

Coaches predict close struggle for Big 8 championship

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

The women Cornhuskers could be one of the teams to beat in this season's Big Eight Conference, Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck said.

"I feel confident that we can finish in the top half of the conference for sure," Beck said. "Where we lie in the standings will be determined by a lot of things. But I think it will be a good year for UN-L women's basketball."

Beck said a number of teams will challenge the Huskers for the top spot.

"I really feel that Colorado has the most talent," Beck said. "Colorado is a nice place and they recruit a lot from California. Girls choose Colorado so they can ski the slopes."

"Then I think Kansas will be up there. But they lost their top two players. So whether they can replace them or not will determine their season."

The Huskers, led by Maurice Ivy, finished fourth in the conference last season. Beck said Ivy could help the Huskers improve their record this year.

"We probably have the number one player in the Big Eight in Ivy," Beck said. "We're excited to have her just like Kansas is excited to have Danny Manning. She plays like an All-American and she has a lot of ability."

Ivy averaged 24 points a game last year, leading the Huskers to a 16-13 season. Beck said the success of the team will determine

whether Ivy is an All-American.

"It's very difficult to be named a Kodak All-American," Beck said. "And the only way she can get it is if the team succeeds. I know that she's an outstanding athlete but Nebraska basketball has never been held in the national limelight."

"I think she has the ability and desire to get it but she needs to have the smarts to get her team behind her."

Beck said she has been satisfied with her recruiting class. She said Ann Halsne has been a surprise.

Women's Big Eight Preview



Halsne averaged 49 points a game in Spencer, Iowa, last year but was not very heavily recruited. Lynn Lorenzen averaged 62 points a game and is attending Iowa State this year.

"I really feel Ann Halsne is going to be just as good or better than Lorenzen," Beck said. "She has adjusted real well to college basketball."

Iowa State coach Pam Wettig said she's been surprised with her blue-chip recruit.

"About three weeks ago I didn't think Lynn would start," Wettig said. "Now I'm

not so sure. We knew we got a good player, but we got more than we bargained for."

The Cyclones finished last in the Big Eight last year but Wettig said she expects Iowa State to improve on last season's 12-16 record.

"To tell the truth, we can't do any worse than we did last year," Wettig said. "So it's probably pretty safe to say we'll improve this season."

Colorado coach Ceal Barry said she also expects a year of improvement from the Buffaloes.

"Based on the fact that all five starters return, there's high optimism here," Barry said.

Tracey Trepps led Colorado in scoring last year, averaging 16.3 points a game.

But Barry said the conference race is wide open.

"Everybody looks good this year," Barry said. "It's tough to pick where any team will finish."

Kansas State coach Matilda Mossman agreed.

"I think anybody looks good on paper," Mossman said. "A lot of teams could have success and there's no way to tell who will."

Last season, the Wildcats tied for first in the conference with a 9-5 record. Now all five starters are gone, but Mossman said her team could be strong.

"Basically, we're rebuilding our team," Mossman said. "But we have a lot to build it on."

Wildcat recruit Stacey Boyle averaged 27 points and 11 rebounds for Dodge City Community College last year. Boyle, a 6-1 junior, was a Kodak Junior College All-American for her efforts.

Missouri, which also tied for first in the Big Eight, returns three starters. Coach JoAnn Rutherford said the Tigers could repeat as champions.

"We're looking to be one of the top teams in the conference but everybody in the Big Eight is getting better," Rutherford said.

Oklahoma coach Valerie Colvert, in her first season as Sooner coach, said the Big Eight will be tough to win.

"The conference has a lot of talent and they're similar to last year," Colvert said. "It should be a close race."

The Sooners return three starters from last year's 18-10 team. Guard Tami Rogers averaged 11.7 points a game for the Sooners.

Kansas finished last year with a 20-13 record overall and 9-5 in the Big Eight. The Jayhawks won their opening round game of the NCAA Tournament.

The Jayhawks return three starters from a year ago including Jackie Martin, who averaged 10.4 points a game last year.

Rounding out the conference, Oklahoma State returns all five starters from last year's 16-12 team. Clennetta Jordan led the Cowgirls with a 20.1 scoring average.

UNL basketball gets new look; entertainment

By Linda Hartmann
Senior Editor

Extra cheering and chants will surround the Cornhuskers' colorful court this basketball season; some of the yell squad members and the floor design are new.

Before the school year, the former sponsor of the Huskerettes pom pom and dance team left the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. No replacement was found to coach the group of students who perform half-time and break routines.

So men's basketball coach Danny Nee and several administration officials decided that instead of continuing the program, they would seek an expanded group of cheer leaders, many of whom would cheer for the basketball season exclusively.

The expanded group will insure that the basketball team has yell squad members at all their home games, including the games during the overlap of the end of the football season and the first part of the basketball season, he said.

Yell squad sponsor Kris Baack had extra tryout sessions this fall and added six women and four men to the basketball yell squad. Fall tryouts allowed freshmen to try out for the squad and several were selected.

In all, 12 members from the football squad will continue with the basketball squads, making a full group of 22, Baack said. She will divide them into three different squads of six to eight members each, and two squads will perform at each game.

To make up for the loss of some of the dancing and themed entertainment that the Huskerettes formerly provided, Baack said, the yell squads may have some "theme nights" and request that the fans participate in dressing up or doing special cheers.

The yell squad members will have a newly refinished floor on which to cheer this year.

Gerald Lott, superintendent of the Bob Devaney Sports Center, said the floor, which normally is surface-stripped and resealed every year, had a complete face lift in May.

It was sanded to the bare wood, repainted with a new red floor design and refinished.

This was the first sanding done since the center was finished nearly 12 years ago.

Considering the number of different events, concerts and games that take place every year in the center's arena, Lott said, the floor's old finish lasted remarkably well. Most floors can be expected to last about five years.

The project cost about \$9,000.

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