.

"Any time when you get in a post-season tournament it helps," he said. "It's very important to play in the NCAA or the NIT tournament and I think it will help us this year."

Iba said the groundwork has been set for this year's recruiting and now the coaches must follow up on their work.

Aid . . .

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There is a correlation between the number of "stars" a team has and the number of tickets it sells. A disproportionately large number of "athletic superstars" are black, which directly translates into what could be called black power at the box office. Once again, this provides reasons and rationale for the athletic arena to "give back" to the community from which it comes, that it claims to love, and that it pacifies by playing up the accomplishments of athletic performance.

Finally, it seems as if everyone is getting some form of reparations on a mass scale. Native Americans, piecemeal as funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs may be, still are receiving something for the theft of their land. In some instances, they are getting land back. The Asian-American is being compensated for his internment during World War II. The Chicanos are embroiled in controversies in Los Angeles concerning deportation. Out of this controversy could come enlightenment and perhaps, somewhere down the road, compensation for the theft of land.

But black people have no such status. We are given crumbs in the guise of affirmative action, busing and so-called "civil rights." We are fed air sandwiches through programs like urban renewal, model cities or, now, enterprise zones.

My plan offers self-respect and seeks to use an available but unavailed of source of financing — black athletes. On a collective basis, black communities and city power structures can begin building a basis for mutual respect. But the Black Community Marshall Plan is based on the athlete's sense of commitment and concern for those he had left behind.

The question is: Does he really give a damn????

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