## Moments of Glory

By Bob Asmussen Sports Editor

basketball team have been few lost by only two, 44-42. LV L and far between, But, that only team that much more glorious.

In 1983, Nebraska advanced to the semifinal round of the National Invitation Tournament. The Cornhusicers were led that year by seniors Claude Renfro and Greg Downing, and freshman center Dave Hoppen.

In February 1982, Nebraska went to Columbia, Mo., with no player standing taller than 6-6, to face the then-No. 1play of center Terry Smith, Nebraska blasted Missouri, 67-51. Missouri got revenge though in the Big Eight tour nament semifinals in Kansas City, Mo., defeating Nebraska 58-53 and ending the team's season.

But perhaps the most momentous time came Saturday, Dec. 12, 1965, when Fred Hare made the "shot heard around the nation" to give Nebraska a 74-73 victory against then-No. 1-ranked Michigan in the old NU Coliseum.

That game was far more significant the upset was completed. than the win against Missouri in 1982. For one thing, Nebraska had played roments of glory for the Nebraska Missouri earlier that same year and had

For another thing, the Missouri game helps to make the three true moments was a confernce game neither team matchup of teams in different conferences that wouldn't have played each other had the two schools not agreed. And finally, in 1963, Michigan had been host to Nebraska at Ann Arbor and thumped them, 80-55. The fun-loving ever seen," Simmons said. "That was Michigan fans threw boxes of Corn- probably the greatest game he (Hare) flakes on the floor to show their appreciation for Nebraska's No. 1 crop.

tory against Michigan a true moment of 10-15 record able to beat the No. 1 ranked Missouri Tigers. Led by the sports glory was the way the game was won. According to accounts in old iasues of the Daily Nebraskan, the ment. Huskers trailed in the last minute of rebound. With his back to the basket, Hare flipped the ball over his shoulder game is clear. The 6-3 guard was given from about 12 feet away. The ball found the assignment of covering Michigan's

Grant Simmons was a guard on that 1964-65 team. The Omaha Benson product scored 12 points in the game. Twenty one years later, Simmons said he still thinks of the game often.

"It was the highlight of my life," of glery for the Nebraska basketball could avoid. The Michigan game was a Simmons said in a phone interview to his Englewood, Colo., home.

Simmons said Hare's shot made the game almost as special as the fact that they beat the No. 1 team.

"It was the most incredible shot I've ever played in his life."

How was a Nebraska basketball team What really made the Nebraska vic- that was to finish the season with a team? Simmons said the key word to that answer are pride and embarrass-

"The year before, we went to Michithe game by one point. Former Omaha gan and they beat us to death," Sim-Tech star Hare, who finished with 20 mons said. "Their crowd was really points in the game, let loose a shot with mean, spitting on us and calling us about :12 left in the game. The shot farmers. I was so pumped up for the missed, but Hare was able to get the game I could have run through a wall."

Simmons said his memory of the

said he was holding his own until he tus said he can still see Hare's shot. caught an elbow in his face that required nine stitches. Russell would finish the night with 29 points.

"Cazzie was the first premier big guard to play college basketball," Simmons said.

Simmons is 16th on Nebraska's alltime scoring list. He averaged 11.5 points per game in more than 74 games.

Another player on the 1964-65 team that didn't see nearly the same amount of playing time as Simmons was 6-5 forward Joel Kortus, Kortus was a walkon from Lincoln Plux X who had earned a scholarship. He said he remembers talking with a fellow Pine Brother in the second half.

"I remember Jerry Spears and I were the only seniors on the team and we weren't playing that much," Kortus said. "About halfway through the second half we looked at each other and said 'Hey, we're going to win

Kortus thought his place late in the game would be on the bench, but instead he was in action. Kortus scored only two points in the game but those points came at a time when the game its place in the Nebraska basket and All-American Cazzie Russell. Simmons was slipping away from Nebraska. Kor- fun.'

"Hare kind of turned his back to the

basket and shot it and I said 'Hey, it's going in'."

Kortus, like Simmons, said the Michigan player's attitudes were a contributing factor to the win.

"The day before the game, they came to practice and sort of stuck their noses in the air as if to say 'what are we doing out here playing these guys."

Kortus, who now lives in Puyallup, Wash., is teaching and coaching at a high school there. He said the late Joe Cipriano, who was the coach of the 1964-65 team, was an inspiration to the players, one of the things that might have made the Michigan victory possi-

"He's the reason I'm coaching," Kortus said. "I have real fond memories of Joe. He was a jokester but also a real disciplinarian. We had fun away from the game, but during the game and practice, it was all business.

Simmons also has high praise for Cipriano.

'Joe Cipriano was the greatest coach Nebraska has ever had," Simmons said. "The most important thing about basketball is to have fun. With Joe, we had

