

Sports

UNL running in stride

Nebraska's men's and women's cross country teams have made great strides this year, coach Jay Dirksen said.

The Cornhuskers traveled to the NCAA Cross Country Championships in Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 24 where the men's team finished 15th and the women's team finished 12th.

Dirksen said the course in Tucson was very difficult because it was hilly, windy and sandy. The course was more for the distance runner and not a miler, he said.

The top finisher for the men's team was Jean Verster who finished 33rd. Other Husker finishers were Jody Fischer (45th), Craig Vanderbeek (70th) and Bryan Clark (162nd). Frank and Harold Graham finished

136th and 154th.

Dirksen said the outlook for the future of the men's team looks promising because the whole team will return next season.

The women's team, with the performance of Laura Wight, managed to finish in the top 15. Dirksen said Wight ran a very good race and if Jill Noel and Mary Amen would have been at full strength, they could have finished among the top five. Noel injured her foot earlier in the season, and Amen didn't run because she had mononucleosis.

All of Nebraska's runners finished in the top 100. Sophomore Sammey Resh finished 65th, senior Karlene Erickson finished 85th and the two freshmen on the team.

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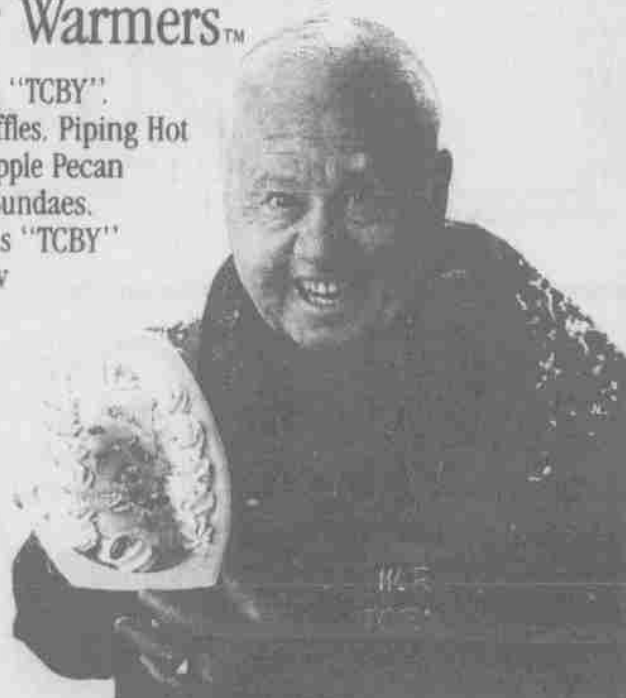
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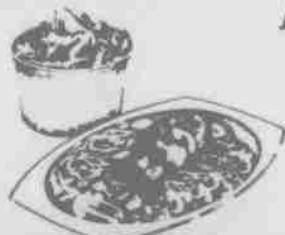
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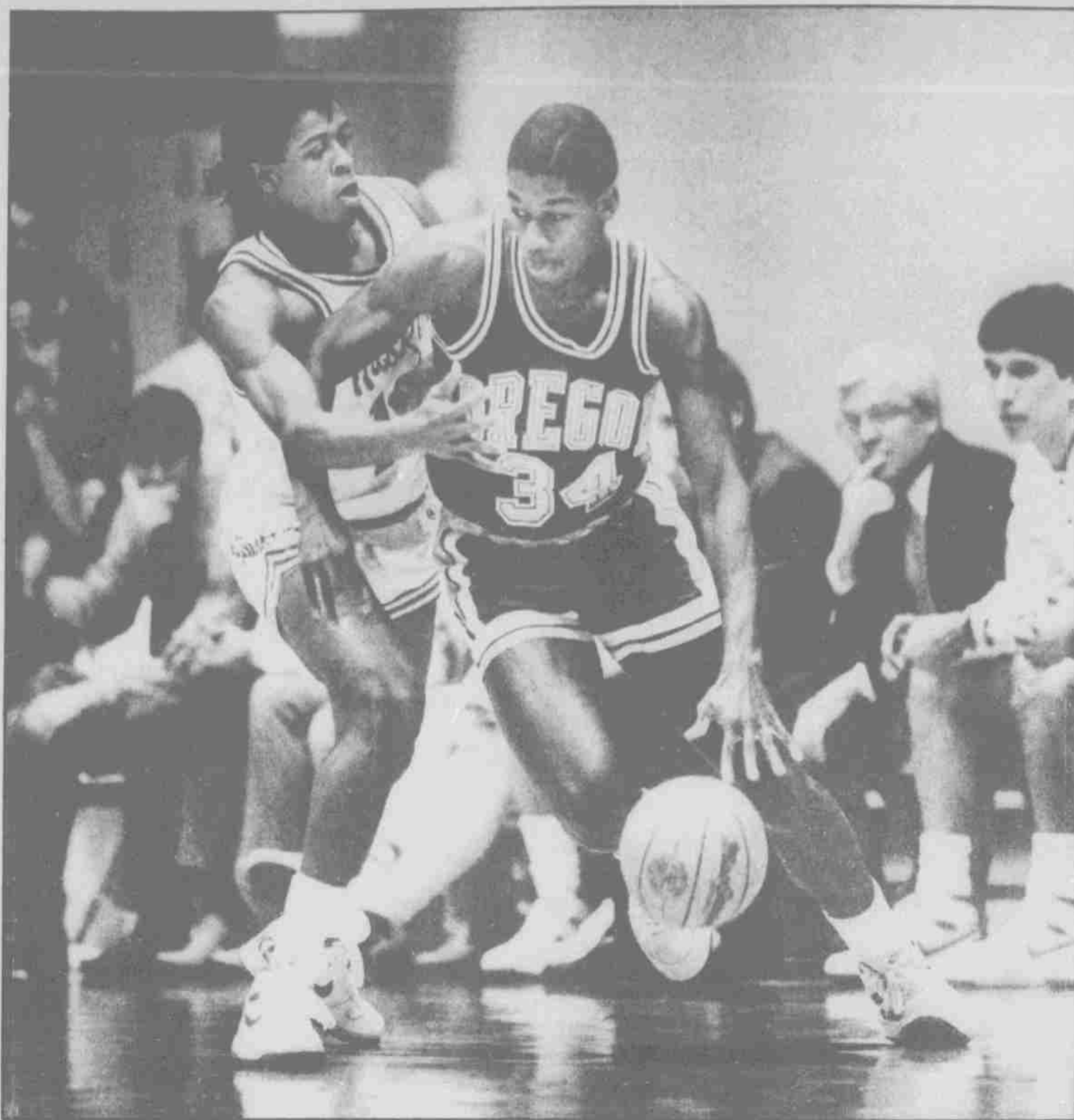
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Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Anthony Bailous keeps a close guard on Oregon's Jesse Nash during first half action last night against Oregon.

Huskers bag Oregon

By Jim Ballard and
Chuck Green
Senior Reporters

For the first eight minutes of Nebraska's basketball game against Oregon last night, the snow-filled streets of Lincoln weren't the only sloppy things in town.

Unlike the streets of Lincoln, though, the Cornhuskers improved as the night wore on, shooting down the Ducks 76-60 in front of 8,639 in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska connected on only three of their first nine shots to start the game, while falling behind the Ducks 8-6. Nebraska coach Danny Nee said that both teams were "tight" at the beginning of the game.

"I don't know if it was nerves, tightness or just sloppy play," Nee said. "The first few minutes were very boring."

Nebraska tied the game at 12-12 with 11:49 remaining in the first half on a three-point jumper by guard Joel

Sealer, then took the lead 11 1/2 minutes later when forward Anthony Bailous hit a 17-foot jumper to make the score 16-14. Nebraska never lost their lead again.

Bailous, who scored 14 points on the night and pulled down six rebounds, said Nebraska needed some time to get their offense going.

"We were just feeling each other out at the beginning," Bailous said, "but once we settled down, we got our offense and fast break going."

Nebraska maintained their lead by as much as seven points throughout most of the first half. Oregon cut the Huskers' lead to two, 30-28, with 3:35 left in the first half on a three-point play by guard David Girley. The Huskers answered with a basket by forward Bernard Day, and the game remained a two-point contest until Husker forward Bill Jackman connected on a three-point jumper with 2:07 left before halftime, giving Nebraska a 37-32 lead. Nebraska scored with 1:03 left on a three-point jumper by guard Brian Carr

and again when Day was fouled while driving to the hoop. The basket and ensuing free throw were good, giving the Huskers a 43-34 lead at halftime.

Nebraska shot 57 percent from the field during the first half and pulled down 12 rebounds, compared to Oregon's 16.

The Ducks shot 50 percent from the field in the first period.

Fifty-three seconds into the second half, Carr lost his balance when he was fouled during a layup and hit his forehead on the playing surface. Nee said Carr's injury wasn't a concussion, but the impact caused a migraine headache and temporary loss of vision.

Oregon cut Nebraska's lead to one, 50-49, with 12:38 left, but the Huskers answered with a Derrick Vick basket with 12:15 left in the game. That was as close as Oregon would come for the rest of the contest, as Nebraska coasted to the final 18-point win margin.

"We got about what we deserved," Oregon coach Don Monson said. "We were about a half a count slow on getting the ball where it needed to be gotten."

Nebraska, 2-1 on the season, faces Creighton in Omaha Saturday night while Oregon, 1-2, faces Idaho State Wednesday night in Eugene, Ore.

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