

NU Preview

Women:

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core of the team," she said.

Miller, a 6-1 junior has been a two-year starter for the Huskers at center. She averaged 13 points and five rebounds a game last season, and so far this season "is doing a good job," Hill said.

Imming, a 5-8 junior, also has been a two-year starter. She was last year's second leading scorer at 15.2 points per game. Ivy was last year's leading scorer. The 5-9 sophomore guard averaged 15.5 points per game.

To replace the loss of last year's point guard Cathy Owen, and forwards Debrah Powell and Terri Parriott, Hill said she is looking at a host of players.

At the forward spot, she is watching junior Shelly Block, and sophomores Stephanie Bolli and Tiffany Hill. Hill is a transfer from Colorado.

"Shelly has really come on strong, Stephanie has really improved, and we're looking at Tiffany," Hill said.

The point guard situation is a different story though.

"Point guard is not nailed down yet. It could be a situation position," she said. "Right now we're looking at four different people, and all four have something different to add."

Junior Ann Costello, sophomore Pam Finney, redshirt sophomore Kit Stevens, and freshman Amy Stephans are battling for that spot.

Hill said, however, that she's not counting anybody out, and it's still wide open on who will start.

"I'm real pleased with our returners, and am surprised with our new people," she said. "The new players are learning the system, and a lot of time could step in and help us later in the season."

Hill thinks this year's team has the height, the shooters and the quickness that makes them a more flexible team.

"We'll be a running and pressing type of team again, with an exciting offense," she said. "We'll have a good transition game, and I think we'll be getting up and down the court, which should make us an exciting team to watch."

"Nebraska will not be a team of just five or six people, we're going to be playing eight, nine, or 12 people. That puts the pressure on other teams, playing against fresh people all the time. So I would say our depth is a strong point," Hill said.

Another strength Hill sees is the Husker's perimeter shooting.

"We have some people who are willing to put the ball up," she said.

Hill thinks that because the Huskers started off with such a tough non-conference schedule last year, that it took its toll on their confidence when they started Big Eight play. This season's schedule features different kinds of teams than last year, in which the Huskers played five of their first 10 games against top-25 teams in the country. They open this season against Washburn University on Nov. 23 at home.

"Hopefully we'll be playing well a little bit earlier, so we can gain some consistency and get ready for conference play," she said.

When Big Eight play begins, Hill said Oklahoma and Missouri probably will be favored, and there should be a real battle for the third and fourth spots, and that Nebraska should be in the thick of it.

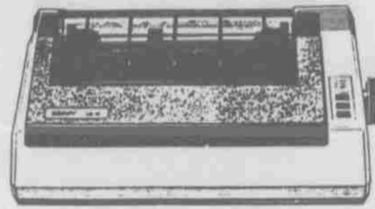
"It's going to be a tough conference. Everybody had a good recruiting year, and it should be a dog-fight for the top four spots," she said.

Last season Nebraska played in double-headers with the men's team. This season, however, the women will play seven of their 12 games on Tuesday nights at 7:30. She said the team likes playing before the men's games, but the 5:15 p.m. starting time was just too early to have any fan support.

"We decided to venture out on our own, and hopefully with a 7:30 starting time, we'll give everybody a chance to watch us, and I'm confident that after people have seen us once, they'll want to come back," she said.

Season tickets are being offered, \$10 for students, \$20 for non-students, for the seven games. Tickets can be bought through the basketball office.

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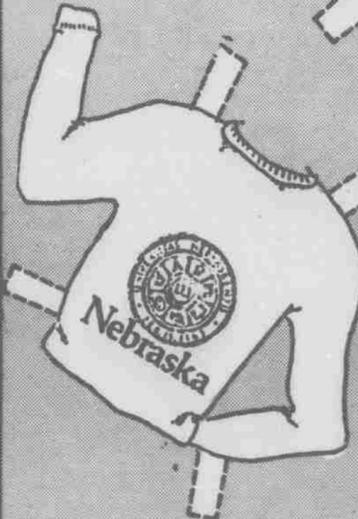
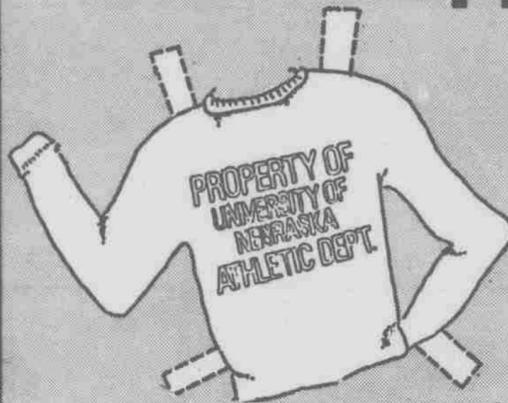
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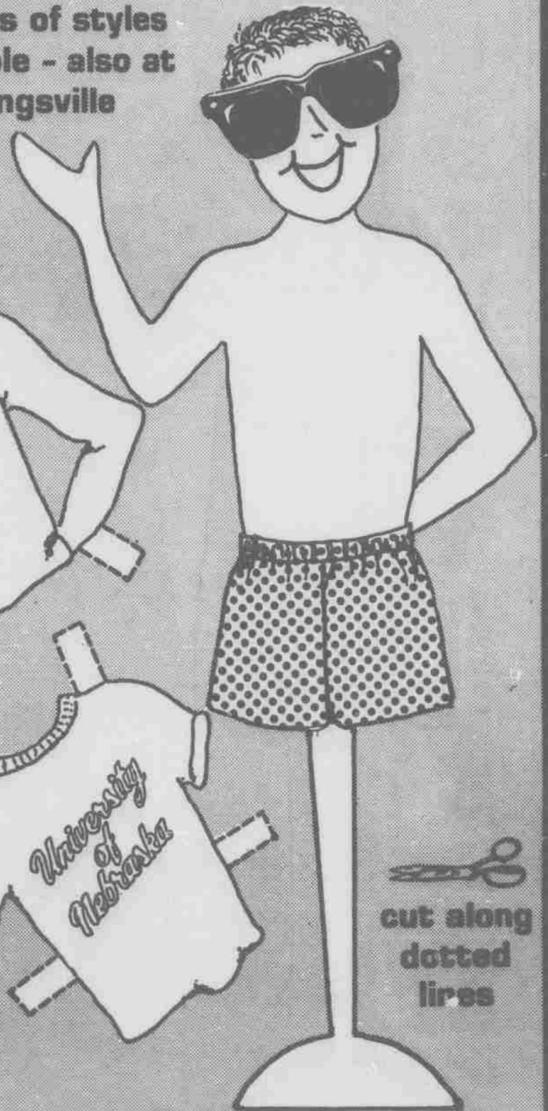
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