

# Sports

## Nebraska begins search for coach

By Kent Endacott  
Senior Reporter

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Nebraska coach Moe Iba took one last sip from his can of Classic Coke, and started to leave his press conference following the Husker's 67-59 loss to Western Kentucky Friday in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

At that point, Terry Yeager of KMTV of Omaha asked Iba the one question that the rest of the media had avoided — "Coach, what about your future?"

Iba set down his Coke and replied in a smooth, practiced tone, "I have resigned at the University of Nebraska to pursue another head coaching job. I have no further comment."

Asked if he would have resigned even if Nebraska would have won, Iba said, "If we would have won, I would have waited to resign until we got beat."

Moments earlier, Iba had walked off the court and handed an envelope containing his letter of resignation to Don Bryant, assistant athletic director and sports information director.

"I was not expecting it at that time," Bryant said. "I didn't know anything about it until he handed me his resignation as he walked off the court."

Iba's resignation ends season-long rumors concerning Iba's departure from Lincoln. Last week, University of Texas-San Antonio Athletic Director Jim Skaines said Iba is one of the top candidates for the vacant coaching position at the school.

"I can't see how five other applicants we've got could be more qualified than Moe," Skaines said.

One possible candidate for the Nebraska basketball coaching position — Ohio University coach Danny Nee — has already been contacted by Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney, Ohio University officials confirmed Wednesday.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Martin Massengale said the search for a new coach has already begun. He said Devaney will identify a number of possible candidates and select an undetermined number to come for an on-campus interview. Devaney could not be reached for comment.

Regent Donald Fricke said he thinks it may be difficult for Nebraska to attract a "big-name coach." He said that a "name coach" would command a salary in excess of the \$83,600, which Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne is paid. Under a three-year contract ending June 30, Iba receives \$57,680 per-year.

"It might be a possibility to go after a first-name coach like a Bobby Knight (of Indiana), but we would have to pay above what Osborne is earning," Fricke said. "But, we don't want anybody who would run a dishonest program. I wouldn't want to be in Kentucky's shoes, where they won games, but they've done it dishonestly during the past fifteen years."

"I thought he (Iba) did a good job, and brought the program around. And he did it honestly."

Fricke said, however, that the new Nebraska basketball coach will probably not be a "big name." He said a coach at a smaller school who has had good success and is looking to move up is likely to be the type of coach chosen.

Iba announced his resignation to his players in the locker room following the loss to Western Kentucky. In an interview after the press conference, Nebraska guard Brian Carr said he didn't want Iba's resignation to overshadow the success the team has had this season. Nebraska officially finished 20-10, and received the school's first NCAA tournament bid.

"The people at the university (of Nebraska) thought there should be a change," Carr said. "He's the kind guy that's going to do things his own way. You gotta give him credit for sticking with what he believes. He took a lot of ridicule from the fans."

"He is so proud of us, and that's what really hurts. We tried so hard to win tonight and for him to resign is really hard to take."

Kentucky basketball coach Eddie Sutton, who played for Iba's father, Henry, at Oklahoma State, said he doubts Nebraska will be able to find a coach as good as Iba.

"I'm very saddened by the fact that one of the outstanding coaches in the roundball sport is resigning," Sutton

said. "I don't think the people of Nebraska realize that Moe is considered one of the top 20 coaches in the country by other college coaches."

"It will be very hard for the University of Nebraska to find another coach as qualified and who can coach the game as well as Moe."

Sutton said he supported Iba for the basketball coaching job at Oklahoma State. That job has recently been filled by Kentucky assistant coach Leonard Hamilton.

He said Iba told him early this season that he was under fire, and considering resigning.

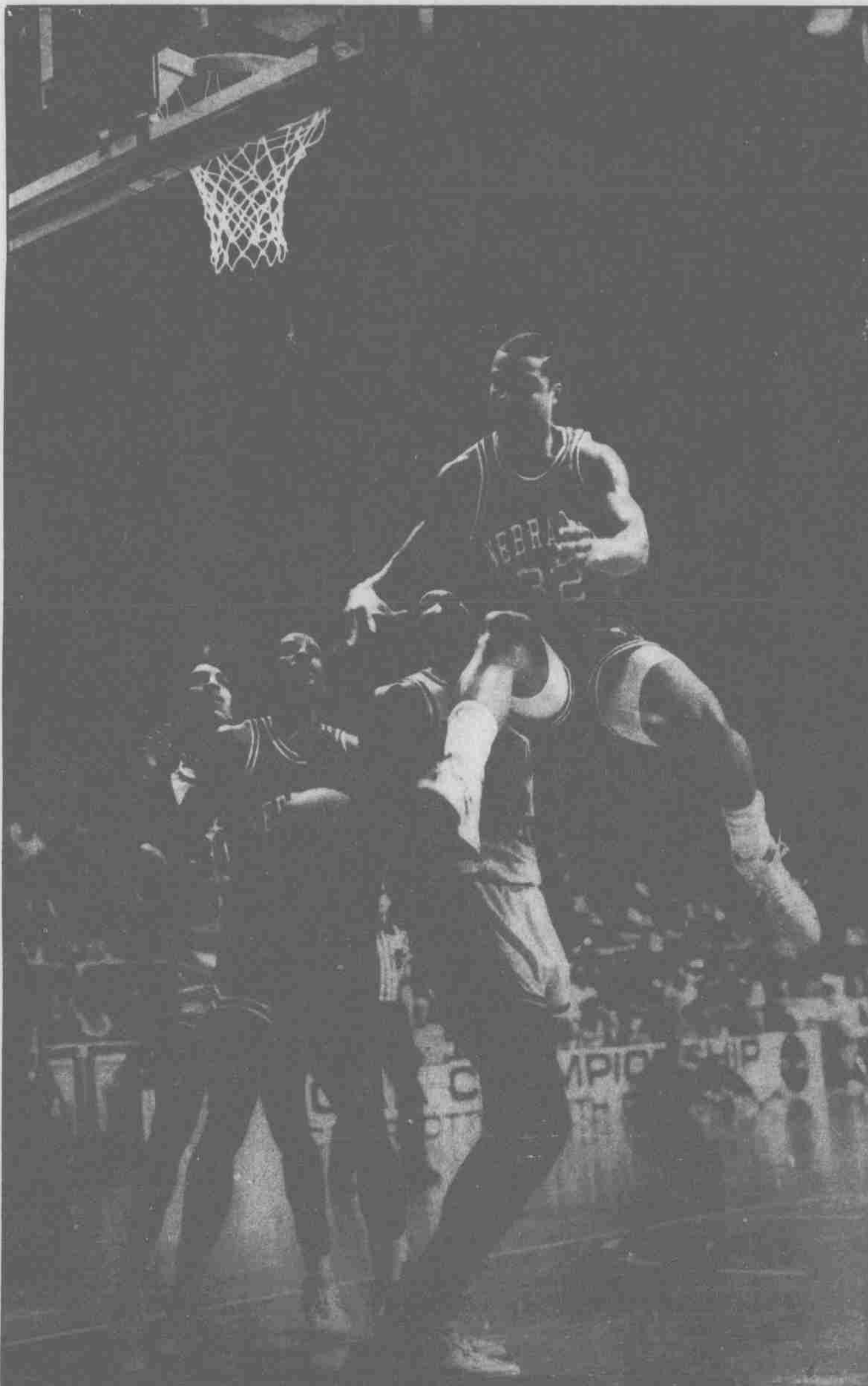
Nebraska guard Harvey Marshall said he expected Iba's resignation.

"Coach Iba is a great coach," Marshall said, "With all the flack he took, he didn't deserve it. The Nebraska fans are spoiled from the football team."

"The program is heading in the right direction, and with the right coach, it could really do something."

In his six years at Nebraska, Iba compiled a 106-71 record — the winningest record of Nebraska coaches in 61 years.

## Huskies' comeback effort too little, too late



Mike Hood/Special to the Daily Nebraskan  
Western Kentucky's Clarence Martin strips the ball from Nebraska's Chris Logan. WKU's Ray Swogger, left, and Nebraska's Harvey Marshall stand by.

By Bob Asmussen  
Sports Editor

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Something else happened Friday night in the Charlotte Coliseum besides the resignation of Nebraska basketball coach Moe Iba — Nebraska played and lost in its first-ever trip to the NCAA tournament, a 67-59 loss to Western Kentucky.

Western Kentucky, which lost Sunday to Kentucky in a second-round game, took an 18-point lead with 10:34 left in the game. Nebraska then went on a 13-2 run to cut the Hilltopper's lead to seven points, 55-48, with 5:35 left in the game.

Nebraska's Anthony Bailous cut the Western Kentucky lead to five points on a lay up, making the score 57-52, with 2:07 left.

Three times after the lead was cut to five, Nebraska got possession and couldn't score. The Huskers did cut the lead to four points twice in the final 1:33 of the game, but couldn't get any closer.

Western Kentucky's James McNary hit three consecutive one-and-one free throws in the final 31 seconds to seal the Hilltopper victory.

Western Kentucky coach Clem Haskins said his team seemed to relax once it got the 18-point lead.

"We just lost momentum," Haskins said, "and forgot about being aggressive."

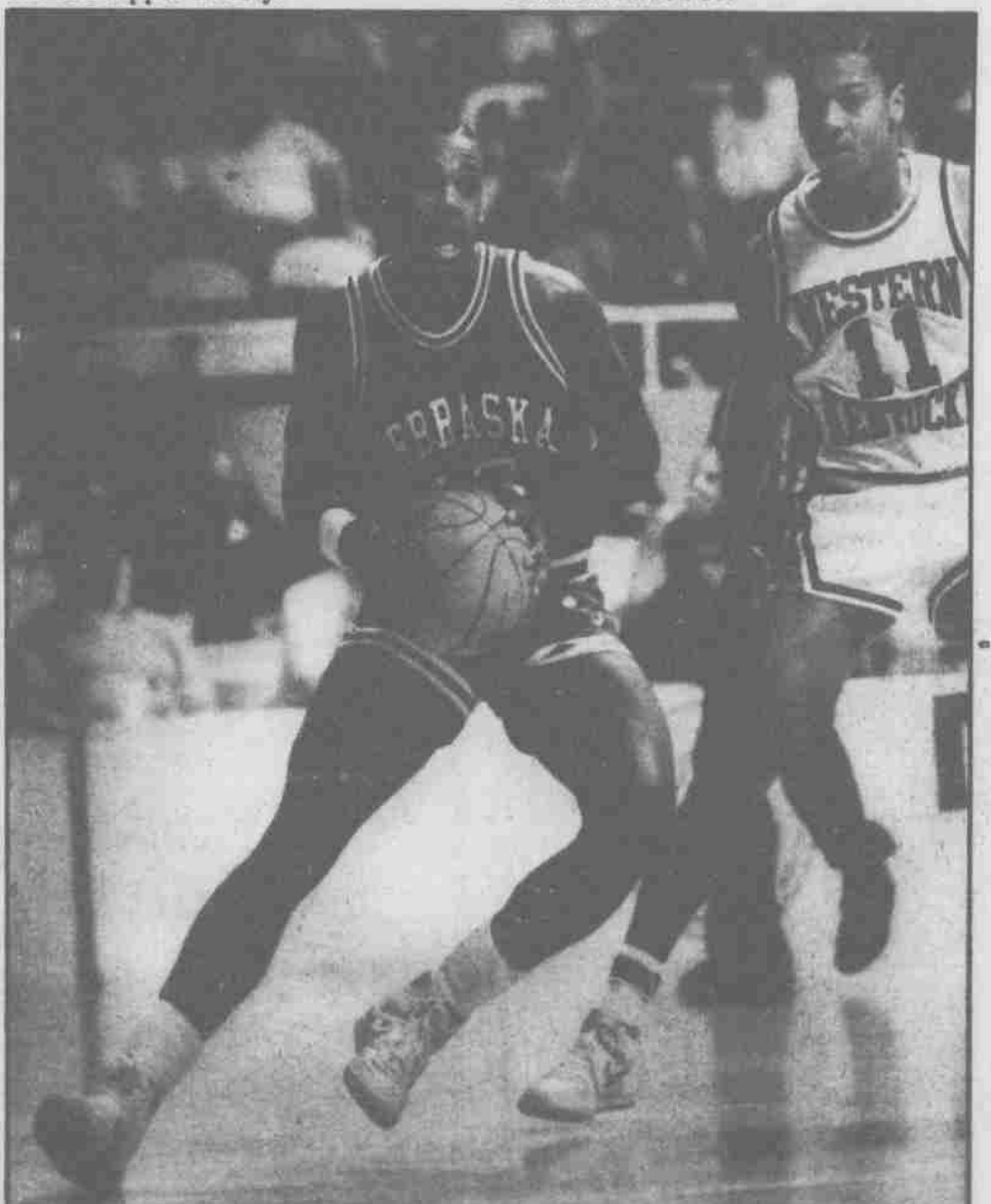
Western Kentucky jumped to a 7-0 lead before Nebraska's Bernard Day got the Huskers on the scoreboard with a lay-up at 16:55. Nebraska cut the lead to 7-6 on a slam dunk by Day off of a lob pass.

Nebraska twice took leads in the first half, 14-13 and 16-15. But, both times, Western Kentucky came back to hit a go-ahead basket.

Western Kentucky's Ray Swogger came off the bench in the first half to score 12 points with six of seven shooting. Swogger scored the Hilltopper's last four points of the half, including a basket at the first-half buzzer. Western Kentucky led 33-26 at intermission.

Nebraska, which finished its season 20-10, was led by Day's 18 points. Harvey Marshall scored 11 points and Brian Carr, Bailous and Chris Logan added 10 each.

Western Kentucky, 23-8 after the loss to Kentucky, was led by Swogger's 16 points. Gordon scored 12 points, Clarence Martin had 11 and Kannard Johnson added 10.



Mike Hood/Special to the Daily Nebraskan  
Nebraska's Harvey Marshall drives around Western Kentucky's Kirk Lee Friday night in the Charlotte Coliseum.