

Hosers, Runnin' Rebels advance to finals

Hoofers tackled; Hosers advance to today's final

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A sleeper suffered a recurring nightmare during the semifinal round of the all-university intramural basketball tournament Wednesday at the NU Coliseum.

The Hoofers, who stormed into the tournament's Final Four despite being unranked all season, suffered their third loss of the season to the top-ranked Hosers when they dropped an 81-49 decision.

The loss ended the Hoofers season at 8-3, while the Hosers advanced to tonight's championship game against the Runnin' Rebels. The Runnin' Rebels defeated the Delta Upsilon A's 76-74 in Wednesday's other semifinal matchup.

The Runnin' Rebels and the Hosers will meet for the tournament's title at 6 p.m. at the NU Coliseum. The 11-0 Hosers, who have been ranked No. 1 since the beginning of the season, handed the 10-1 Runnin' Rebels their only loss of the year -- a five point overtime setback.

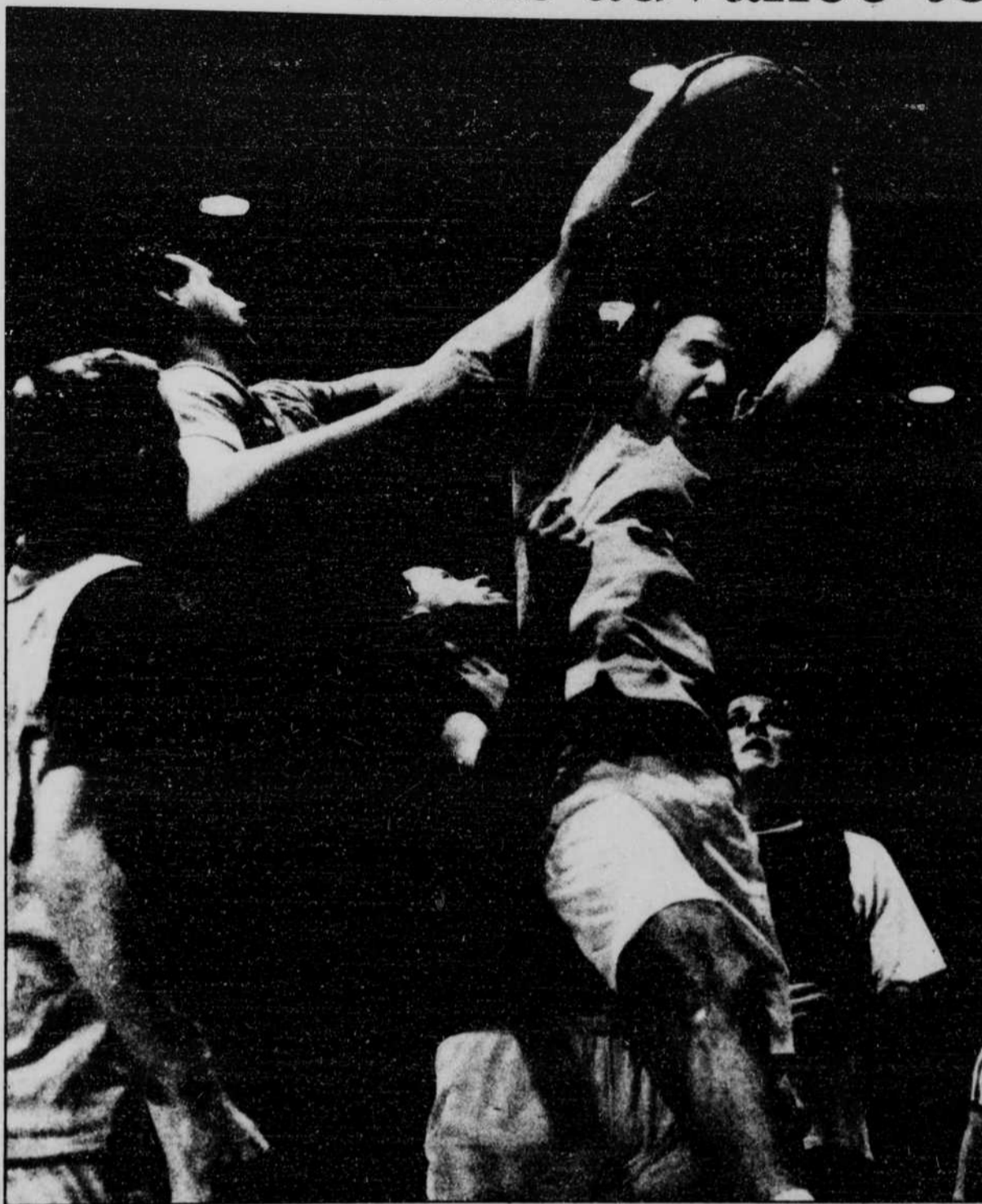
Hooper team spokesman Morey Wade said his team expected to give the Hosers a tough battle. But he said the Hosers were too strong and in too good of physical shape to contend with.

The Hosers roster includes Nebraska football players Kenny Walker, Gerry Gdowski, Tim McCoy and Monte Kratzenstein. Their coach, Dave Clare, is a former Nebraska running back who is the son of Pat Clare, the chief orthopedic surgeon for the Cornhusker athletic department.

"They're one of the athletic teams so they're in real good shape," Wade said. "We knew they would be good, but it's always nice to play a team like that. It's good competition."

Wade said he wasn't surprised by the Hosers' speed. He said the quick-

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David Frana/Daily Nebraskan

Andy Applegate of the Hosers grabs a rebound surrounded by Jim Boeve, Bob Wolsensky, Bill Wolsensky and Morey Wade of the Hosers. The Hosers won the semi-final game 81 - 49.

Runnin' Rebels get their goal: rematch with No. 1 Hosers

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

The Runnin' Rebels got what they wanted -- a rematch with the No. 1 ranked Hosers.

The Runnin' Rebels defeated the Delta Upsilon A team 76-74 Wednesday in the semifinal round of the all-university intramural basketball tournament at the NU Coliseum. The game was witnessed by a crowd of 19.

Runnin' Rebel guard Dan Kumm said the Rebels have been thinking about a rematch with the Hosers ever since the Hosers' overtime win earlier this season. They'll get that chance tonight when they face the Hosers at 6 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

The Runnin' Rebels, now 10-1, utilized their distinct height advantage to overcome hot outside-shooting by Delta Upsilon.

"They really shot the ball well," Kumm said. "We were able to play good defense on them -- we got a rematch with the Hosers."

Kumm said the Runnin' Rebels are ready for the rematch with the Hosers.

"They won by five points in overtime the first time," Kumm said. "Four of our six guys fouled out, so we think we can win. They're a really good team and we'll have to play our best game to beat them."

The Hosers, 11-0, defeated the Hoofers, 8-3, 81-49 in the other semifinal game.

Kumm said the Runnin' Rebels haven't been overlooking anybody to get to the Hosers.

"We just take care of one game at a time," Kumm said. "We had to play a lot of good teams to get this far. They've been in the back of our minds, but we knew we had to play other good teams first."

The Runnin' Rebels got five points from Kumm, and they couldn't

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NCAA assures itself against all Big Eight final game

The Big Eight's day as producing the top basketball team in the conference won't be repeated this year.



Mark
Derowitsch

Last season, Kansas defeated Oklahoma 83-79 in the NCAA championship game in Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. But the NCAA has ensured itself that the Big Eight won't be the only representative in the national title game.

This season, Missouri and Oklahoma have dominated the Big Eight

and have been ranked among the top teams in the country all year. But don't look for the two teams to battle for the title. They can't -- the NCAA guaranteed it.

Missouri and Oklahoma advanced to the Sweet 16, and if they continue their winning ways, they could end up playing in the Final Four.

The Tigers, seeded 3rd in the Midwest Regional, will face Syracuse, while Oklahoma, the No. 1 seed in the Southeast Region, faces Virginia.

If Oklahoma gets by the Cavaliers, it will face the winner of the North Carolina-Michigan game with a Final Four appearance at stake. If Missouri wins its third-round game, the Tigers will play Louisville or Illinois to get to the Final Four.

The NCAA couldn't afford to

have two Big Eight teams playing for the national title again. This was indicative to their pairings.

Since the Big Eight doesn't have the population base of some of the other big conferences, like the Atlantic Coast or the Big Ten, it doesn't have the potential viewers to increase television ratings.

The NCAA did seed other teams from the same conferences. North Carolina could end up playing Duke or North Carolina State in the championship game. But that's different -- it would be an in-state rivalry, plus the Tar Heels and Blue Devils are good draws no matter which teams they play.

But the NCAA's dream would be a Big Ten Final Four, and it could have happened. Iowa was defeated in the second round of the East Regional

by North Carolina State to end the dream. But Indiana is still alive in the West, Michigan in the Southeast and Illinois in the Midwest.

What would the NCAA do if Iowa played Indiana and Illinois played Michigan in the Final Four? A lot of Big Ten coaches would realize that a conference tournament does exist.

But the NCAA would love that. Think of the population base of the Big Ten. Many cities or areas over, or near, one million people would have a rooting interest in the games, including Detroit, Indianapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago. Having a team from Illinois in the Final Four would have almost the impact as a team from New York City or Los Angeles.

Just imagine if St. John's, UCLA, Illinois and Houston met for the Final

Four. The NCAA would be in a basketball euphoria along with ESPN commentator Dick Vitale. In those teams, four of the biggest population bases would have an interest in the tournament representing every area of the nation.

It would probably work so well for the NCAA that they would adopt a rule stating at least one of those teams were required to appear in the Final Four every year.

And conferences like the Big Eight would be left remembering Danny Manning and Kansas' upset against Oklahoma in one of the many exciting national championship games on record.

Derowitsch is a junior news-editorial major from Lincoln and is a Daily Nebraskan senior sports reporter and columnist.

Heavy competition awaits Huskers at California invite

By Darran Fowler
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska softball team plans on enjoying some fun and sun when it travels to California during spring break, but will also face some tough competition.

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said the Cornhuskers will not have an easy time during their week-long trip even though they will mix business with pleasure.

The Huskers, 10-11, will open their trip by competing in the four-day Pony Invitational this weekend at Fullerton, Calif. The Pony Invitational features every top-10 team except UCLA.

Nebraska will also play a double-header against Calif. Northridge, the top-ranked team in Division II, Tuesday and will travel to San Diego to face 18th-ranked U.S. International on April 1. The Huskers defeated U.S. International 3-2 and 5-2 at the Arizona Invitational in February.

"The reason we play this kind of schedule is because if we can figure it all out, come Big Eight tournament time we can win that," Wolforth said. "We're trying to bring the girls along in the right mind set."

"The kids are really excited about it. It's not going to be all work. We'll have a couple days off."

Wolforth said unranked Nebraska is not intimidated by the highly ranked teams in the Pony Invitational. He said the Huskers possess enough talent to compete with anyone.

"If we play well we can beat any one of those teams," he said. "We can even beat (1st-ranked) Furman. There is no doubt in my mind that we can beat them and we wouldn't even have to play a perfect game and they wouldn't have to play a terrible game."

"It's just going to take seven innings of playing at a very solid level."

Wolforth said Nebraska's success in California depends on if the Huskers can play consistently.

"It depends on which team will show up," he said. "We have a tendency to play sporadically and it doesn't matter who the opponent is. We've played exceptional ball at times and we've also proven we have the ability to really stink it up. We need to focus on ourselves and not who we're playing."

Wolforth said pitchers Marie Bowie and Stephanie Skegas will need to be in top form if Nebraska is going to be competitive in the tournament.

"A big key is pitching," he said. "Our pitchers must throw well for us if we are to be respectable in the tournament. If not, we are going to have some long days."