

Sports

Huskers in good shape as bowl practice begins

By Jim Rasmussen
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

The Nebraska football team is set to resume Sugar Bowl preparations in full force Wednesday, and Strength Coach Boyd Epley said the Cornhuskers will report to practice in good shape.

"They should start practice as healthy as they should be," Epley said.

The Huskers have been running and lifting weights for about two weeks after taking a break following the Oklahoma game. Epley said the players retained 99 percent of their strength and conditioning during the short lay-off.

"We were very pleased," Epley said. "This group has proven to be one of the hardest-working groups of athletes we've ever had. They're a real pleasure to work with."

The Huskers' physical condition should please the Nebraska coaches, who have been on the road recruiting since the loss to Oklahoma. Linebacker coach John Melton was one of the few coaches who had returned Monday. Melton said he's ready for practice to start.

"After 12 days on the road, it gets a little long," Melton said. "I'm ready to get back to football."

Melton's trip included Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. He said Nebraska would like to have several high school players out of

those states.

"It's just a matter of getting them," he said.

Melton said Minnesota may be tougher to recruit from since Lou Holtz is the coach at the University of Minnesota.

"He's looked upon as a savior up there, but I'm sure we will get our share," Melton said.

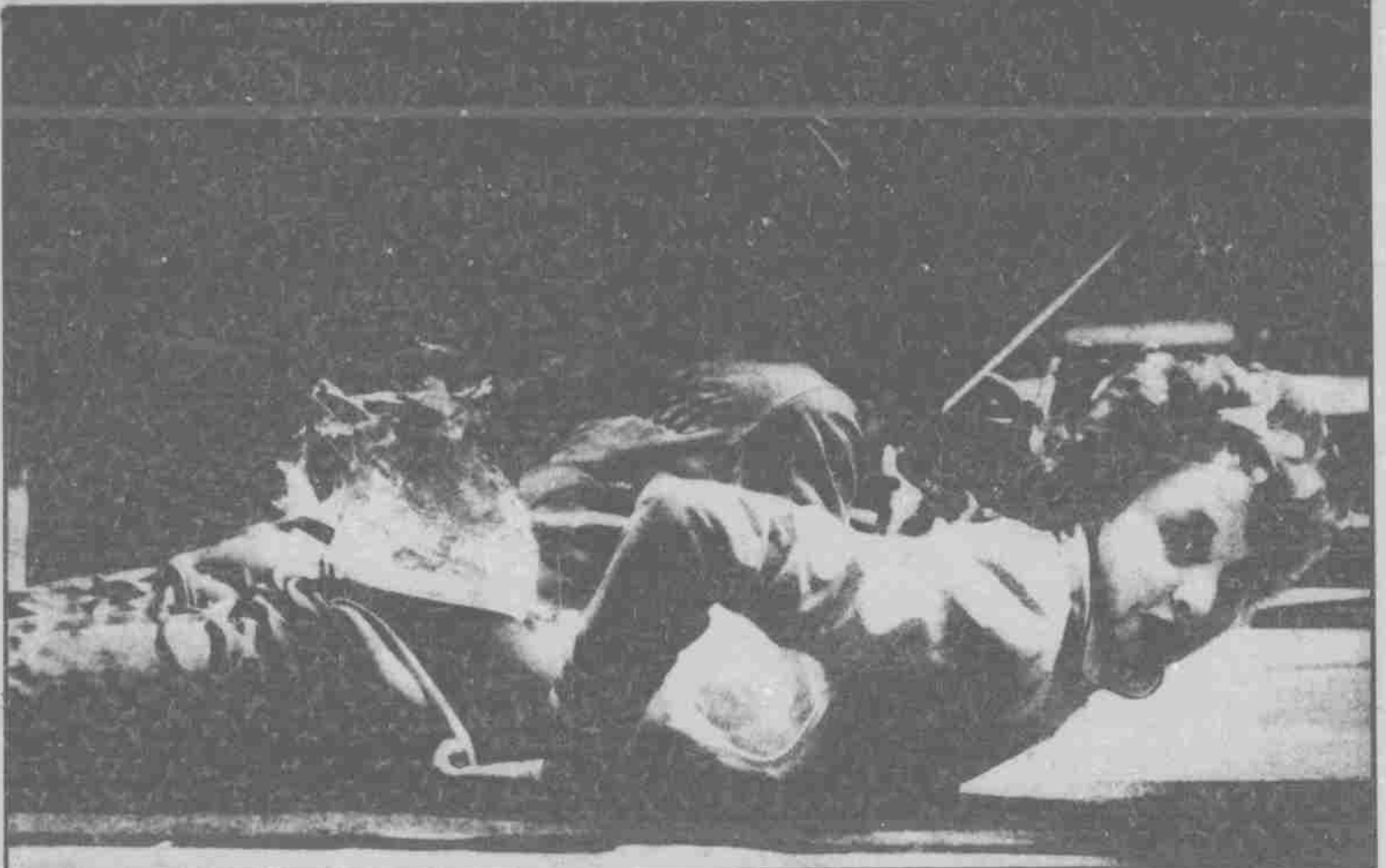
The Huskers will probably spend time on fundamentals Wednesday, Melton said, and possibly work on a few formations for the Louisiana State game. The Nebraska coaches haven't had time to look at much film of the Tigers yet, he said.

Melton lamented the fact that Nebraska will play another bowl game in the opponent's home state. LSU is in Baton Rouge, about 90 miles from New Orleans, host city of the Sugar Bowl.

"It would have been nice if Auburn would have won a game," Melton said. Auburn lost to Alabama 17-15 on Dec. 1. Had the Tigers won, they would have been the Southeastern Conference's Sugar Bowl representative.

Instead, the Huskers will face a noisy, pro-LSU crowd in the Superdome, which could affect the NU quarterbacks' ability to audible, Melton said.

"It would be nice if we could play on a neutral field," he said. "We played Miami at Miami last year, which was ridiculous."



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Oh, my aching...

Nebraska gymnast Char Hagemann took a spill on the uneven bars during Sunday's loss to the Japanese nationals and ended up cooling off an old muscle strain injury on the sidelines. Hagemann and her teammates will travel to Kansas City for another meet with the Japanese tonight.



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

Sooners Jim Rockford, Tony Rayburn and Sonny Brown celebrate in closing moments of Nebraska's last game.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Shelly Block attempts to control a loose ball while Creighton's Connie Yori tries for a steal. Creighton won the game 86-75 to drop UNL's record to 1-4.

Husker cagers overpower Wyoming 79-65

By Mike Reilley
and Rich Cooper
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporters

A third time was not a charm for the University of Wyoming men's basketball team Monday night as Nebraska gunned down the Cowboys, 79-65 before 10,612 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers have defeated Wyoming the last two seasons: 68-57 two years ago in Lincoln and 67-64 last year in Laramie.

Wyoming coach Jim Brandenburg's squad entered the game sporting a 3-1 record with the loss coming on the road against Southern California.

The Cowboys did not go down without a fight, as the teams traded buckets for the first 15 minutes of the game.

The Huskers put together a six-point scoring spurt midway through the first half on a jumper by Ronnie Smith and four tallies from Harvey Marshall.

Marshall, a 6-3 transfer from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., hit 14 of his game-high 22 points in the first half, on 7-11 shooting from the field.

Husker center Dave Hoppen chipped in 11 tallies in the first half, four coming on back-to-back jump shots as Nebraska outscored the Cowboys 9-5 to take a 39-18 halftime lead.

Hoppen felt the Huskers were a little flat coming off a 78-73 thriller over the Creighton Bluejays last weekend.

"I don't know if we were ready to play," Hoppen said. "I

think coming out of the Creighton game, after that big win, we didn't think Wyoming was that good, but Moe kept telling us they would be one of the most physical teams we would play all season."

Wyoming closed to within three, 44-41, on a jump shot by guard Les Boiden with 14:41 remaining.

But the Cowboys came no closer as Marshall, Brian Carr and Curtis Moore nailed jumpers to push Nebraska's lead to nine, 50-41.

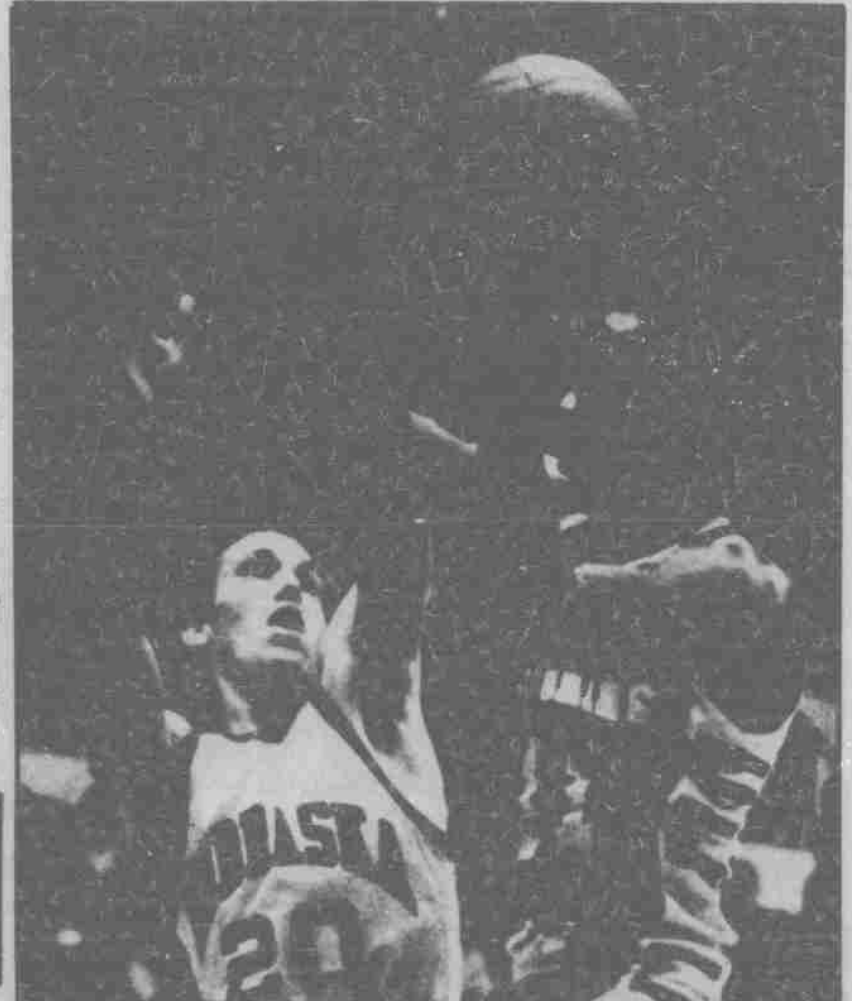
Hoppen followed with five of his 21 points to turn a nip-and-tuck battle into a 16 point Husker lead.

The Cowboys refused to roll over and play dead, outscoring the Huskers 16-13 during the last five minutes of the game.

The Huskers will put their undefeated record on the line Wednesday night when they host the Wisconsin Badgers. Tip-off is 7:35 p.m.

Setting it Straight

In Monday's Daily Nebraskan (Page 8), the swimmer identified as Pam Ely was actually Kenya Kelly, a sophomore from Plantation, Florida.



Kevin Dugan/Daily Nebraskan

Guard Brian Carr plays Wyoming's forward Rodney Gowens tight during the first half Monday night. Nebraska won 79-65.