

Revolving power forwards frustrate players

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

For Coach Moe Iba and the rest of the Nebraska Cornhuskers, the power forward position this season has been like a revolving door. You're in one time and out the next.

That's how the three Cornhusker power forwards — Bill Jackman, John Matzke and Ronnie Smith — have spent the entire season. They've been in the starting lineup one day and out the next.

"We're trying to play the person that is playing the best at that particular time," assistant coach Kevin Fricke said in defense of Nebraska's revolving forwards. "It would be nice to have someone set at that position, but we don't feel it's a disadvantage playing and even starting two or three different people like we have all season."

Last Saturday night against the Oklahoma State Cowboys, was no exception.

The Cornhuskers used all three of their forward candidates against the Cowboys, starting John Matzke, then

going with Bill Jackman and finally settling on Ronnie Smith.

With 2:32 remaining in the first half, all three — John Matzke and Bill Jackman at the forward positions and Ronnie Smith at center — were in the game because of foul problems encountered by both Curtis Moore and Dave Hoppen.

Together, they finished the first half with two points on a ten-foot jump shot by Ronnie Smith.

The second half of the Cornhusker-Cowboy clash provided more of the same as there were six substitutions involving Jackman, Smith and Matzke.

They finished the game with five points on two free throws and a jump shot by John Matzke and a free throw by Ronnie Smith.

Obviously, this "revolving" lineup is having a direct impact on all of the starting forward candidates.

Honestly, each of us would say its frustrating," Bill Jackman said. "Even

though its not an individual game and we all pull together, its naturally frustrating."

Smith agreed, although he tries not to think about it.

"I try not to concentrate on who's playing, just how I'm playing," he said. "I think Coach Iba is smart enough that he can choose who he wants to play."

"I don't think it hurts us not having a starting lineup, it's good to have that kind of depth," Matzke said. "In the long run, though, it might hurt our team moral."

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Sports video games relieve electronic combat monotony

By Kim Holman
Staff Reporter

If those of you who enjoy the challenge of a good video game are burned out on eating little dots or blowing up space ships, don't despair. The new era in electronic video games has arrived. It's the sports video.

Sports videos allow you to become more involved as a player/athlete, said Kevin Jensen, a bartender at Sandy's, 1348 "O" St.

"The others (combat-type games) are like you're playing the machine as opposed to playing against another team or player," he said.

Sandy's has two electronic sports games — Hyper-Sport, which contains various Olympic events such as gymnastics, weight-lifting, swimming and archery; and 10-Yard Fight, an electronic football game in which the player can call different plays.

Rick Taylor, manager of the Amusement Service Company, 350 N. 27th St., said he thinks video companies went with the sports themes because America is becoming more sports-minded and more health-oriented.

He also thinks the sports games were created to appeal to people who were getting tired of the old combat and skill games.

"There's more going on with the sports-orientated games," he said.

Tammy Douglas, who works at Pinball Pete's, 101 W. "O" St., said she thinks the sports videos have more appeal because they're technologically more advanced.

"In Pac-Man, you can only do one thing," she said. "They (sports games) can do more."

Some of the other types of sports games available are "Birdie King," a golf game that allows the player to



choose his or her own clubs and even shows which way the wind is blowing; Track and Field; Punch Out, a boxing game; and Super Basketball. Players can play each other in two-screen versions of golf, baseball and tennis.

Taylor said Track and Field, one of the initial sports games, is still a big hit, but the golf games have become more popular.

"I can't say all our sports games are

our biggest sellers," he said, "but they allow a new kind of playing."

Taylor said he feels the sports games have helped expand the age base among people who play video games and have attracted an older crowd.

"A lot of people said video games would die out because you can only combat for so long," he said. "But the new sports videos prove that's just not true."



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Winter sports brighten bleak months

By Kyle Foster
Staff Reporter

Winter in Nebraska is generally considered the bleakest and least interesting of our four distinct seasons. But it doesn't necessarily have to be that way. Winter provides many opportunities for recreation which are not possible in any other season. Among these are skiing, ice skating and sledding, all of which can be done within a short

distance of Lincoln.

Skiing, generally thought of as a sport for Coloradans, is now available in Nebraska. Trailridge Ski Area, located halfway between Lincoln and Omaha, is currently open to the public. Trailridge cannot be compared to the large ski areas of the Rockies. It is, however, an excellent opportunity for beginners and experts alike to ski without the high cost and hassle of a trip to the Rockies.

Trailridge is open weekdays 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Lift tickets cost \$11 weekdays and \$14 weekends. Half-day tickets are available from 4 p.m. to close every day and cost \$8 weekdays and \$10 on weekends.

Snowmaking equipment provides for what Mother Nature will not, so as long as it's cold, the snow conditions at Trailridge should always be excellent. Thirteen downhill trails, five poma lifts and a 200-foot vertical drop from summit to base should be enough to keep skiers occupied for the day. However, for those who like to relax during their ski outing, there is a 65,000-square-foot log chalet built with pine from Colorado.

Tom Valasek, general manager of Trailridge, said the area was built to look like Colorado with all slopes separated by trees.

To get to Trailridge from Lincoln, take U.S. Highway 6 north and take the first right after the Platte River. Follow the road up to Trailridge and enjoy! For more information call 800-643-2222.

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