

Sports

Nee meets players, hires assistants

By Kent Endacott
Senior Reporter

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee named two assistant coaches and met with his players Monday.

Nee hired Fran Franchilla, who has been Nee's assistant at Ohio University the past five years, and Lyn Mitchem, who worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Purdue last season. Mitchem is the all-time leading scorer in Butler University basketball history. His playing career ended in 1983.

Both assistants are in Lincoln and have begun recruiting. Nee is expected to name a third assistant coach by mid-April.

Nee said the meeting, which lasted 10 minutes, was merely a "getting-to-know-them-type-meeting." He said he introduced a hall for the players and a four-day-a-week weight training program.

Nee said he will meet with each player individually later this week.

"It's really a transitional period, with a new coach," Nee said. "They probably know a lot more about me than I know about them."

Forward Bill Jackman said he's excited about having Nee as a coach.

"I think he's very organized and seems like a fair guy," he said. "He's going to demand a lot and, in turn, give a lot."

Forward Deak Vance, who missed the second half of last season, said he thinks the players are very happy with Nee and the new staff. He said the players wanted to keep assistant coach Tom Baack, but accept the new program.

"We gave our best to get him (Baack) in," Vance said, "but he's not here; we just have to go

with it. It's going to work. It's got to."

Last week, the players met with UNL Chancellor Martin Massengale to voice their support for Baack. Nee has indicated that he will not retain any of Iba's staff.

Forward Mike Martz said he was impressed with Nee and is already excited about next season.

"It's a new beginning," he said. "He seems like a very fair and straightforward coach. I'm excited."

Guard Milton Shobe, who redshirted last season and has four years of eligibility remaining, said he believes Nee will give everybody a fair chance to prove that they deserve to play.

"He's pretty nice," Shobe said. "I'm going to stay here for sure."

"He knew a lot about the other guys, but what he told everybody is that we have a clean slate."

Guard Brian Carr said he was at home in Muncie, Ind., when he found out that Nee had been named the Nebraska coach.

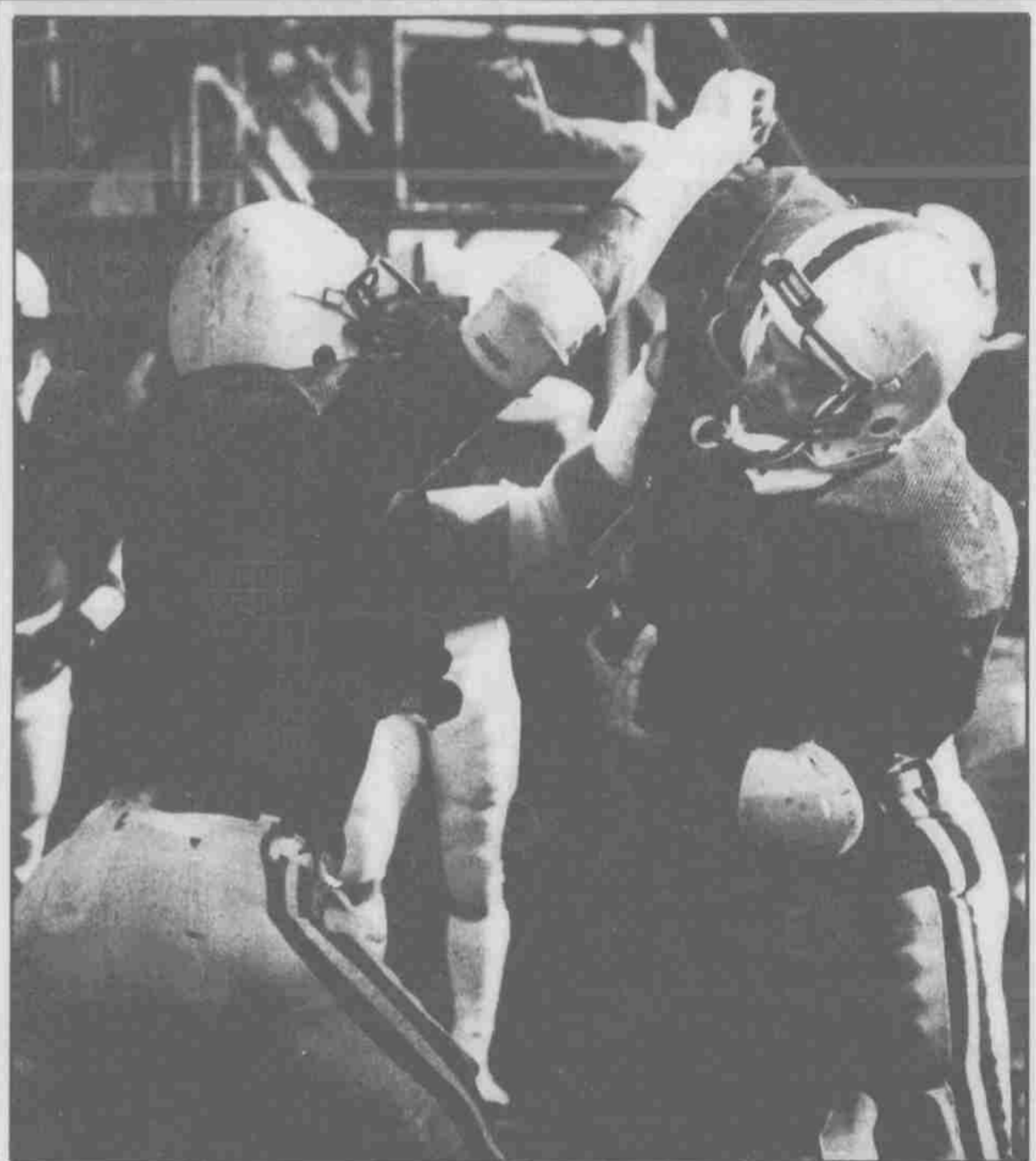
"I was surprised because I had heard he took his name off (the list of candidates)," Carr said. "I know a lot of guys at home who have seen him coach against Ball State, and they say he's just a great coach."

"We already have a lot of respect for him. I'm glad they chose Nee. I think they made a good decision."

Carr said he is happy because Nee said he is going to stress communication.

"He seems to be what we want. Communication has been kind of lacking around here."

All players with eligibility remaining attended the meeting, except for guard Anthony Bailous, who had track practice, and guard Darren Brown, who had not yet returned from his Detroit home.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Spring fever

Nebraska football players go through running drills during the first day of spring practice.

Freshman Ellison sparks Louisville to title

By the Associated Press

DALLAS — Freshman Pervis Ellison scored 25 points, including four in the last 41 seconds Monday night, as No. 7 Louisville beat top-ranked Duke 72-69 to win its second NCAA basketball championship in six years.

Louisville, although hounded by Duke's pesky guards Johnny Dawkins and Tommy Amaker, grabbed the lead for good at 66-65 on Billy Thompson's jump shot with 2:47 remaining.

Ellison, who had 11 rebounds, grabbed Jeff Hall's missed shot and put it in with 41 seconds left for a 68-65 advantage. Then he snared a rebound after a

missed shot by Duke's David Henderson and was fouled. He made two foul shots with 27 seconds remaining.

Duke's Jay Bilas cut it to 70-67 with 18 seconds left, breaking a seven-minute drought without a basket. After Thompson missed a one-and-one free throw opportunity, freshman Danny Ferry's basket made it 70-69.

But Milt Wagner canned two free throws with two seconds left to clinch Louisville's 17th straight victory of the season and end the Blue Devils' 21-game win streak. The Cardinals finished 32-7 this season and dropped Duke to 37-3.

The loss spoiled the winningest

season in NCAA history. Duke's 37 wins surpassed by one the previous record of the 1948 Kentucky team.

Led by All-American guard Dawkins' 15 points and the ballhawking of both Dawkins and Amaker, the Atlantic Coast Conference champions built a 37-34 halftime lead.

Louisville went ahead 42-41 on Herbert Crook's tap-in, which gave the Cardinals the lead for the first time since they were up 4-0. Dawkins then hit three straight jump shots, including a three-pointer, for a 48-42 lead. Mark Alarie made two free throws to match Duke's biggest lead of the second half, 54-48.

Wagner and Thompson each picked up their fourth personal foul during that period, and the Cardinals' chances seemed dim.

But the 6-foot-9 Ellison paced the Louisville comeback with the help of Wagner, a 6-5 senior who had only two points in the first half.

Wagner's three-point play cut Louisville's deficit to 61-60 with 5:33 remaining. Henderson then hit two free throws as Ellison picked up his fourth personal, but Ellison came back and hit from inside to cut the deficit back to one.

Wagner put Louisville ahead when he shook loose for a layup with 3:22 left. Duke regained the lead when Dawkins

made a pair of foul shots but Thompson then pulled the Cardinals away for good.

Thompson, a 6-7 senior, added 13 points for Louisville, while Crook had 10. Wagner, who entered the game with a career total of 1,825 points, scored only nine, almost six points under his average.

Dawkins, the leading scorer in Duke's history, finished with 24 points. Henderson added 14, Alarie 12 and Amaker 11.

Ellison was named tournament's Most Valuable Player, the first freshman to earn the prize since Arnie Ferrin won it for Utah's 1944 champions.

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