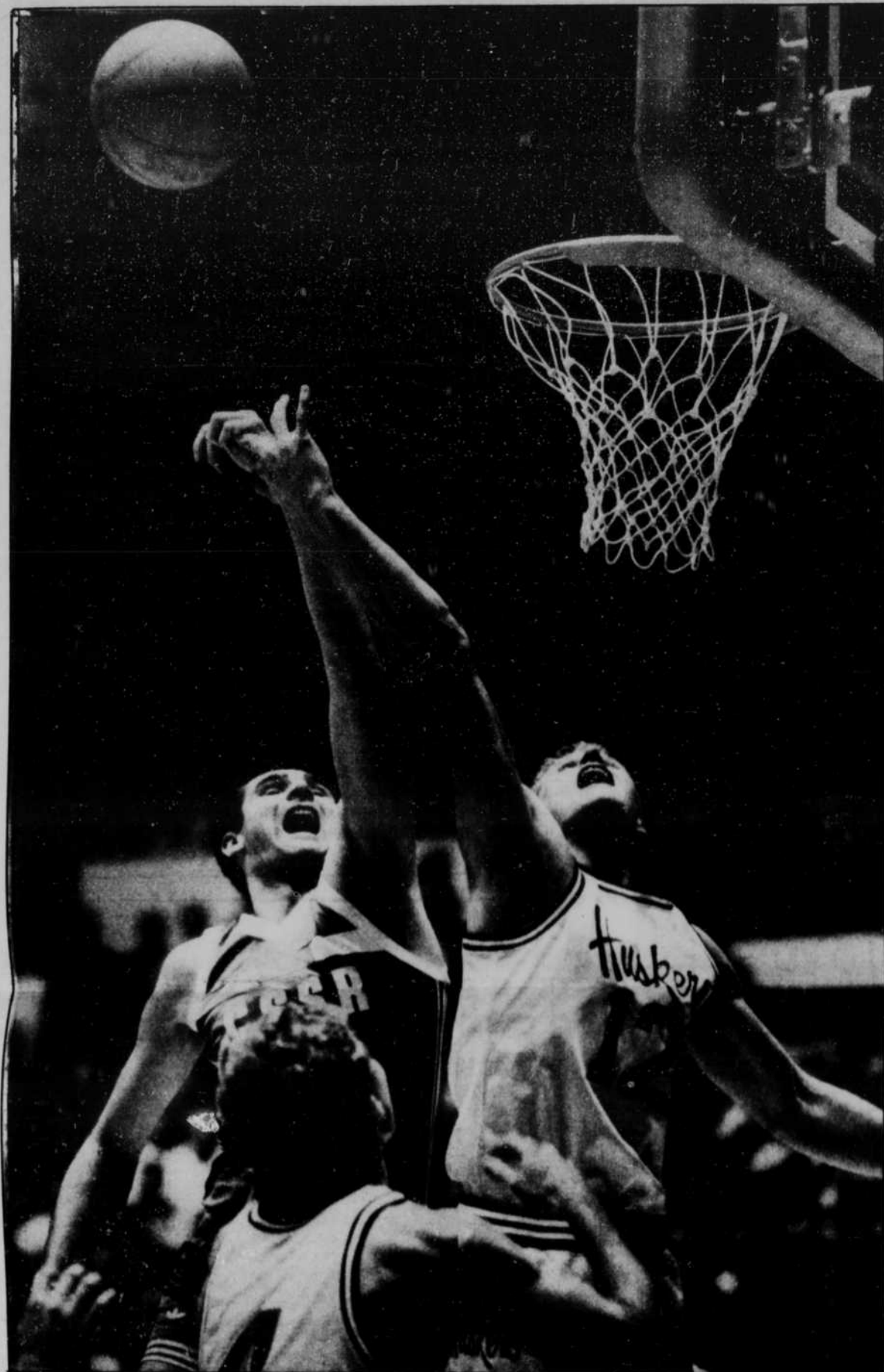


Sports



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Richard van Poelgeest battles a Czechoslovakian player as Jeff Rekeweg moves in.

Cornhuskers attempt to get revenge for Aggies' basketball win last season

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Probable Starters:

Nebraska	(1-2)
Jeff Rekeweg	F
Derrick Vick	F
Richard van Poelgeest	C
Henry T. Buchanan	G
Eric Johnson	G

Texas A&M (1-1)	
Donald Thompson	F
Tyrone Harbin	F
Doug Dennis	C
Darryl McDonald	G
Anthony Booker	G

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee will attempt to avenge a 66-64 loss his team suffered at Texas A&M last season when the Cornhuskers face the Aggies tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nee said he expects a tough test from Texas A&M because the Aggies qualified for the NCAA

Tournament last season. Texas A&M dropped a 58-51 decision to Duke in the tournament's first round.

Nee said the Aggies have a talented squad.

He said Aggie guard Darryl McDonald is "pro material."

McDonald, a 6-foot-4 senior who is Texas A&M's only returning starter from last year's 17-14 team, has averaged 22 points per game this season.

Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said McDonald is the Aggies' key player.

"He's our best player," Metcalf said. "It's important that he plays well for us, but we can't depend on him to do everything."

Metcalf said 6-foot-7 forward Donald Thompson, who has averaged 22 points and seven rebounds per game this season, has also performed well.

The Aggies' other two inside men, junior-college transfers Ty-

rone Harbin and Doug Dennis, have averaged a combined 1.5 points per game.

"We have a little way to go right now," Metcalf said. "We're not a good ball club right now."

But Metcalf said he thought this season's team had a chance to be as good as last year's once the newcomers have a chance to adjust to the program.

Tonight's contest will be Nebraska's second home game of the year. The Huskers competed in the Maui Classic in Lahaina, Hawaii, last Friday through Sunday and finished seventh by defeating Chaminade 76-65. Nebraska lost to Villanova 70-53 and to Baylor 82-79 in the tournament's first two rounds.

Seniors Henry T. Buchanan and Derrick Vick led Nebraska in scoring in the tournament. Buchanan, a 6-foot-0 guard, averaged 15 points per game, and Vick, a 6-foot-6 forward, added 13 points per game.

NU team plays first match of NCAA tourney at home

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Since only 16 teams in the country are staging a first-round match in the NCAA volleyball tournament, the home-court advantage will play a big part in most matches.

But Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said Tuesday that playing an opening-round match against Northern Iowa in the NU Coliseum will not make a big difference in the match's outcome.

"They're used to playing in front of crowds," Pettit said. "They've had three or four crowds at their Uni-Dome of over 1,000. They've played in front of 800 people at Iowa State."

"So I don't know if a large or consistent crowd here will have much of an effect on them as it will on us."

The No. 9-ranked Cornhuskers will face Northern Iowa Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Pettit said a big crowd would have a major effect on the Huskers.

"I think our players have earned it," Pettit said. "I think that sometimes in a program like this with athletes like these there is a tendency to take so much for granted. They're not robots, and just because we've been successful doesn't mean that at times we don't need a crowd behind us."

Although the attendance at the Coliseum this year averaged 561 patrons per game, Pettit said Husker fans are quieter than most fans in other parts of the country.

"Nebraska crowds are not intimidating crowds partly because we don't have any fans close to the match," Pettit said. "Secondarily, people in Nebraska athletically are so used to

being successful that their lives don't revolve around winning or losing with any particular team. But that may not be true with the football team to some extent."

Pettit said the Nebraska fans can help the Huskers.

"I respect our fans," Pettit said. "They're good people to play in front of. They're knowledgeable and enthusiastic. But I think teams do dread coming in here because of the talent."

Pettit said he doesn't put more emphasis on playing at home.

"We really haven't focused (on playing at home), and one of the reasons that's happened is that we want our team to be successful on the road," Pettit said. "You don't want to act like it's a totally different environment at home or on the road, but I think fans are different."

The Huskers, 28-4, will be playing in their sixth consecutive NCAA Tournament and seventh overall this season. Nebraska is also the top seed in the Midwest region.

Pettit said fans have supported the team in past tournaments.

"Our fans have really enjoyed this tournament in the past," he said. "Last year, I think you could have scraped them out of the Devaney Center because they were so exhausted after the Penn State match."

Nebraska defeated the Nittany Lions in five sets in the 1986 Midwest regional semifinals.

Even though the Huskers are the top seed in the region, Illinois will stage the regional semifinals and final if the Fighting Illini defeat Pittsburgh in the tournament's opening round.

Pettit said the Illini outbid Nebraska for the regional finals.

Nebraska's basketball team gets crash course in Hawaii

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee said the Cornhuskers got a crash course in his style of basketball last weekend in the Maui Classic in Lahaina, Hawaii.

Nebraska played three games in three days, finishing with a 1-2 record.

"It'd be like going to something on the weekend, a seminar, where you go in and boom, boom — you try to get what you should learn in weeks in three days," Nee said.

Nee said the tournament will help Nebraska's younger players pick up the system and will help the team prepare for the five games the Huskers will play in the next week.

Nee said the newcomers on the team are just beginning to adjust to him as a coach and as a person.

He said one example was when Derrick Vick shot an air ball in the Maui Classic. Nee said he got off the bench and started talking to Vick and smiling, which led some of the new players to think he wasn't taking the game seriously.

But Nee said that was his way of coaching and keeping the players relaxed. He said the players will learn that eventually.

Nee said his recruits understand the style of basketball he wants to play.

"I think that this group philosophically understands what we are trying to do offensively and defensively," he said.

Nee said last year's team, which included several players who were recruited by former Husker coach Moe Iba, never completely believed in his up-tempo style of play.

Nee said he was pleased with the play of freshmen Rich King, Clifford Scales and Beau Reid throughout the Hawaiian tournament. King, a 7-foot-2 center from Omaha, scored four points in the tournament, Scales added six, and Reid scored 32 points. Reid led all scorers during Nebraska's

76-65 victory over Chaminade with 20 points.

"Those three freshmen I was pleased with overall because I do think the experience of playing helped them," Nee said.

Nee said in order to develop new players on the team, there comes a time when it may be necessary to sacrifice a win.

"You have to play the balancing act and try to get as much as you can, do everything possible to win the game, and then there is a certain point where you have to make a commitment to rebuilding your program through playing younger players," Nee said.

"You have to do it. Otherwise you're facing the same thing of inexperience again next year."

Nee said the fact that Nebraska plays eight or nine players a game will give the new players some experience. He said one of the players who must get experience is King.

"I have to get playing time for Rich King," he said. "No matter what happens, he has to be on the floor, because he's our future."

Nee said he is excited about the future of Nebraska basketball, especially after signing three high-school recruits: 6-foot-6 forward Lewis Geter, 6-foot-7 forward Carl Hayes, and 6-foot-9 center DaPreis Owens.

Nee said Geter is "a slashing-type player, a good outside shooter and overall a good, solid all-around basketball player."

Nee said Hayes will be a solid player.

"(To get) Carl Hayes we went back to the back again in Chicago and stole, we think, another sleeper," Nee said. "He's probably one of the most underrated players in the country right now."

Hayes attends St. Joseph High School in Westchester, Ill., the same school Scales attended.

Nee said Owens is the most well-known of the recruits and will give Nebraska a strong inside player.