

Husker basketball newcomers prepare for stiff competition

By Stu Pospisil
Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The two in-state newcomers to the Nebraska basketball team said their adjustment to playing major college basketball should be easier after facing stiff competition in an Omaha summer league.

Bill Jackman, a former all-stater from Grant, is eligible to play for the Huskers after sitting out a season following his transfer from Duke University.

Joel Sealer is the lone freshman on the 15-man Husker roster. Sealer, a two-time all-stater from Millard South, also was the only Nebraska Husker coach Moe Iba recruited.

Nebraska's other three recruits are transfers from junior colleges. Demetrious Buchanan averaged 14 points a game for the College of the Sequoias in California. Chris Logan was second among California junior college players with a 13.6 rebounding average. Harvey Marshall was a first-team junior college All-American at Northwestern Junior College in Sterling, Colo.

"I didn't play as well as I would have liked," Jackman said of the Omaha league. "They play a quicker style of ball than I'm used to."

Jackman's team made the play-offs of the 10-team league at Omaha's downtown YMCA whose rosters read like a Who's Who of Nebraska basketball. Jackman's team was beaten by a team led by former Creighton star John C. Johnson and former NBA great Ron Boone.

That team went on to defeat a team with Nebraska center Dave Hoppen and Marquette guard Kerry Trotter of Omaha in the finals.

Sealer said he also was disappointed by his play in Omaha. "I definitely was not the best player on the court. I guess I have a long way to go."

He said he liked playing tougher competition than he faced in high school.

"It was a big step up, but it wasn't as big an adjustment as I first thought," he said.

Sealer worked out on his own in the mornings and also played Legion Junior baseball for Millard South.

Major league baseball scouts watched Sealer during the spring high school baseball season, but he was not offered much money.

"If I had, I might have considered playing pro ball," Sealer said, "but I didn't take the offer seriously."

Sealer hasn't ruled out playing baseball for Nebraska.

"I'll see how things go," he said. "Often, when I throw a baseball, it makes my shoulder sore and that's not good for basketball players."

Jackman commuted to Omaha from Lincoln, where he worked half-days at Whitehead Oil Co. In Lincoln, Jackman said he played a lot of pick-up, 2-on-2 or 3-on-3 games, "just to shoot around."

He was impressed with Sealer's ball-handling ability. "He's a very fine passer," Jackman said.

He also said Husker reserve Keith Neubert was playing very well in a league in Milwaukee, near his hometown of Fort Atkinson, Wis.

Both players are anxious to begin practice Oct. 15, the first day allowed by NCAA regulations.

"I was getting anxious last season, especially during pre-game warmups," Jackman said. "I got pumped up, and when I

went into the locker room, I could feel the anticipation."

"I'm really looking forward to working out with the team," Sealer said. "I haven't played with that good a group of players before."

Sealer will play guard for the Huskers.

"My overall game has to improve," Sealer said. "You can work on shooting by yourself, but improving your defensive play is something hard to work on alone. I think I can contribute to the team this season."

Jackman, 6-9, figures to play a small forward.

"You don't get many players like Bill, who are 6-9 and can play out on the floor like he does," Iba said. "Laying off a year could affect him early, but we think he can help us."

Jackman said he thinks the team will revolve around the play of Hoppen, who toured three weeks this summer with a team of National Invitation tournament all-stars in Europe.

"As Hoppen goes, so will the team," Jackman said.

After having to sit out following his decision to transfer to his home-state university, Jackman said it will be exciting to

play in front of the home fans. "It's something I've thought about for a year and a half."

Hoppen, guard Brian Carr, forwards Ronnie Smith and John Matzke are the only returning Huskers with extensive playing time.

Here is a capsule look at Nebraska's other recruits:

—Harvey Marshall. The Huskers' preseason prospectus says Marshall "could be the big guard Nebraska has lacked in the past." The juco All-American led his team to the national tournament, where he averaged 24.3 points in four games. On the season, he averaged 23 points with 49 percent field goal shooting.

—Chris Logan, Antelope Valley Junior College. Iba said, "Logan gives us something we haven't had lately at forward — a great jumper and rebounder." Aided by his 41-inch vertical jump, Logan, 6-5, set school records in rebounding for a season and a career.

—Demetrious Buchanan, College of the Sequoias. The 6-2 junior is figured to play at point guard. He shot 52 percent from the field and 72 percent at the line last season.

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