

Former Nee assistant now a Buckeye; Says NU program is on right track

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A familiar face found itself in the unfriendly confines of the Bob Devaney Sports Center during this weekend's Ameritas Cornhusker Classic.

Fran Fraschilla, a former assistant coach for Danny Nee at Ohio and Nebraska who is now an assistant coach for Gary Williams at Ohio State, said he felt honored to return to Lincoln.



Fraschilla

Fraschilla said that was because he spent five years with Nee at Ohio and then briefly joined his coaching staff at Nebraska. He said he left Nebraska and rejoined the Ohio coaching staff for personal reasons.

"At the time I just wasn't ready to leave the state," Fraschilla said. "I felt very bad about leaving because it was such a difficult decision to make."

Fraschilla said Nee is taking the right steps toward rebuilding the Nebraska basketball program. He said young players such as guard Clifford Scales and forward Beau Reid give the Cornhuskers an excellent future to build on.

Fraschilla said Nee has changed his coaching style because of his young players. He said Nee has become more patient, which is a key ingredient to developing youth.

Fraschilla said the addition of new scoreboards and a new floor imprinted with the Nebraska basketball logo and an outline of the state will also help Nee rebuild. He said Nee will do whatever it takes to bring the Husker program to a highly competitive level. "I know Danny Nee," Fraschilla

said, "and I know he is going to get a good program at Nebraska."

Fraschilla said he doesn't like the rival coaching relationship that now exists between him and Nee. He said Nee has done so much for his coaching career that he hates to face him on opposite sides of the court.

"No one has done as much for me as Danny Nee," Fraschilla said. "I just can't thank him enough."

Fraschilla said the Ohio State and Nebraska basketball programs are close in terms of quality. He said the

improved quality of the Big Eight has helped each of the conference's teams.

Fraschilla said it was a "twist of fate" that he ended up at Ohio State. He said he left Nebraska with the idea of staying with the Ohio basketball program, but was contacted by Ohio State basketball coach Gary Williams in June 1987.

Fraschilla said his new position requires him to recruit throughout the year. He said he often runs into Nee during summer basketball camps.

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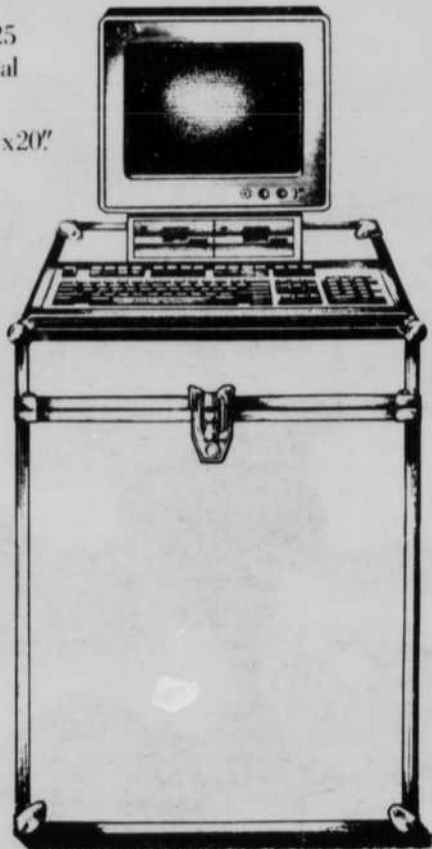
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