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Nebraska opponents beware: the DN jinx could strike you!

Alan Bannister and Archie Marshall, get prepared for bad games.

No, I'm not saying you two are bad players. In fact, you both are really helping your team.

Bannister has learned how to coordinate his 7-4 frame and Marshall has become the sixth-man Kansas so desperately needs to get to the Final Four.

What Bannister and Marshall are about to experience is the "Daily Nebraskan jinx." This jinx makes Sports Illustrated's jinx look like an ordinary curse.

son. Thompson was cruising along, scoring about 15 points a game. But, talking to Daily Nebraskan reporter John Carlson ended all that. Thompson hit Lincoln and his point total hit nine. Not a good game for the guy.

Next on the jinx parade was Oklahoma State's Terry Faggins. Faggins was coming off a great game against Kansas, but scored only 16 against Nebraska, none of the points coming late when the game was on the line. Label this one as a partial success for the jinx.

But, as sad as Faggins had to be after the Cowboy's one-point loss, his feeling wouldn't come close to that of the next jinxee, Jeff Grayer.

Grayer had been running amuck in conference play and was among the league's leading scorers. Daily Nebraskan reporter Steve Thomas talked to Grayer and wrote a story. Unfortunately, space limitations forced us to hold the story. We hoped Grayer would have a good game so we could run the story Monday. Not a good idea.

Grayer would have had a good game if he was a prize fighter, or a hockey player. Midway through the first half of the Nebraska-Iowa State game, Grayer got into a fight with Nebraska's Chris Logan and both players were ejected. Grayer scored one point.

The jinx lost its spunk against Oklahoma's Tim McCalister. The jinx couldn't slow down the Oklahoma guard, but

not much of anything else has either. McCalister scored 20 as Oklahoma dealt Nebraska its worst loss in a decade.

The DN jinx was back on track against Colorado's Randy Downs. Downs didn't hit double figures in the game and hasn't been the same since. Saturday, he scored only four points against Kansas State.

Norris Coleman was the next player profile on tap. Fortunately for Norris and unfortunately for Nebraska, he could never reach Coleman, a former Army sergeant turned basketball star. With no jinx to worry about, Coleman went out and scored 26 points as the Wildcats defeated Nebraska 64-54 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The latest to fall victim to The Jinx is the player you'd least expect it to happen to, Missouri guard Lynn Hardy. You remember Hardy — he's the guy who made the game-winning shot at the buzzer against Nebraska earlier in the season. Well, we zapped him Friday with a story and he scored two points against Nebraska. Hardy missed all four shots from the floor and hit only two of four free throws.

After Bannister and Marshall are plagued, the next few weeks will see players from Oklahoma, Iowa State, Colorado and Kansas State have bad games after Daily Nebraskan stories on them. Maybe this time we'll be able to reach Coleman.



Bob Asmussen

What? A Daily Nebraskan jinx? You bet.

Let me explain.

This semester we have tried to do a profile on a different player from each of Nebraska's Big Eight opponents. We think this is a good way for the readers to get to know something a little extra about the other team. We also have discovered that it's a good way to guarantee that player has a rotten game.

The first player inflicted with the jinx was Kansas guard Calvin Thomp-

Iba wrongfully maligned by critics

With Cornhuskers center Dave Hoppen sidelined by a knee injury, there seems to be an increased cry for the ouster of Coach Moe Iba. Such a stance is not only unjustifiable, but it also demonstrates irrational and close-minded thinking.

Detractors say that Iba can not recruit effectively to contend for the Big Eight title. Well, correct me if I am wrong, but Iba did recruit Hoppen and guard Brian Carr, two players who

could start for any team in the country. And what about the claim that Iba lets the best Nebraska high school talent slip to out-of-state schools? I am sure

Letters

Iba would love to have players such as Ron Kellogg, Cedric Hunter and Kerry Trotter on his team, but it seems kind of hard to sign such players when everytime they pick up a newspaper they read how poor the Husker program is. It doesn't take a genius to realize that Iba is caught in a Catch-22 situation.

Other critics believe Nebraska will never be a basketball power as long as Iba is at the helm. That attitude only reinforces the "win at all costs" epidemic which seems to be running rampant in college sports today.

Now that Iba has guided the Huskers to yet another winning season, Nebraska has had 13 consecutive winning seasons, a Big Eight record. Yes folks, Nebraska has been a more consistent winner in basketball than both Kansas and Oklahoma.

It would be unfortunate for Nebraska to lose a coach of Iba's stature. Iba is the definitive "gentleman" coach. He does not hesitate to praise opponents, he does not blast officials for poor calls, and he does not make excuses for losses. There is more to coaching than winning conference titles, and Coach Iba is the classic example. Keep up the good work Moe, and we'll see ya tournament time.

Jerry Guinan
December 1985 graduate

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