

Hodge salutes grandfather

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

As another Cornhusker football season winds down, my thoughts have drifted to a man who symbolizes the meaning of a "real" and "true" Husker fan.

Numerous people claim to be Nebraska fans, but are they really loyal supporters?

I'm not saying he was the last of a dying breed of Husker fans, but he definitely had the characteristics of a "real" and "true" Husker fan.

He never took the success of Nebraska's program for granted. He appreciated what he was watching. He wasn't one to brag when Nebraska won or to bad-mouth the coaches and players when they lost. He supported the Huskers through both the good and bad times.

This man owned Nebraska season tickets for 53 years. The first Husker season he attended was back in 1934 when Nebraska finished 6-3, including a 6-0 victory over Oklahoma. In those 53 years, he witnessed 17 losing seasons -- not once booing or turning his back on the Huskers.

I sat beside him in Memorial Stadium as the Huskers walloped Syracuse 63-7 in 1983, and I sat beside him and watched the Orangemen upset Nebraska 17-9 on television the following year. His attitude and expressions remained the same for both games -- he was a "real" and "true" Husker fan.

Many people tend to become negative towards the Huskers in defeat, but immediately jump back on the Husker bandwagon after a victory -- like this year's 7-3 win over Oklahoma. He was never hesitant or embarrassed to show his support of the Huskers.

This "real" and "true" Husker fan never booed Nebraska for trailing a team 6-0 at halftime, like some people in the Memorial Stadium crowd did during the Oct. 29 Missouri game. He realized what a tough opponent the Tigers have been for Nebraska over the years.

Throughout history, Nebraska has won 47 of 82 games played against Missouri. The Tigers have won 32 of those games. The teams have tied three times.

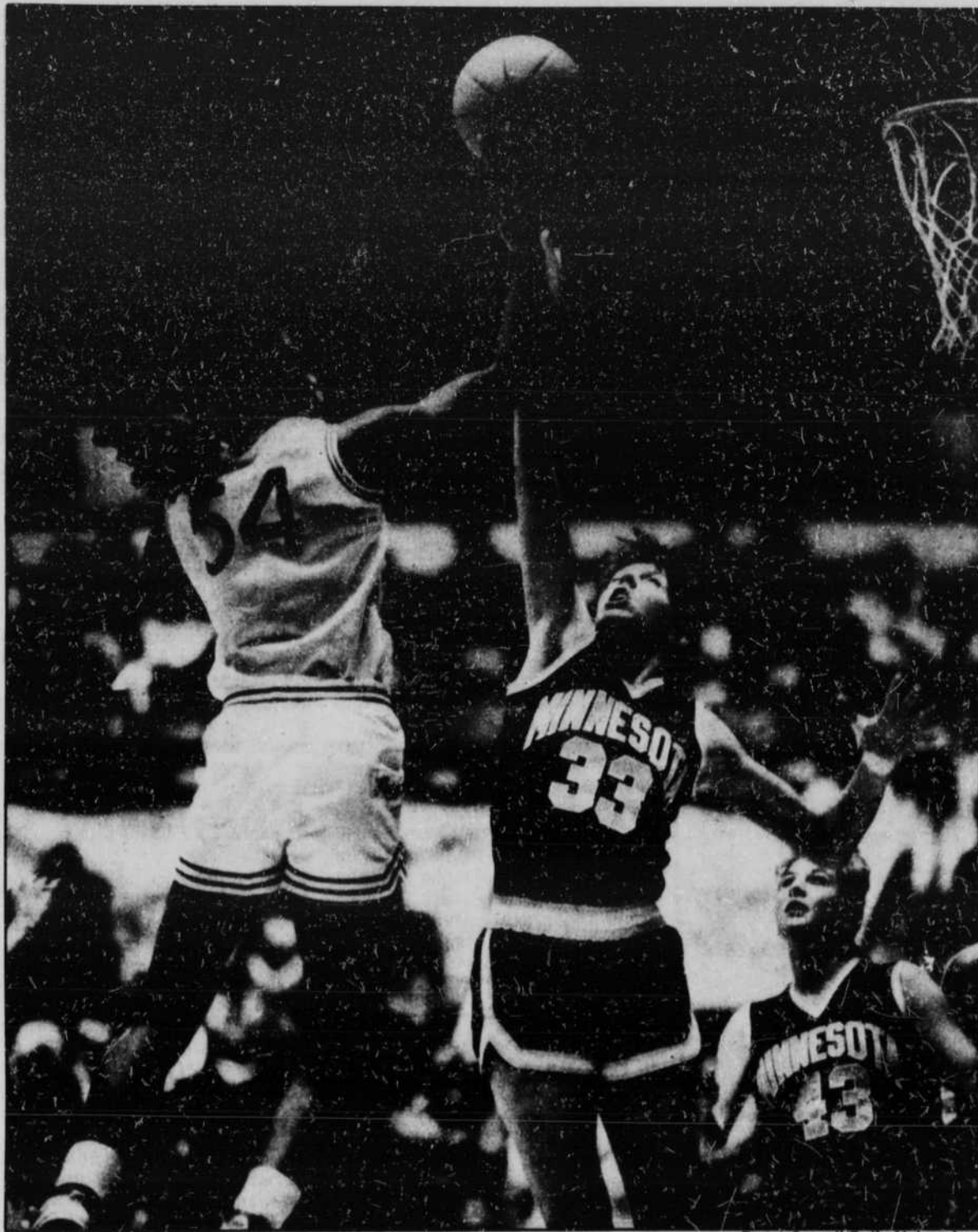
Nebraska had racked up 25-straight years of winning seasons until his death in June 1987. The Huskers have since ran that winning-string to an NCAA-record 27-consecutive seasons of winning football. What possesses people with the nerve to boo that is beyond me.

Sure, I realize that Husker coach Tom Osborne gets paid big bucks and is in the public spotlight by being the coach of the Huskers, but he deserves respect.

Since Osborne became coach in 1973, he has won 158 games, lost only 35 and tied two. He has won at least nine games every year, including nine years of winning more than 10 games. His teams have finished in the Top Ten every single year of his 16-year reign. That deserves respect.

This "real" and "true" Husker fan I've been telling you about appreciated Coach Osborne's efforts and dedication to UNL and the State of Nebraska.

See HODGE on 8



Nebraska senior center Kim Harris goes over Minnesota's Cindy Bradley for a shot during Nebraska's 90-77 win against the Gophers Nov. 25 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Cornhuskers play Drake tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the sports center.

Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Cornhuskers try to forget, rebound weekend loss

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

When the Drake and Nebraska women's basketball teams meet tonight in a 7:30 p.m. game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, both teams will be trying to rebound from weekend losses.

The 3-1 Cornhuskers, currently ranked 25th in the nation, lost to Montana 79-61 Saturday in the championship game of the Domino's Pizza Classic at Missoula, Mont. Also on Saturday, the 1-2 Bulldogs lost 75-72 to Syracuse in the consolation round of the Felpausch/Michigan State Holiday Classic at East Lansing, Mich.

Husker coach Angela Beck and Drake coach Susan Yow said tonight's game will be a difficult game for their respective teams.

"It's going to be a pretty tough basketball game and will be pretty tight," Beck said. "They have Iowa girls who play Iowa girls basketball, so we are going to have to crank up our defense a little bit."

Iowa high schools play a three on three style of basketball in which three girls play offense and three different girls play defense. Nebraska's high schools play the regular five-on-five style.

Yow said the Bulldogs will work on trying to solve Nebraska's disciplined style of basketball.

"They are a very sound basketball team and very well-coached," Yow said. "They understand the game and are a very disciplined team. We need to be prepared. It is going to be a very good game and it will be especially good because it's at Nebraska."

Breaking Nebraska's discipline, Yow said, will involve stopping Husker guard Amy Stephens. Stephens, a 5-foot-8 senior from Alliance, is averaging 20.5 points per game.

Stephens said that tonight she

See HUSKERS on 8

Champaign trip part of celebration

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's five-game victory against Weber State last Friday in the first round of the National Collegiate Athletic Association volleyball tournament was extra special for Val Novak.

Novak, a 5-foot-10 sophomore outside hitter for the 28-4 Cornhuskers, will be looking forward to a return trip to Illinois. She is from Oak Lawn, Ill.

With Friday's victory, the Huskers earned a trip to Champaign, Ill., to face Oklahoma in the semifinal round of the Midwest Regional Tournament Friday at 8 p.m. The winner of the Nebraska-Sooners match will face the winner of a Notre Dame-Illinois match. That winner will

advance to the NCAA Final Four in Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 15 through 17.

"I'm very much looking forward to the return trip," Novak said. "We're used to playing there now. This is going to be our third time and it's not that big of deal anymore."

Nebraska has a 7-2 record against Illinois but Illinois has won the last two meetings -- both in Champaign. The Illini defeated Nebraska last season to earn a berth in the Final Four.

Last Sept. 17, Illinois defeated the Huskers 16-14, 8-15, 15-1, 15-9.

Novak said she will miss the support of Nebraska fans this weekend in Illinois. She said Nebraska's home crowd has been instrumental in the Huskers' success. A crowd of 1,554 saw the Huskers defeat Weber State

in a two-hour, 10-minute match.

"Our crowds have been great," Novak said. "If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't have won some of the matches we have, including the ones against Texas and Oklahoma. Those games stick out in my mind because of the crowds. And I love playing in front of huge crowds. It's the best."

Nebraska defeated the Sooners 13-15, 15-9, 14-16, 15-4, 11-15, 15-13 on Oct. 15 after losing to the Sooners in Norman on Oct. 1.

After losing 15-5, 15-8, 15-12 to Texas Nov. 4, the Huskers bounced back the next day to defeat the Longhorns in a two-hour, 42 minute, five-game match. The score: 12-15, 11-15, 15-5, 15-13, 15-9.

Despite not enjoying a home-

See NOVAK on 10



Novak

Women swimmers lose in Alabama

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

Two losses at the National Dual Meet Invitational Championships did not discourage Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert.

Huppert said he was pleased with the Cornhuskers' performance last weekend even though two dual-meet losses dropped their record to 2-4. Nebraska opened the three-day meet at Tuscaloosa, Ala., by losing to Arizona 83-56 on Thursday, then defeated Indiana 86-53 on Friday. The Huskers also suffered a 79-61 setback to Alabama on Saturday.

Huppert said the losses were not a fair representation of how Nebraska performed. He said Nebraska performed extremely well because nine Huskers combined to record 38 lifetime best times.

"I'm real encouraged," Huppert said. "I believe we lit a flame -- a spark -- where now the athletes believe they can compete at a high level. We've got some people who believe in themselves."

Huppert said the top performers for Nebraska were Lynne Braddock and Jenell Garcia. He said Braddock and Garcia, a pair of former walkons who earned scholarships at the end of last season, both became "elite type

athletes" with their performances.

Garcia recorded a 2 minute, 2 second clocking in the 200-yard butterfly and finished the 100-yard butterfly competition in 56 seconds. Braddock recorded a 23.85 clocking in the 50-yard freestyle.

"Their performances are real encouraging," Huppert said. "They stood out, but you almost have to single out everybody."

Huppert said he is glad Nebraska traveled to Tuscaloosa rather than join the Husker men's swimming team and compete in last weekend's Husker Invitational. He said tough road meets will benefit Nebraska because this year's National Colle-

giate Athletic Association Championships and U.S. Senior National Championships will not be held in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The NCAA Championships will be staged March 16 through 18 in Indianapolis while the Senior National competition will be held March 21 through 25 in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Huppert said he is confident Nebraska can use its performance last weekend as a momentum-builder for the rest of the year. He said the Huskers will be an improved team by the time the Big Eight Championships are staged March 2 through 4 in

See NU on 10