

Sports

NU beats Canisius to advance in NIT

By Bob Amussen
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team defeated Canisius College 79-66 Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in the opening round of the National Invitation Tournament.

For Nebraska it was its third consecutive opening round NIT victory. Last year the Cornhuskers opened with a win against Creighton in Omaha and two years ago the Huskers opened with a victory at home against Tulane.

Nebraska's second round opponent will not be known until late Friday night when the NIT first round is completed.

Wednesday night's game looked more like a football game than a basketball game at times. Fifty-six fouls were called in the game, 31 on Canisius and 25 on Nebraska. Three Golden Griffins fouled out of the game and two Huskers fouled out.

When there are a lot of fouls called there are usually also a lot of free throws shot. Wednesday night's game did not deviate from that pattern. The Huskers shot 41 free throws and sank 33. Canisius shot 29 free throws and made 18.

Leading the way to the charity stripe was Nebraska's Dave Hoppen. The All-Big Eight center sank 13 of 16 free throws and finished the game with 21 points.

After leading by 36-33 at the half, Nebraska outscored the Golden Griffins 18-10 at the beginning of the second half to lead 54-43 with 11:54 to play.

Nebraska led 61-51 at 8:33 on two Hoppen free throws. Canisius scored the next seven points to trail only 61-58 with 6:14 to go in the game. But Nebraska scored 11 of the next 14 points to put the Golden Griffins away.

If no free throws had been shot in the game the Golden Griffins would have won 48-46. They hit 24 field goals to 23 for Nebraska. The Huskers scored two field goals in the last eight minutes of the game but were able to control the game at the free throw line.

The first half was all Nebraska as it jumped to a 15-8 lead at 14:10 on two of Hoppen's free throws. The lead stayed between five and seven points until 10:38 when two Demetrius Buchanan free throws put Nebraska up by 10. The Golden Griffins then outscored Nebraska 10-2 to trail 28-25 with 5:13 to go in the half.

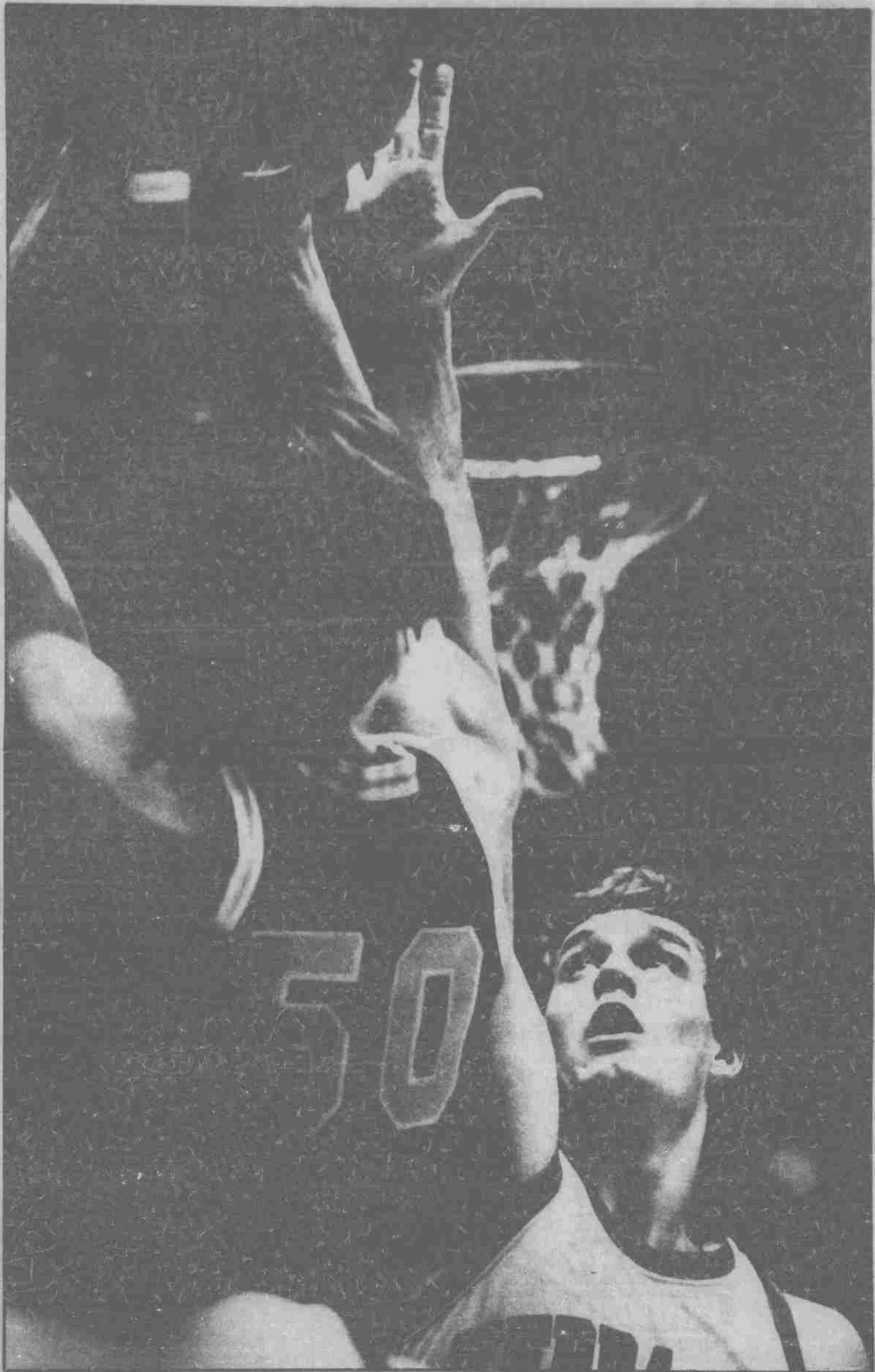
Canisius' only lead of the game was 4-2 at 18:31. After Nebraska's initial run, the closest the Golden Griffins could get was 36-35 early in the second half.

Besides Hoppen, Nebraska got double figures from four other players. Bill Jackman scored 15, Harvey Marshall scored 14, Curtis Moore 11 and Brian Carr 10. Ray Hall led Canisius with 16, Mike Smrek, who played only 17 minutes, scored 14 and Michael Ray Jackson added 10.

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David Bourke/Daily Nebraskan



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Dave Hoppen blocks a shot from Chris Heinold during first half play in Nebraska's victory over Canisius.

Dave Hoppen powers his way past Lamont Gilbert for a lay-up.

Huskers educate Canisius in first round NIT

By Mike Reilley
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's men's basketball team introduced Canisius College to a new style of basketball Wednesday night when it defeated the Golden Griffins 79-66 in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"For us, it was a physical game," Canisius Coach Nick Macarchuk said. "We're not used to that physical of a game back on the coast."

Nebraska Coach Moe Iba said the Huskers, particularly guard Harvey Marshall had "one of the best defensive games we've played all year."

Marshall, a 6-3 junior from Jackson, Tenn., held Canisius' leading scorer "Sugar" Ray Hall to 16 points, five

below his average by "overplaying him on the wings and playing hard-nosed defense."

"I knew he was coming in averaging 21 points a game and that he was a really good ball player," Marshall said. "I just tried to put as much pressure on him as I could."

"Harvey did a great job on Hall," Iba said. "He chased him all around."

Marshall finished with 14 points.

Canisius, which is located in Buffalo, N.Y., was whistled for a total of 31 fouls in the game. Three Golden Griffins, including 7-0 center Mike Smrek, fouled out.

Smrek exited with 8:33 remaining in the game when he fouled Nebraska's

Dave Hoppen. Hoppen scored on the play and added a free throw to give the Huskers a 61-51 lead.

The Husker's two-time All-Big Eight center scored a game-high 21 points and surpassed Andre Smith to take second place on Nebraska's all-time scoring list.

"The officials never take you out of a game," Macarchuk said of the three Big Ten conference referees who officiated the game. "My only concern was that there were two big men out there tonight, and they just wouldn't let them play."

Hoppen said the careful officiating slowed Smrek's physical play inside.

"He plays a rough, hard game inside," Hoppen said. "The refs were calling a

lot of touchy fouls. He was a little unfortunate.

"They (the officials) had a couple of fouls on everybody that were skeptical," he said.

Canisius held an early 4-2 advantage, but Nebraska forward Curtis Moore scored five unanswered points to give the Huskers a lead they never relinquished.

The 6-4 senior from Mount Vernon, N.Y., said he was thankful to have the opportunity to play in Lincoln one last time.

Moore scored 11 points before fouling out with 6:19 remaining in the game.

"It's my last game here," Moore said. "I just wanted to go ahead and have some fun."

Moore was doubtful the Huskers would be in the NIT a week ago.

"After we lost to Kansas I wasn't sure if we were going to get a bid," Moore said. "But then I looked at some of the teams that made it like Louisville; they were 16-16 and we had a better record than they did."

Iba was happy to have his team in the NIT for the third consecutive year.

"I'm very happy for the players," Iba said. "They wanted to play another ball game very badly and the seniors wanted to play. It was an opportunity for them to play one more time at home."