

Tournament 'opens doors,' Nee says

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

The Big Eight Tournament offers the Nebraska men's basketball team a new season, according to coach Danny Nee.

Nee said the Cornhuskers first-round game against Missouri tonight opens doors of opportunity.

"We look at it as a team that it's a new season and anything can happen," Nee said. "That's the attitude we're going into it with. We're going to work hard all week and be prepared."

The No. 7-seeded Huskers completed their regular season with a 16-14 record overall and a 4-10 league mark. The Tigers are 24-7 and ranked 10th nationally. Missouri is the tournament's No. 2 seed with a 10-4 conference record.

Tip-off is scheduled for 6:07 p.m. at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. The game will be televised by the Big Eight Raycom Network (local channel 10).

Since Stewart was sidelined Feb. 9 because of bleeding ulcers and colon cancer, the Tigers have put together a 4-4 record with all four wins coming at home. One of those home court victories was a 66-65 win against last-place Colorado Saturday.

Daly said Missouri has suffered from an

emotional loss rather than performance loss.

"Our players are playing with intensity, but not for 40 minutes," Daly said. "We've got to get a full 40 minutes of play out of some people."

Nee said he doesn't believe the Tigers have faded.

"They've had hard times, with the tragedy of Norm's not being there. That's affected them. But I also feel it's a new season for them," he said. "The Missouri players have great pride and high goals for this year. I'm sure they're disappointed they didn't win the league championship."

Daly said Missouri has missed the efforts of a healthy Byron Irvin. Irvin, a 6-foot-6 senior from Chicago, missed the Colorado game with a groin pull.

"He's undergoing treatment, so it's a day-by-day situation," Daly said. "If we have to hold him out every day in practice, we will. We've got to get it well. We don't want him to have to be out for good. Byron is a scorer and when you take a scorer out of your team it really hurts because you've got to pick it up from somebody else."

Irvin was a unanimous 1989 All-Big Eight selection and led the Tigers by averaging 19.6 points per game this season.

Daly said Irvin's absence does more than affect scoring.

"He's also a good defensive player and he

gets rebounds," Daly said. "You're talking about a guy who does three things very well. When he plays well, we win. When he hasn't played well, those are usually the games we haven't been winning. We need Byron at full strength."

Daly said Irvin is expected to play against Nebraska.

Nee said Nebraska rebounding will play a major role if the Huskers want to beat the Tigers.

"This game's going to be won on the boards," Nee said. "The game's going to be won with poise, execution, free throws. Emotion will get us to a point, but we're going to have to play well to beat them -- well, in a lot of areas. We can have a let down, but we need to play well for most of the 40 minutes."

In addition to the Nebraska-Missouri match up, the remaining first-round games will pit Oklahoma State against Iowa State, Oklahoma against Colorado and Kansas State against Kansas. The tournament's semifinal round will be held on Saturday, with the championships slated for 3:07 p.m. on Sunday.

Based on what he saw in the previous two games, Nee said, Nebraska needs to be more consistent. The Tigers defeated Nebraska twice during the regular season. Missouri won 89-72 Jan. 28 in Lincoln and 79-63 Feb. 19 in Columbia, Mo.

"We need to play looking like we know

how to play," Nee said. "I think you can have spurts in the game, and I think there will be spurts, but we can't bury ourselves."

Nee said the Huskers must have a positive state of mind before the game.

"I've always believed in the Cinderella teams and I've always believed in the upset," Nee said. "We have to deliver the knock out punch -- the David and Goliath thing. You've got the chance. Take advantage of it and go for it."

Nee said Nebraska needs to forget about the season and concentrate on what lies ahead.

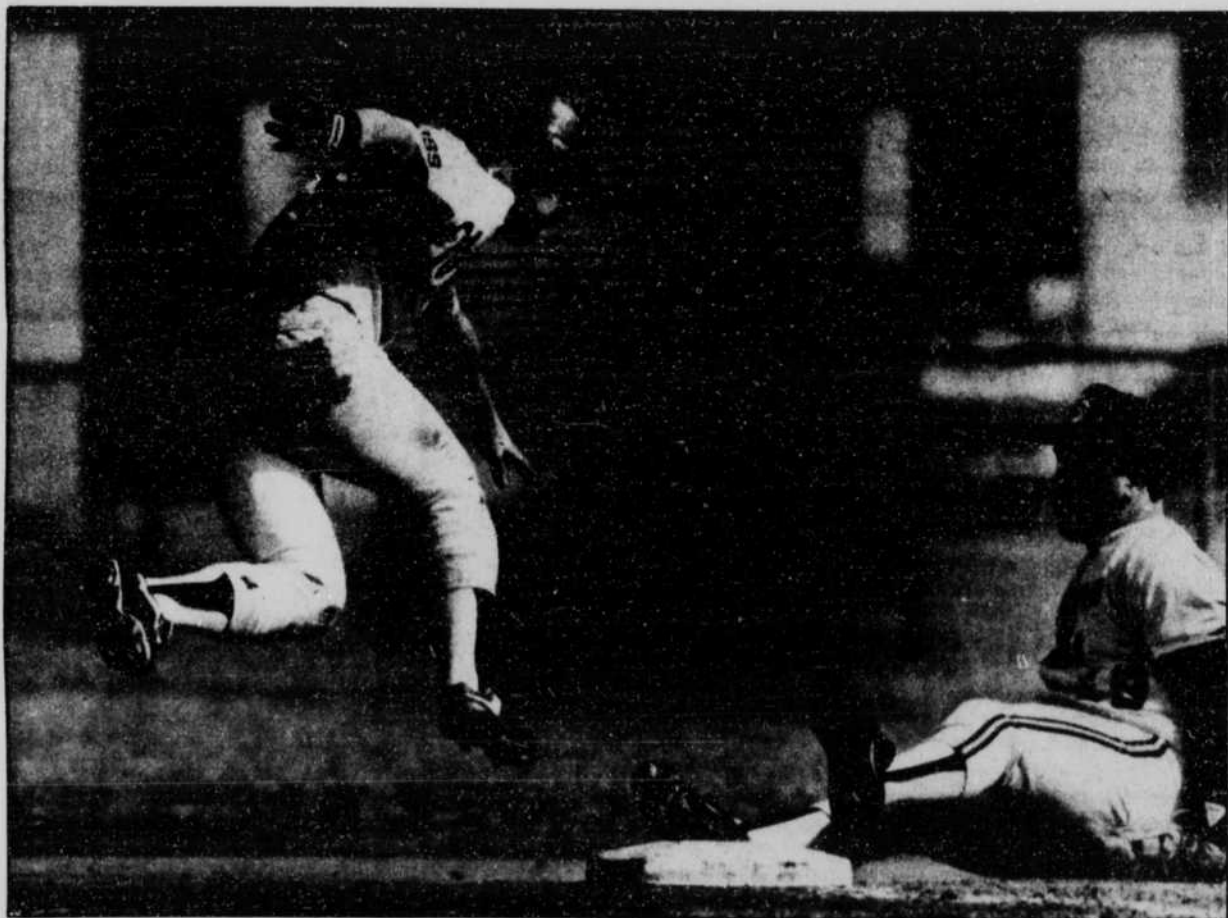
"That's over with. The road games are over. Now we've got the tournament," Nee said. "I feel that for us to get in the NIT we have to not go in on a negative note. We have to get a win in the tournament against a quality team and we're there. Then, we have a shot at a post-season tournament."

The 32-team National Invitation Tournament field will be announced Sunday.

Nee said the Huskers can't overlook the Tigers.

"They're very explosive and they're a good basketball team," Nee said. "I still feel that we need one more win to get us in position for a post-season tournament."

Missouri assistant coach Rich Daly, who has been filling in as the coach for Norm Stewart, said the Tigers will have to play well to beat Nebraska.



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Bobby Benjamin leaps back to second base as Wayne State's Scott Schultz prepares to make the tag. Benjamin was safe as Nebraska defeated the Wildcats 7-0 and 11-4.

Husker infielder to face old teammates

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

Nebraska infielder David Boever will have a chance to show his old teammates what he can do when the Cornhuskers face Arkansas this weekend in Fayetteville, Ark.

Boever said he wants to do well against the Razorbacks because he spent the first three years of his collegiate career with them.

Nebraska will face the 9-2 Razorbacks, who are ranked 17th by Collegiate Baseball and 23rd by Baseball America, Sunday in a single, nine-inning game that begins at 1 p.m. The Huskers also will travel to Springfield, Mo., to face Southwest Missouri State Monday in a double header that begins at 1 p.m. "I've been looking forward to playing against them," Boever said about Arkansas. "But I'm not going to put any more pressure on myself than I would against any other school."



Boever

Boever said he transferred to Nebraska to get more playing time. He hit .308 last season while appearing in 24 games for Arkansas.

"I started four games and the other games I played were late innings as a back up," Boever said. "That was pretty much the whole year."

Boever said he does not have any hard feelings toward Arkansas. He said he still respects the Razorbacks and Coach Norm DeBriyn.

"We departed without any animosities toward each other," Boever said. "But for me to get that chance to go on in baseball I needed to go somewhere where I would play. By staying at Arkansas this year, I don't think I would've got that chance."

Boever said his decision to transfer was also influenced by his brother Dan. Dan Boever lettered for Nebraska from 1982-83, and is currently a member of the Cincinnati Reds triple A team in Nashville, Tenn.

Boever said his brother's presence meant he was familiar with the Husker program before he arrived in Lincoln. He said the Arkansas and Nebraska baseball programs are

similar.

"I think the rivalries between Arkansas and the Texas teams are equal to the rivalries between Nebraska and the Oklahoma schools," Boever said.

Boever said one aspect about the Nebraska baseball program that is different is the team attitude. He said the Huskers got together before the season started and set a number of goals that defined the roles the players would have to perform in order to be successful.

Boever said those goals include winning the Big Eight championship and advancing as far as possible in any post-season competition.

"What I want to accomplish is just being consistent both offensively and defensively," Boever said. "I'll help the team out in any way I can."

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders said he is expecting good things from Boever.

"David provides us with experience in the infield," Sanders said. "He is a talented, multiple position player and has dedicated himself to becoming a very competitive Division I player."

NU sweeps Northern Iowa; Ramos pleased by his play

By Jerry Guenther
Staff Reporter

After getting off to slow starts in past seasons, Ken Ramos said he wanted to begin this year differently.

Thursday afternoon Ramos did just that, going 8 for 8 in a double header as the Nebraska baseball team swept Northern Iowa 12-3 and 7-2.

Ramos, who was 4 for 6 going into Thursday's games, collected a triple, a double and six singles in the wins against Northern Iowa.

"Coming into this season I had hoped for a real good start," Ramos said, "because the last two years I got off to slow starts and then ended up hitting better at the end of the season. ... This year I just want to be consistent all the way through."

Ramos said he accounts for part of his early season hitting success by just putting the ball in play.

"I'm seeing the ball real well," Ramos said. "It's kind of the same story as yesterday (the games against Wayne State). I'm not hitting the ball all that great, but they're finding the holes."

Ramos said only about three of his hits were off of hard-hit balls, but said that helps to make up for the times when he hits the ball hard, but it ends

up being caught.

"In the end, I guess it all evens out."

In the first game against Northern Iowa, Ramos had 4 of the Huskers 10 hits, including a run-scoring triple that gave Nebraska a 4-3 lead in the third inning. Ramos later scored on a passed ball as the Huskers built a 5-3 lead after three innings.

Earlier in the game, Ken Sirak hit the only home run of the contest. Sirak's home run, which broke a 1-1 tie, came in the second inning after Rob Novak singled to left field.

In the fourth inning, Nebraska batted a round and scored six runs to put the game away. Bruce Wobken led off the inning with a double to left field, followed by consecutive singles from Doug Twitty, David Boever and Ramos. The Huskers also benefited from a Panther error and two hit batsmen.

Tim Smith, a transfer from Vanderbilt, scattered four hits over six innings to earn the win for Nebraska. Smith struck out four and walked three. Joe Purvine pitched the final inning for the Huskers, giving up one hit.

Nebraska Coach John Sanders

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Husker wrestling team gets costly injustice in Norman

On Feb. 24, the Nebraska wrestling team was dealt a serious injustice in Norman, Okla., -- an injustice that cost them a win against sixth-ranked Oklahoma.



Steve Sipple

The Sooners defeated Nebraska 17-15 in the teams' final Big Eight dual, but Oklahoma coach Stan Abel said he didn't feel like a winner after the match. He still doesn't, he said.

"I'm totally and truly embarrassed we won the match," Abel said. He still sounded upset. "Your sitting there in Lincoln and saying 'That's (delete)'. It was a crazy thing."

That "crazy thing" occurred during the dual's final match with Ne-

braska leading 15-14. In that match, Oklahoma heavyweight Carl Presley scored a 4-3 win against Sonny Manley, giving the Sooners a 17-15 win.

Well, sort of.

Referee Gordon Nelson called Manley for stalling three times, accounting for all of Presley's points. Nebraska coach Tim Neumann, who is generally not known to complain about anything, didn't pull any punches regarding Nelson's officiating in the heavyweight match.

"Presley did not attempt an offensive move the entire match and Sonny was close to scoring take-downs on four different occasions," Neumann said. He said that "in any other gym in the country it would have been a 2-0 match (in Manley's favor)."

And a Nebraska dual win. It would have been the first time Nebraska

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