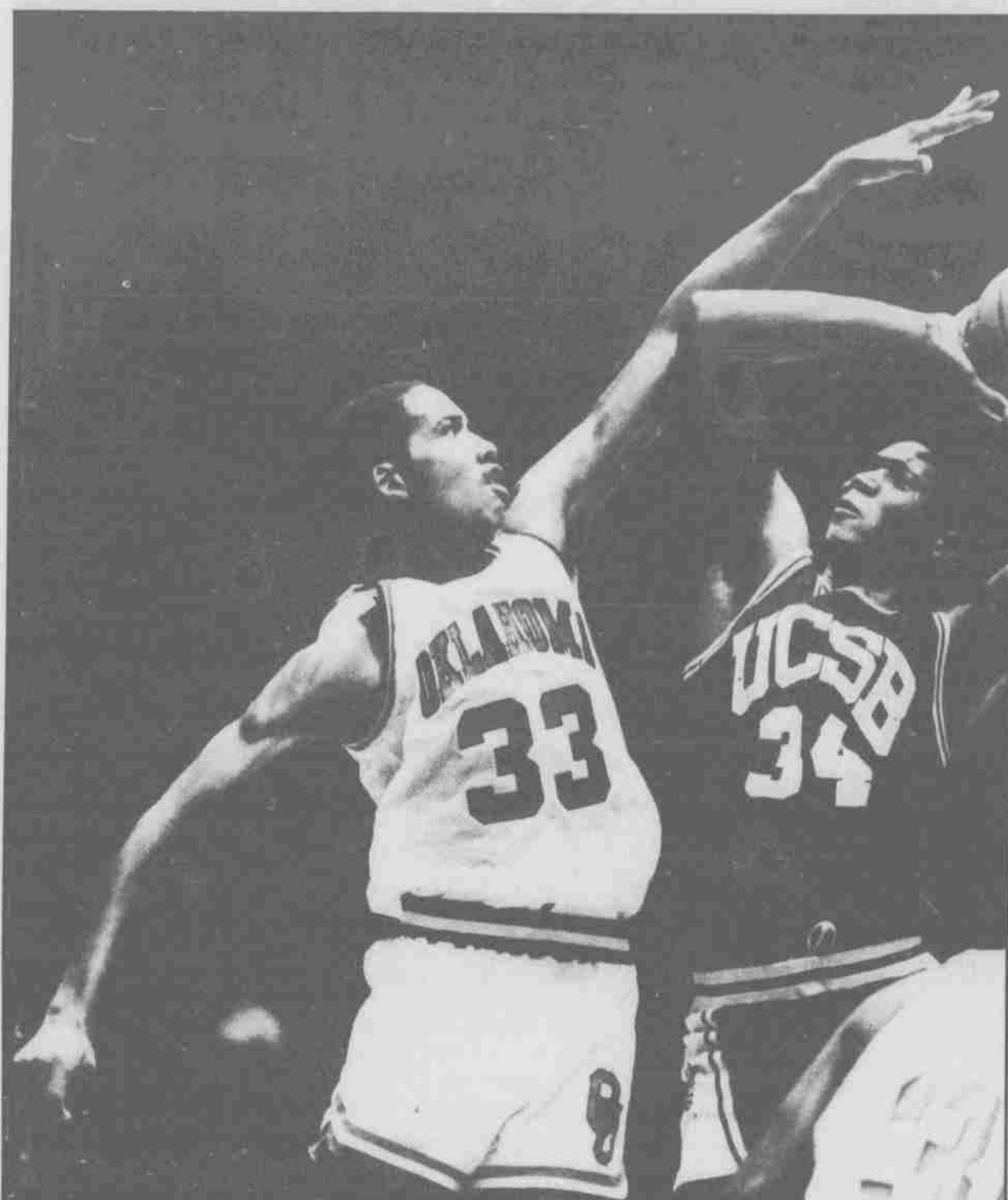


Sports

OU freshman's play sounds warning



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Oklahoma's Stacey King tries to block a shot of California-Santa Barbara's Khris Fortson during the Sooner's 107-92 victory against the Gauchos Friday night in Norman. King, playing in his first college game, scored 22 points, two more than Wayman Tisdale scored in his first varsity game for Oklahoma.

Analysis by Bob Asmussen
Senior Editor

NORMAN, Okla. — In Wayman Tisdale's first game as an Oklahoma Sooner, he came off the bench to score 20 points against Nevada-Las Vegas.

In Stacey King's first game as an Oklahoma Sooner Friday night, King, a freshman forward-center from Lawton, Okla., came off the bench to score 22 points against California-Santa Barbara.

At this point, King is two points better than Tisdale.

Before the 1985 basketball season began, everyone figured that without Mr. T, the Sooners would be dog meat. With Tisdale, the Sooners would have been a preseason No. 1 in 1985. Without Tisdale, everyone figured, they'd battle Nebraska and Iowa State for second place in the Big Eight. Everybody should change their minds on the second count.

The Sooners defeated Santa Barbara 107-92 in their opening game at Lloyd Noble Center. They looked anything but a second place team.

Tim McCalister scored 30 points, mostly from long range, and showed, that if he remains healthy in 1985, he could be one of the best guards in the country.

The Sooners were not a one-man team with Tisdale. They certainly aren't a one-man team without him. Darryl Kennedy scored 16 points against the Gauchos, David Johnson scored 23 points. Anthony Bowie, who was one of Oklahoma's leading scorers last season, was held to four points, but he wasn't needed.

And there was King. King is listed as a 6-10, 215 pound center. Like Tisdale, King is an Oklahoman. King is from Lawton; Tisdale graduated from Tulsa Washington High School. Like Tisdale, King has the soft jump shot that is most effective from the baseline. Unlike Tisdale, King might be able to contribute to defensive play significantly.

Wayman wasn't a terrible defensive player, it was just that he had such a tremendous offensive burden on him that it was impossible for him to expend that much energy on defense.

King was known in high school as both an offensive and defensive force. Because of his quick leaping ability, he is an outstanding shot

blocker and defensive player. One thing King will have to avoid, especially when he is matched against a center with similar height, is foul trouble; he had four fouls in 24 minutes.

Because of his physical similarity to Tisdale, King is going to be faced with the comparisons the whole season, maybe even his entire career. In addition, like Tisdale, King has a happy court demeanor that only gives him more appeal to both the fans and the media.

"I was kind of nervous," King said of his first game as a collegian. "There was a lot of pressure, not just on me, but on our entire team. People came to see how well we'd do without Wayman. I think we gave them their money's worth tonight."

King's play Friday against the Gauchos impressed Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs.

"Stacey King — you really couldn't ask for any more from him," Tubbs said. "At this point, he's two points better than Wayman. Strike that."

But it's likely that at season's end, Tubbs won't want the press to "strike" comparisons between Tisdale and King. The development of King as a player and as a personality can only help the Oklahoma basketball program. With Tisdale, the Sooners lived in the limelight for three years. You could tell Friday that the leftovers, Tubbs included, missed being in the media spotlight.

Evidently, Oklahoma fans missed Wayman too. Only 8,117 folks showed up for the opening night in a building that seats 10,871. The actual crowd might have even been less. The Oklahoma fans, like the rest of the conference, were waiting to see what Oklahoma sans Wayman would be like. They got their answer.

Without Wayman, Oklahoma will be the running, gunning, scoring, no-defense bunch that it always has been. Wayman's points will be spread out between Kennedy, McCalister, Johnson and King and the Sooners will give Kansas a good run for the Big Eight crown. Second is locked up at least.

Despite his greatness, and Tisdale is great, he was never able to get the Sooners to the NCAA Final Four. With as much talent as they have this season, and the number of different ways they can attack a team offensively, the Sooners could be headed for that promised land.

The Sooners, led by King, might be Kings.

Basketball team challenges young S. Illinois

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

Southern Illinois coach Richard Herrin will be taking on a new challenge when the Salukis face the Nebraska men's basketball team tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Herrin, who is in his first year at SIU, previously coached at Benton High School in Chicago for 25 years.

During that time span, Herrin won more regional titles (21) than any other Chicago high school coach ever, and also sent over 60 players to the college ranks.

But, the thought of facing the 1-0 Cornhuskers, Herrin said, is somewhat mystifying since it will be only his third collegiate game.

"Coming from the high school ranks, I'm taking this season as a great challenge," Herrin said. "I'm really excited about it."

Only five returnees

Herrin said that his first season with the Salukis has been compounded by the fact that SIU lost its top eight players of last season to graduation.

The remaining five players, Herrin said, scored only 105 points all of last season between them while averaging just under four minutes per game.

"We're real inexperienced, there is just no way around it," Herrin said. "Aside from our five returning players, we have got a host of junior college transfers and freshmen."

Included on the SIU roster, which

has only one senior, is one walk-on and 6-8 Grant Martin.

Martin, a freshman, never played basketball in high school but enlisted in the Army after his graduation and grew nine inches.

"Grant has got a lot of ability but, like most of our team, he doesn't have much experience," Herrin said. "We're trying to think positively about this season, but we realize it is going to be difficult with our age."

Herrin said he will probably use a starting lineup that includes 6-2 sophomore Stan Middleton and 6-3 junior Brian Welch at the guards, 6-5 junior Don Novsek and 6-7 Ken Dusharm at the forwards and 6-9 Todd Krueger at center.

Krueger, a freshman, will face his

greatest challenge ever, Herrin said, when he plays against Nebraska's Dave Hoppen.

Knows about Hoppen

"I know all about Dave Hoppen because a couple of years ago (former Nebraska basketball assistant) coach Spoonhour was trying to recruit a couple of my kids (out of Benton High School) and he told me about him," he said. "To ask a freshman like (Todd) Krueger to face him (Hoppen) is a tremendous challenge."

Assistant husker basketball coach Tom Baack said that the greatest challenge Nebraska will be facing in their game with the Salukis is the things that they are not yet aware of.

Baack scouted SIU's season opening,

58-56 victory over Chicago State. "Since it was their first game of the season (that I scouted) we really don't know what to expect from them," he said. "I thought that they showed a lot of spunk in their game with Chicago State because they were down by 19 in the first half and came back to win on a last second shot."

Baack said the Huskers will have to give a better effort than they gave in their 83-64 victory over Wisconsin-Stout to win.

"One thing I did notice about Southern Illinois is that they definitely had better players," he said. "They showed some inexperience, but, over all they looked to be a pretty good team."

NU diving teams sport talent, experience

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

Defending Big Eight champion Heidi Hecker leads a field of three experienced competitors on this year's Nebraska women's diving team.

Hecker, a junior from Des Moines, Iowa, captured the Big Eight championship on both the one and three meter boards in last year's conference meet.

This season, Hecker has already competed against what Cornhusker diving coach Jeff Huber said are two of the nation's top divers, Arkansas' Diane Dudeck and LSU's Anne Barnett.

Although Hecker came out on the short end of the competition on both occasions, Huber said she is definitely an All-American candidate.

"Heidi has tremendous ability, she is a great athlete," Huber said. "With the loss of both Anne Biggs and Cathy Lundy to graduation she is the premier diver on this year's women's team."

Hecker will be joined on this year's women's squad by teammates Sherri Birmingham and Julie May. Huber said that both Birmingham and May are quality divers, but that May is being hindered by weight loss.

"Julie (May) lost a lot of weight over the summer and it has really affected her strength," he said. "She is starting to gain both her weight and her strength back, though, so I'm confident that she will continue to improve as the season goes on."

Huber said that for the first time in his eight year coaching career at Nebraska he has elected to compete with a three person women's squad rather than the usual six member team.

What the Cornhusker women won't have in numbers, Huber said, they definitely make up for in terms of all around talent.

"I feel very good about this year's team," he said. "The reason I have decided to use three divers is we only tried to recruit two divers last year and

ended up not getting either one of them. So, rather than settle for an individual who didn't have the type of talent I was looking for, I decided to go with the smaller team."

For the first time ever, Huber said that this year's Big Eight championships will have both the men's and the women's teams competing in the same facility at the same time.

Huber said he is looking for this year's Nebraska men's diving team to be just as strong as the Husker women's squad.

Although All-American Reynaldo Castro has graduated, Huber said this year's squad will be a little stronger than last year's team.

"We were relatively young last year so the year of experience will definitely help us," he said. "We will be equally balanced in both the one and three meter boards, although we will key on the three meter board because that is how you qualify for the U.S. nationals."

Huber said he has so much confi-

dence in this year's Husker men's diving team that he has decided to red-shirt sophomore Alvin Spencer.

"Alvin (Spencer) has only been diving since he was in the ninth grade, which is almost unheard of," Huber said. "He's got a lot of talent but I don't think the decision to red-shirt him was a difficult one because of the strength of this year's team."

The key individual on this year's squad, Huber said, will be Eric Ognibene. Ognibene captured the Big Eight championships on the one meter board in 1983 but was redshirted last season so that the freshman trio of Matt Clark, Lewis Meyers and Spencer could develop.

"Ognibene spent this summer competing for the U.S. national team so that shows you that he is one of the top eight divers in the country," he said. "Overall, though, I feel we have excellent divers on both the men's and women's teams, so I'm looking for excellent seasons from both."

Sports Shorts

Full-time students can buy Fiesta Bowl tickets at the Athletic Ticket Office, South Stadium 117 on Dec. 2, 3 and 4. The student allotment will be divided equally all three days and will be sold from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day or until the day's allotment is gone.

Each qualified student can buy one ticket, two if married. Current full-time student identification cards will be required, and married students must show their marriage certificates (or a certified copy).

Groups will be limited to six seats. Students who want to sit together as a group must all be present at the time of ticket purchase.

The price is \$25 a ticket. Each student's personal check should be made payable to the University of Nebraska and show a Lincoln address. Cash payment must be the exact amount.