

Sports

Basketball teams shoot for improvement

Coach Hill hopes height helps

By Jeff Korbelik
Staff Reporter

Height, consistency and shooting. Those three characteristics were missing from last year's Nebraska women's basketball team, Coach Kelly Hill said. With the addition of this year's recruiting class and the experience of last year's returning members Hill said she believes her team will improve on last year's 10-18 record.

"We don't have the explosive power player as in the past, but we have the height, togetherness and some shooters," Hill said.

Returning starters Angie Miller, Stacy Imming, and Maurice Ivy will again fuel the Husker's high scoring and fast breaking offense. The Huskers averaged over 80 points a game last season.

Ivy, a 5-9 sophomore guard, led the Huskers in scoring last season with 15.5 points a game. Hill said Ivy will not be feeling the pressure of last season where people expected her to come in and turn the program around.

"She had a good season last year and should have a better season this year," Hill said. "She knows what's expected of her."

Miller, a 6-1 junior, will again return at the center position she has started for two years. Miller averaged 13 points and five rebounds a game. Imming, a 5-8 junior, is also a two-year starter and was the team's second leading scorer with 15.2 points a game.

Hill said Imming and Miller have assumed the roles of leaders on the team on and off the court. With the absence of a senior class, she said the team doesn't have "an automatic appointed leader."

"The recruiting class that would have been seniors came in under Colleen (Matsuhara, former Nebraska coach) and they didn't stay with the program," Hill said.

To relieve Nebraska's height problem, the Huskers went to Pennsylvania and recruited freshman Wendy Kreibel. At 6-3, Kreibel's defensive skills will help the Huskers, Hill said.

"She'll be able to block some shots and she is really agile and not slow for her height," Hill said. "She can get us going down the floor. We just got to get her stronger."

Helping out on the front line will be three players six foot or over: 6-1 sophomore Lisa LaGuardia, 6-0 sophomore Tiffany Hill, and 6-1 freshman Lisa

Soulliere. Hill is a transfer from Colorado. Returning letterman Shelly Block and Stephanie Bolli will add experience to the forward position.

Hill is faced with replacing point guard Cathy Owen and forwards Debrah Powell and Terri Parriott. At point guard the Huskers have three players capable of moving into Owen's spot.

Sophomore Kit Stevens comes off a redshirt transfer year, sophomore Pam Finney saw some action last year, and Nebraska signed freshman Amy Stephens from Alliance, Neb. Stephens averaged nearly 30 points a game in high school play.

Replacing Powell's quickness and Parriott's scoring was difficult, but Hill said junior college transfer Robbie Garcia will fill that position. She will play the swing guard position opposite of Ivy. Junior Ann Costello also has experience at that position, Hill said.

In order for this team to be successful Hill said it needs to be consistent, a quality lacking from last year's squad. She said that the attitude is better this year. She said the team was not emotionally together as a group last year.

"A big key for me as a coach is that this team wants to play together," Hill said. "The confidence is higher and the team's much more together."

This year's non-conference schedule features different kinds of teams than last year, Hill said. She said last season the Huskers played five of their first 10 games against top 25 teams in the country.

"We played excellent games, but we weren't able to win," she said.

After non-conference play last year Hill said the team didn't enter Big Eight play with confidence and she said a confident team this year can be competitive for the top four spots. The Huskers will open the season against Washburn University Nov. 23 in Lincoln.

Last season Nebraska played in doubleheaders with the men's teams. Hill said the women are trying to depart from doubleheaders this year and play home games at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday nights. She said she hopes the fans will find the 7:30 time slot more convenient than the 5:15 p.m. time.

The women will play seven of their 12 games on Tuesday and are offering season tickets for \$10 students and \$20 non-students for the seven games. Tickets can be obtained through the basketball ticket office.



Courtesy UNL Sports Information
Kelly Hill



Iba



Courtesy UNL Sports Information
Maurice Ivy

Hoppen expecting pressures

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

Dave Hoppen was the center of attention at the Nebraska basketball team's media day Monday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Hoppen, the Cornhuskers 6-11 center, was the main topic of discussion by Husker basketball Coach Moe Iba. Hoppen is hoping to become Nebraska's all-time leading scorer this season and is also making a run at the all-time Big Eight career scoring record set last year by Oklahoma's Wayman Tisdale.

A senior from Omaha, Hoppen needs 135 points to surpass Jerry Fort as the Cornhusker's all-time leading scorer, and 914 points to surpass Tisdale and become the Big Eight's all-time leading scorer.

"I feel that early on in the season, there is going to be pressure on him (Hoppen)," Iba said. "I think you are going to see him press a little bit early on just because of all the expectations on him."

Hoppen, who has just returned from a summer spent with the United States national basketball team which played against several European teams, said he knows that the pressure will definitely exist when the Cornhuskers officially open their season here Nov. 23 against Wisconsin-Stout.

"It (the pressure) is going to be a little worse than when I was a freshman, although I as a player never felt the pressure," Hoppen said. "It really hasn't hit me yet, though, that I might break all those records this year and might even be getting paid to do this (basketball) in a couple of months. There's no way that I am going to let all of this get me big-headed, though, because I know I have to stay on the same level with everyone else."

Last season, Iba said, opposing teams keyed on Hoppen to the extent that sometimes "we almost had to pull guys off of him."

In hopes of solving this problem, Iba signed a pair of junior college transfers in 6-8 Deak Vance and 6-5 Bernard day last fall.

Although both Vance and Day are forwards, Iba said that Vance could also serve as a much needed back-up to Hoppen at center.

"Deak Vance is a very good inside player who really does a nice job," Iba said. "Both Deak and Bernard have the capability of stepping in right away and hopefully taking some of that pressure off Hoppen with their aggressive styles

of play."

Iba also welcomed four other forward candidates to this year's team in returnees Bill Jackman, Chris Logan, Mike Martz and John Matzke.

Although Jackman spent much of last season alternating with now-graduated forward Ronnie Smith at the big forward position, Iba insists that the forward position is wide open especially since Curtis Moore, who started all 30 games last season for the Huskers at small forward, has graduated.

"The question mark of this year's team may be the forward position, both the small forward and the big forward," Iba said. "The key is putting two forwards in the line-up who can be productive."

Jackman, who in nine starts last season averaged 6.3 points and three rebounds per game, said he wouldn't be disturbed if he found himself in a back-up role.

"I'm in a position where I could be the sixth or seventh man on this years team but that is something I expect," Jackman, a 6-9 junior, said. "If I do end up not starting, it may actually help me in the sense that I think there would be less pressure on me."

Iba said that Harvey Marshall, a 6-3 senior, could see some playing time at small forward as Nebraska is planning to unveil multiple line-ups this season.

"We're in a position this year where we could have two different line-ups, a big and a small line-up," Iba said. "This year's team is definitely going to be different than last year's (which finished with a 16-14 mark including a 5-9 mark in the Big Eight) because of all the experience we have."

The core of the experience, Iba said, lies not only in Hoppen but also in the six guards on this year's squad.

Both Marshall and Brian Carr, who both started all 30 games for the Huskers at guard last season, return as does sophomore Joel Sealer.

Although senior Demetrius Buchanan has been declared academically ineligible for the first semester, Iba said he is looking for either freshman Darren Brown or freshman Milton Shobe to assist Sealer in backing up Marshall and Carr at guard.

"I feel a lot more confident about the guard situation knowing we have six guards as compared to three last year," Iba said. "Hopefully, with the depth we have this year we will be able to put a whole year together instead of having another year like we did last season."

Improve record to 16-2

Huskers sweep Iowa State; Wildcats scratching on door

By Jim Ballard
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team raised its season record to 4-0 in the Big Eight Conference and to 16-2 overall this weekend with a win over Iowa State.

The Huskers won their ninth match in a row, and 37th consecutive Big Eight victory, as they beat the Cyclones in three sets, 15-7, 15-5, 15-7.

Sophomore Kathi DeBoer led Nebraska. DeBoer had 14 kills and only one error. Annie Adamczak also had 15 kills while Sharon Kramer had four blocks.

Coach Terry Pettit said he was pleased with his team's win against what he called "a pretty good Iowa State team."

"We just physically overpowered them at the net," Pettit said.

The loss dropped Iowa State to 10-6 and 0-2 in the conference. Iowa State hasn't beaten Nebraska in 22 tries.

Tonight, Nebraska hosts Kansas State. The Wildcats are 8-5 on the year and are

1-2 in conference play.

Kansas State will be led by senior captain Renee Whitney. She ranks fourth in the conference in hitting percentage, a category in which Nebraska players hold the top three spots.

Husker assistant coach Jay Potter said that Nebraska has a stronger team.

"We're a much stronger team, and it's unlikely that they could beat us three games. Maybe one, but not three," he said.

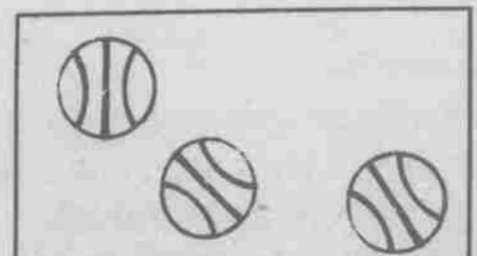
"They have an experienced team and a team that will stay with us, play hard and continue to work no matter what the score," Potter said.

The game will begin at 7:30 in the Coliseum.

Women's Sports Information Director Terry Beek is hoping for a good crowd for tonight's match.

"We're looking for a good crowd tonight, because we're pushing to host a first round playoff and maybe even a regional playoff," he said. "The best way to do that, is to show the NCAA

people we can get good attendances at our matches."



Tryouts tonight for women's basketball team

Nebraska women's basketball coach Kelly Hill said tryouts for the team will be tonight at 7 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Hill said anyone interested should come to the tryouts dressed in gym clothes and ready to play.

Invitational garners win for UNL doubles team

By Patrick Wyatt
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's No. 1 doubles team of Liz Mooney and Cari Groce placed first in the NU fall tennis invitational held last Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

The matches were played at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and on the East Campus courts.

Eight teams participated in the tournament; Wichita State, Texas Tech, Utah, Colorado, Minnesota, Ohio State and Nebraska. No team points were kept during the tournament.

Mooney and Groce, seeded first going into the tournament, defeated Cathy Heckman and Cindy Waterhouse of Colorado 6-1, 6-3.

Mooney was also the No. 1 seed in the singles division. She was defeated in the first and second rounds to place fourth. Coach Kathy Hawkins was pleased with Mooney's performance.

In the No. 2 singles division, Pennie Wohlford of Iowa defeated Nebraska's Jill Pisarcik 6-1, 6-3 in

the final round to place fourth. Third seeded single Robin Gerstein of Iowa ousted Cari Groce of NU in the final round of 6-2, 6-1. Groce placed second.

In the doubles, Julie Herbec and Cathy Carlson of Texas Tech beat No. 2 Nebraska team of Pisarcik and Vicki Martin, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 for first place. The No. 3 doubles team of Lisa Brooks and Jenny Mortell of Nebraska beat Gloria Orue and Danielle Schilling of Wichita State 6-2, 6-1 to win third place.

Three of the Husker players are suffering from back injuries. Beverly Roberts will undergo surgery Tuesday to correct a ruptured disk she suffered in a match at the Drake Invitational. Martin is currently suffering from a strained back that occurred during the invitational. Brooks is possibly going to need surgery to correct a bone spur in her back. All are expected to be OK, according to Hawkins.

The invitational was the last meet until the Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association tournament in Provo, Utah November 24.