

Sports

Herrin says shooting key to Husker win

By Rob White
Staff Reporter

In Nebraska's 85-50 victory over Southern Illinois last year, shooting was the key as the Cornhuskers outshot the Salukis 62.1 percent to 38.1 percent. In tonight's rematch in Carbondale, Southern Illinois coach Rich Herrin feels that will hold true once again.

"I think good shooting will be the key to the basketball game," Herrin said. "When we shoot well, we're a pretty good basketball team, when we don't we're not."

Nebraska's Dave Hoppen made nine of nine shots from the field in last year's game and guard Harvey Marshall hit six of eight shots, but both are gone this year. Still, the Huskers return Anthony Bailous (17.3 points per game this year) and three other double-figure scorers for the Salukis to contend with.

"They've got a lot of scorers, a lot of good ballplayers," Herrin said. "(Bernard) Day is a great athlete and Bailous is a great athlete and (Brian) Carr is a good, smart guard. They're a good basketball team."

The Salukis are off to a 3-2 start after two consecutive losses in the Virginia Invitational. Southern Illinois fell to the host Cavaliers, 94-82, and to New Orleans, 93-77.

"We're making progress," Herrin said. "Our two losses came to good ball clubs."

The Salukis' offense will once again

hinge on guard Steve Middleton and forward Doug Novsek. Both are averaging better than 15 points per game.

"We rely on Novsek and Middleton on offense," Herrin said. "We're an outside basketball team, we've got a new center, but we'll never be a great inside team this year. We need to play well from the perimeter."

Junior college transfer Tim Richardson has stepped into the pivot for the Salukis and has posted averages of 10 points and 7.6 rebounds per game thus far. Herrin doesn't feel Richardson, 6-9, will have an advantage inside against Nebraska's Bill Jackman, a converted forward, and forwards Day (6-4) and Bailous (6-2).

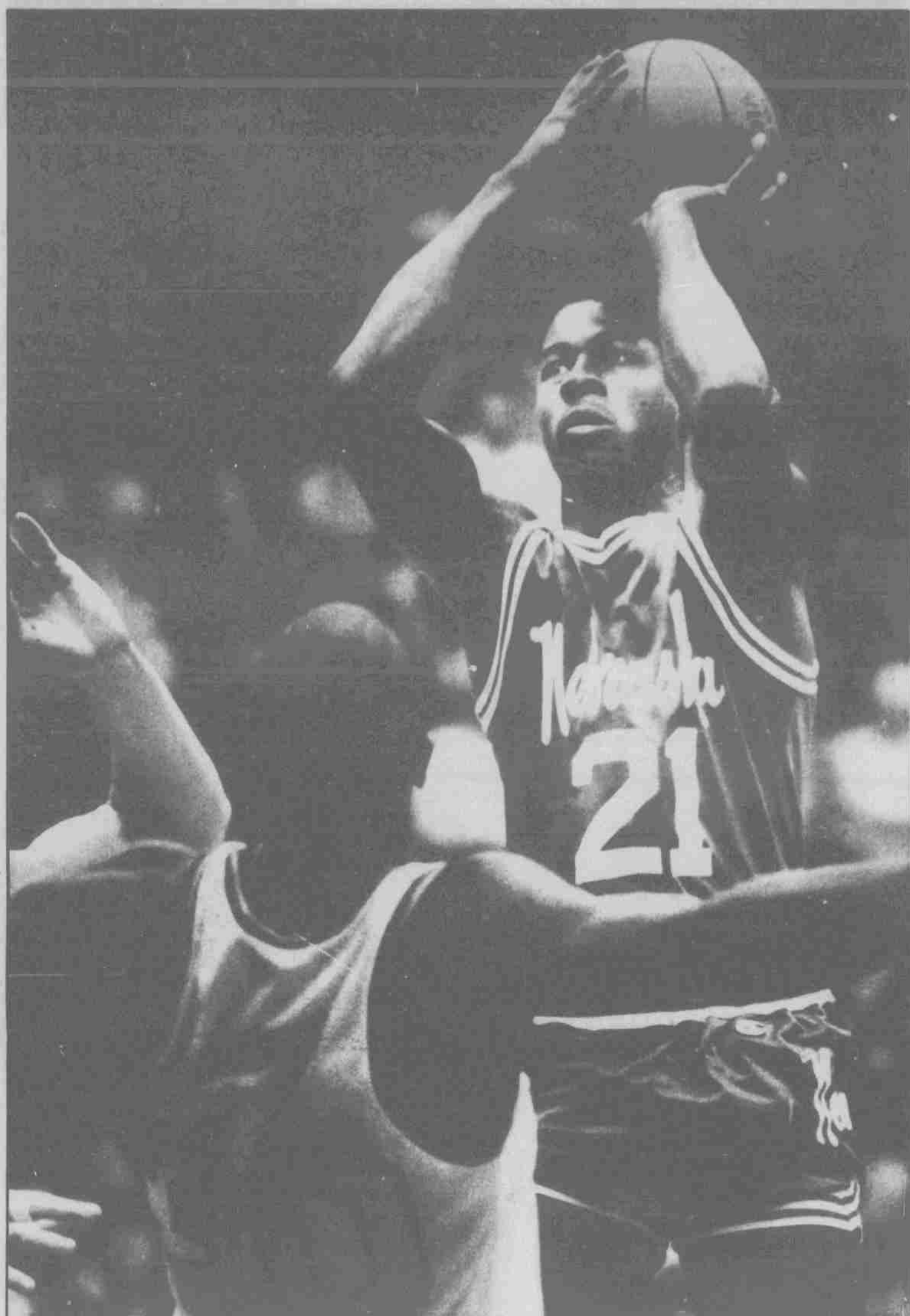
"He's a strong player, but he needs to refine his game some," Herrin said of Richardson. "I think it's a toss-up inside."

The Salukis will need to control the Huskers' fast break, Herrin said.

"We know they run an up-tempo game and we've got to get back and stop their fast break," Herrin said. "They can score, and against Cal-Irvine they scored a bundle (101 points). They play good defense, too."

Herrin said that while Nebraska did race to a 35-point victory last season, his club does have a chance this time around.

"They annihilated us last year," Herrin said. "They really played a great ball game and took us out of it early. But we are a better team than we were last year."



Dave Bentz/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Derrick Vick attempts a jumper over Creighton's Kenny Evans last Saturday in the Cornhuskers' 78-66 loss to the Bluejays. Vick and the Huskers will try to bounce back against Southern Illinois tonight in Carbondale.

Husker injuries have coach wondering about next match

By Rob White
Staff Reporter

Injuries have Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann wondering what to expect in tonight's dual with UNO at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We're beat up real bad right now," Neumann said. "We've got a couple of starters wrestling injured, and a couple of matchups will depend on how our injured people perform. When you put an injured person on the mat, you never know how they will do."

The Cornhuskers' schedule has not afforded them an opportunity to rest, either.

"We've had a tournament on the weekend, then a dual during the week, and so on like that," Neumann said. "We've never got to have a full week of training and eventually that wears down a team. But we're coming down to the end of the semester and the kids know that they only have this dual and then three this weekend, so I'm sure they can suck it up for them."

See WRESTLERS on 10

Sportswriters have ups and downs

Accidents occur — all in the byline of duty

"It must be great to be a sports writer!" I hear it all the time from my friends. Sometimes I really can't argue.

After all, it's nice to watch Nebraska sporting events at home and away from the comfortable confines of the press box and media sections. Since I began working at the Daily Nebraskan in

Chuck Green



September 1985, I've traveled to such places as Tempe, Ariz., Columbia, S.C., Kansas City, Minneapolis, Dallas and Manhattan, Kan. (Manhattan, Kan.?) just to name a few, to cover Nebraska sporting events — all at the DN's cost. And what sports fan would pass up the opportunity to meet and interview such well-known and respected sports personalities as Barry Switzer, Bo Schembechler, Lou Holtz, Larry Brown, Phil Niekro, Art Schlichter, Brian Bosworth and any member of Nebraska's sports teams? It's all a lot of fun.

Unfortunately, the fun isn't always present. There lurks a dark side of sports writing.

Press-box food isn't always the tastiest. And driving to places like Boulder, Colo., and Stillwater, Okla., at 6 a.m. to cover men's and

women's basketball games and then write separate stories for the DN and other Nebraska newspapers on a half-hour deadline isn't always an example of a great weekend. Especially after a long week of classes.

Often, opposing coaches and athletes — and occasionally Nebraska coaches and athletes — aren't the most cooperative people to talk to. Meeting deadlines isn't very much fun, either, particularly when you have to study for three tests in one week. To top it all off, staying in the office until midnight or 1 a.m. and then going to a 7:30 class the next morning has taught me a new meaning of the word "exhaustion."

All this makes for a hectic and exciting schedule — and I wouldn't trade it. I've often heard people say that hard work won't kill anybody, but I nearly found out otherwise Monday, Dec. 1, while I was on my way to cover the Nebraska-Oregon basketball game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Most students at UNL remember that night as the first edition of the annual Greek-residence hall snowball riot. It had snowed all day in Lincoln and wasn't letting up a bit when I left my place at 6 p.m. for the Sports Center. Driving conditions were miserable, and cars were sliding off roads left and right.

I made the mistake of forgetting my media credentials at the DN offices in the Nebraska Union, so I returned there to pick them up. When I left, I took the route of the 15th Street to 16th,

where I would join Vine Street, and then 17th Street to get to the Sports Center. Half a block from the intersection of 16th Street on Vine, a girl in a blue Honda Civic had run off and road and was stuck in the snow halfway up on the curb. Being the sweet guy that I am, I stopped and offered to help.

After rocking and pushing the car for a moment, the Civic was back on the semi-dry part of the street and able to drive away under its own power. As the girl started to drive away, I noticed another car, a Monte Carlo, making its way down Vine Street toward the intersection. It was going a little faster than it should have in that kind of weather. I looked back to the Civic to make sure it was making its way out. The girl waved a "thank you" and kept going. As I watched the car drive away, I heard the unmistakable sound of tires sliding on the icy pavement. Apparently the driver of the Monte Carlo had not seen the Civic pull back onto the street and had hit the brakes to avoid a collision. I turned back to the Civic to make sure that it wasn't close enough for an accident. It wasn't. Standing on the curb, I noticed the lights of the Monte Carlo were engulfing me. I turned around, just in time to see the car slide up on the curb, hit me in the left leg and knock me into a three-foot snow drift. I wasn't hurt, but it scared me quite a bit. The incident wouldn't have been funny but for the look on the driver's face the instant before he hit me. It was one of the funniest terror-stricken expressions I've ever seen.

As I crawled from the snow drift, the driver jumped from his car and immediately fell in a slush puddle. He scrambled to his feet and rushed to the spot where I was kneeling in the snow. He thought he had killed me.

"Oh my God!" the panic-stricken freshman exclaimed. "Are you alright? Do you want me to call an ambulance. No, no! Don't move! Don't get up!"

I was laughing by this time and tried to assure him that I was not dead or paralyzed. I helped him back to his car and told him that there was no problem, but that he should drive slower in that kind of weather. Finally, I got back into the car and tried to leave for the Sports Center.

Of course, now I was stuck. After spinning my tires for a few seconds, someone came and helped me out. I never got a chance to thank him, so consider this column as that.

After all of this, I arrived at the Sports Center, bruised, scared and covered with snow.

I had to explain why I was so wet to at least six other media people when they asked me what had happened. Every time, a hearty chorus of laughter followed the explanation. As you might have guessed, I was no longer the one laughing.

If Nebraska coaches only knew what we sometimes go through for them . . .

Green is a junior news-editorial and criminal justice major from Lincoln and is the Daily Nebraskan's sports editor.