

Sports

Wildcats this year's Big-8 sleeper

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

After avenging an early season Big Eight Conference loss to Iowa State with a 66-65 victory Wednesday night, the Nebraska men's basketball team will attempt to do the same to Kansas State.

Kansas State defeated the Cornhuskers 114-82 in Manhattan, Kan., to open the Big Eight season.

The Wildcats are 16-6 overall and 6-3 in the Big Eight. Those figures may surprise some people because Kansas State was 16-14 and 4-10 last season, but Nebraska coach Danny Nee isn't surprised at all.

"In the pre-season, the early part of the year, when people asked me about K-State I felt that they were the sleeper," Nee said. "I think it's a fact now."

Kansas State's forward Norris Coleman, a sophomore, leads the team in scoring and rebounding. Coleman missed the Wildcats' pre-conference games because of deficient high-school

grades, but since returning to action he has averaged 23.7 points and 10 rebounds per game.

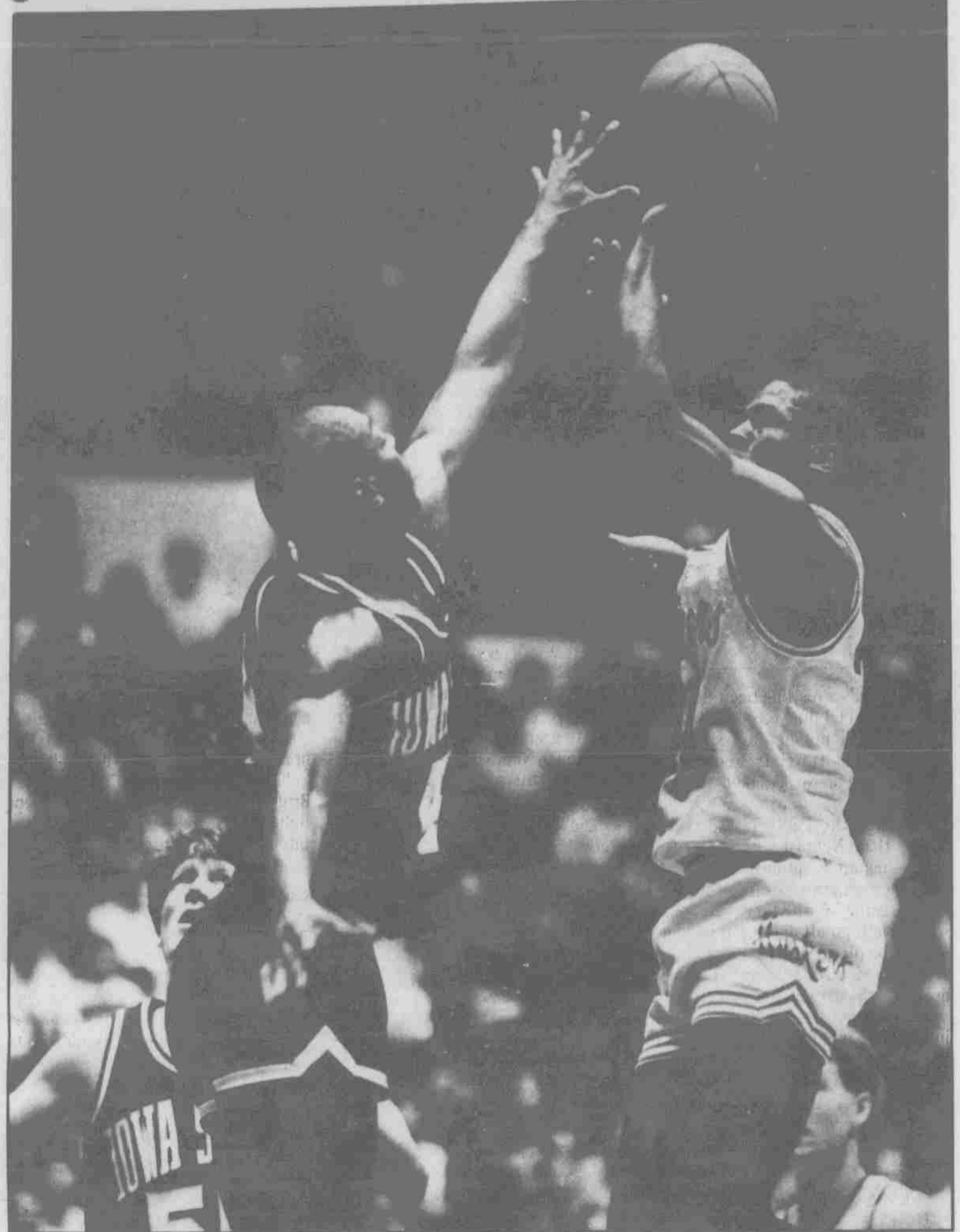
Three Kansas State starters are junior-college transfers, and Nee credited their quick adjustment to Big Eight basketball to first-year Kansas State coach Lon Kruger.

"They have been a very consistent team, a very balanced team, and out of all the new coaches it looks like Lonny Kruger made the quickest and easiest adjustment," Nee said. "He's blended the junior-college players with the veterans down there to come up with great chemistry, good defense and all the ingredients of a winner."

Moberly, Mo., Junior College produced two of the transfers, forward Mitch Richmond and center Charles Bledsoe.

Richmond, a first-team Junior College All-American last season, is second in scoring with 17.6 points a game. Bledsoe is averaging nine points and nearly six rebounds a game.

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Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan


Nebraska's Derrick Vick attempts a shot over Iowa State's Jeff Grayer as Tom Schafer looks on during the Cornhusker's 66-65 win Wednesday night. Nebraska will try to improve its 4-5 Big Eight Conference record Saturday against Kansas State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

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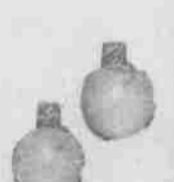
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