Page 18

Daily Nebraskan

APreveals All-Big Eight basketball team

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -- A high-scoring center, a defensive stalwart and one of college basketball's great free-throw shooters populate the first unit of the 1988-89 Associated Press All-Big Eight team.

There are no repeaters from the 1987-88 squad. That squad included five seniors who all became early first-round draft choices of the Na-tional Basketball Association.

"People who thought the Big Eight was going to suffer a let-down this year should take a look at the top players we have this season," Iowa State Coach Johnny Orr said. "With the possible exception of Colorado, every team has gotten better this year, I believe. We may not have a lot of well-established players, but there's a pool of very talented young players coming up in the Big Eight."

Oklahoma center Stacey King and guard Mookie Blaylock, the top two scorers in the Big Eight, and Missouri guard Byron Irvin were unanimous choices as decided by a panel of

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sports writers and sportscasters who regularly cover the conference. Missing unanimous selection by one ballot was Kansas State junior Steve Henson, who could be on the verge of leading the nation in free-throw accuracy for the second consecutive year.

Joining them on the first team is Victor Alexander, Iowa State's sophomore center whose rise coincided with the Cyclones' late-season

surge. King, a 6-foot-11 senior, led the Big Eight while averaging 26.2 points and 10.4 rebounds per game. King set a record at Las Vegas with a 48-point outburst that prompted Rebels coach Jerry Tarkanian to proclaim him the best offensive center in the country.

"We had to go to a zone because we couldn't guard him," Tarkanian said. "We didn't have anybody big enough or strong enough to handle him. I'm just glad he's graduating."

Blaylock's using up all his cligibility is also good news for opposing coaches because the 6-2 senior guard has made his mark as one of the greatest defensive players in Big Eight history. While averaging more than 20 points and four rebounds this year, Blaylock compiled 208 assists and 117 steals. It's the second straight year the native of Garland, Texas, has piled up more than 200 assists and 100 steals, and he's the only player in NCAA history to do so.

Henson may be only the fourth

man in the history of Division I basyears. As a sophomore, the 6-1 Kansas native led the nation in free-throw accuracy with a percentage of 92.5. Then over the off-season he honed his touch to an even sharper edge, and goes into the Big Eight Tournament this week with a nation-leading 93.09 average

throw crown, he would be in position Tournament. next season to become the only man ever to win it three years running.

'We've asked him to do so many things, it's almost unfair," Kansas does three things very well." State Coach Lon Kruger said. "We're asking him to give us offense score points. But he's battled through it and stepped up there every night.'

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said is also impressed with Henson.

"I'd say if you had Mookie Blay-

had 130 assists for the Wildcats.

team, is a 6-6 guard for a Missouri He's shown great stamina and the team whose season was rocked by the ability to really do the job." illness of 22-year coach Norm Sterunner-up to Oklahoma in the regular Also on the second unit are Kevin

ketball to lead the nation in free- nation. Irvin averaged 19.6 points throw shooting two consecutive and almost five rebounds while hitting 55 percent of his shots from the field

"He's a tremendous player," Tubbs said. "Byron Irvin is one of those rare players who can do just about anything -- score, rebound, run the floor.

A pulled groin muscle could side-If Henson wins a second free- line Irvin in this weekend's Big Eight

"Byron is a scorer who also plays defense and rebounds," Daly said. "You're talking about a guy who

Alexander is one of the most pleasant surprises of Orr's long and defense, be a leader on the floor, coaching career. Big and bulky, he was going to ease into action this year. But injuries forced Orr to start using his sophomore full time, and he responded by averaging 19.6 points and 8.7 rebounds and keying a late lock and Steve Henson on the same push that has the Cyclones hoping for

team you'd have the best two guards in the country," Tubbs said. Henson averaged 18.2 points and him 10 or 12 minutes, then take him out 5-6 minutes, and then put him back in," Orr said. But he's been Irvin, the other senior on the first averaging about 38 minutes a game.

Heading the second team is Richwart. Stewart's cancer surgery last ard Dumas, a 6-7 sophomore for month left assistant coach Rich Daly Oklahoma State who averaged alin charge, and the Tigers finished most 16 points and eight rebounds.

season race and ranked 10th in the Pritchard, 6-4, and Milt Newton, 6-5, of the reigning NCAA champion Kansas Jayhawks; Fred McCoy, 6-7, of Kansas State, and Shaun Vandiver, a 6-10 sophomore who provided lastplace Colorado with one of the few bright spots in an otherwise demoralizing season. Vandiver, a transfer from Hutchinson (Kan.) Junior College, averaged 18.3 points and 10.3 rebounds, the only player in the league besides King to have double figures in both categories. He also led Colorado in 10 statistical categories.

Thursday, March 9, 1989

Sander pleased at the overall play **NEBRASKA** From Page 17

with four.

Ramos also had a big day at the plate, going 2 for 3 during each game. "I got quite a few hits today," Ramos said. "They were falling." Ramos said he was also impressed

with the team's play, considering that it was the first time the team has played outside in weeks.

"It's just going to take some time get used to the outdoors again,' Ramos said.

Today Nebraska plays the University of Northern Iowa in another double header.

Doug Tegtmeier and Tim Smith are scheduled to be the starting pitchers for Nebraska. Action begins at 1 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

