

Pro stars don't belong on Olympic court

We're going to kick their butts in '92.

No longer will America have to deal with the embarrassment of Olympic silver or even bronze in basketball, the sport that was made in the U.S.A.



John Adkisson

Our boys won't have to sit back and even think about the possibility of getting beat by an inferior team or, God forbid, even the Russians.

Let the gold medal engraving begin: We've got NBA studs playing for us now.

In 1989, basketball's international governing organization made it possible for professional players to participate in the Olympics. Last week, it became clear that the U. S. players intend to do just that.

Detroit Piston coach Chuck Daly was named coach of the Dream Team that will participate in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Sports Illustrated featured its "fabulous five" for Barcelona on its cover last week: Philadelphia's Charles Barkley, the L.A. Lakers' Magic Johnson, New York's Patrick Ewing, Chicago's Michael Jordan and Utah's Karl Malone.

If they play, we win. But even if they don't play, we still have a pretty good chance.

Basketball is America's sport, and our players — pro, college, and even high school — are better than any other in the world. It's that simple. In past world competitions, our hastily assembled college all-stars have annihilated teams that have been together for years.

In Seoul, South Korea, in 1988, however, the United States was embarrassed by a third-place finish, and a new group of the nation's best collegians finished third in the world championships last summer.

In these desperate times, we have turned to the athletes of the NBA, hoping that they can save face for our nation and not be laughing-stock bronze medalists next time.

Yes, the NBA players are better than our collegians, but will Americans really feel pride when Magic feeds to Malone to give our country a 142-62 edge over Zaire? What honor is there in watching Jordan, (who is said to want to participate in the Olympics because it will boost his product endorsement reputation), dunk over a 5-foot, 10-inch player from Greece?

For college players, basketball is not yet stale. It is still a game, not just a stepping stone to shoe contracts. Even Boston Celtic legend Larry Bird has said that he is too old to participate, and that the Olympics belong to young players.

At age 32, let Magic be an assistant. Let Ewing show a young center how to block shots.

But don't let them pound on the little guys.

* * *

Closer to home, Nebraska sports information officials have said Lincoln has been taken out of consideration as a host site for NCAA tournament games.

Tom Simons, associate sports information director, said limited hotel space in Lincoln has hampered the university's bid to host the tournament.

"With the regional having eight teams, a city has to have 10 hotels, including separate hotels for the officials and the media," Simons said. "With all the requirements that have to be met, we came up a little short."

Simons said Lincoln has eight hotels that currently meet NCAA standards. He added that the 14,302-seat Bob Devaney Sports Center needs about a thousand more seats to hold a four-team NCAA regional final.

The Sports Center hosted first- and second-round games of the Midwest Regional in 1980, 1984 and 1988. In 1988, eventual national champion Kansas, with top-round draft choice Danny Manning, beat Xavier and Vanderbilt in Lincoln on its way to the Final Four.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee, who was an assistant at Notre Dame, said he watched "one of the best regionals" he had seen when the Irish lost to Missouri 87-84 in 1980 in an overtime game at the Sports Center. That

regional also included Louisville and Kansas State.

Nee said Lincoln is a viable NCAA host city.

"I'm disappointed," Nee said. "This is a perfect place to have a regional, and it's a shame we're not getting one. Lincoln is a great basketball town."

This year, regional sites include some not-so-great basketball towns like Dayton, Ohio, and Salt Lake City. Other NCAA games will be held in spacious, oversold domes like the Silverdome near Detroit and the Kingdome in Seattle.

With Nebraska enjoying its best basketball season in history, shattered Sports Center attendance marks serve as proof that Lincoln is a basketball town and has fans anxious to watch postseason ball, even if the Cornhuskers are playing somewhere else.

The college game belongs in a college town with a college arena. That kind of atmosphere can't be duplicated in a dome, in a city that really doesn't care.

Adkisson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports staff reporter.

NU volleyball team signs new players

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska volleyball team has signed Christy Johnson of Omaha, Kim Tonniges of Lincoln, Peggy Meyers of Moorhead, Minn., and Rachel Erthum of Dubuque, Iowa to letters-of-intent.

Johnson and Tonniges were Nebraska all-state selections last year for Millard North and Lincoln East high schools, respectively.

The Cornhuskers, Final Four participants last year, lost seniors Val Novak, Becky Bolli and Linda Barsness, as well as underclassmen Sara Hesch and Valerie Vermeulen.

Beck

Continued from Page 7 after dropping two straight games, including a 77-75 loss to Iowa State in Lincoln.

"We made a mistake by not playing hard at home," Beck said.

It is a mistake the Huskers cannot afford to make against Missouri. Nebraska is in a three-way tie with Colorado and Kansas State for second place in the league.

Beck said the Tigers, who are 3-9 on the road this season, are always ready for the Huskers.

Missouri is led by junior Ericka Fields with 17.1 points per game, but Beck said the Huskers always are bothered by senior Lisa Sandbothe.

Sandbothe, who led the team in scoring and rebounding last year, has not been playing as well this year, Beck said.

"Sandbothe always seems to play well against us," she said. "She may be in a slump against other teams, but I've never seen her in a slump against us."

Beck said the Huskers also would be on guard against Lisa Fordham. A freshman guard, Fordham is a 1990 graduate of Lincoln Southeast.

Drake

Continued from Page 7 tonight, Neumann said, is to do well enough to enter the Big Eight and NCAA championships upbeat.

It won't be easy, Neumann said, since Drake is 19-3. Drake's top performers, he said, are 118-pounder Scott Ganyo, 142-pounder Brett Helmkamp and Brett Sharpe, ranked 11th in the country at heavyweight.

Helmkamp beat Nebraska All-American Jason Kelber last season. "I know they'll be tough — they always are," Neumann said.

- Nebraska's probable starters:**
- 118 — Jason Buxton (5-3)
 - 126 — Jason Kelber (26-2)
 - 134 — Dave Droegemueller (16-6)
 - 142 — Kelvin Kreitman (0-0)
 - 150 — Layne Billings (7-5)
 - 158 — Todd Enger (19-12-1)
 - 167 — Tommy Robbins (10-11-4)
 - 177 — Scott Chenoweth (10-3-1)
 - 190 — Chris Nelson (15-3)
 - Hwt. — Sonny Manley (16-8-1)

PRACTICE roundup

Women's Gymnastics: Practices are getting harder after Sunday's loss against Oklahoma. Coach Rick Walton said. "We're working on eliminating our mistakes," Walton said. "We need to have better endurance and get more consistent." Nebraska will compete with nationally ranked Alabama and Arizona State this weekend as host of the Masters Classic.

Track & Field: Nebraska is in as good a shape as can be expected heading into this weekend's

Big Eight indoor championships. Coach Gary Pepin said. "Right now, practice volume is down, but intensity is high," Pepin said. "Both teams should be in the battle for conference championships."

Women's Swimming & Diving: "We're just resting up for the Big Eights," Coach Ray Huppert said. The conference championships will be held Feb. 28 through March 2 in Lawrence, Kan.

— Jeff Singer

Okoye

Continued from Page 7

ning style and success since then have earned him national recognition as the "Nigerian Nightmare."

"I don't mind the nickname," Okoye said. "It seems like people call me that every minute of every day. But

my friends don't call me the 'Nightmare.'"

Okoye said he and the Chiefs are ready for 1991, and their loss to the Miami Dolphins in the first round of the AFC playoffs has been forgotten.

"The goals are the same as always. To go to the Super Bowl and win it," he said. "And we have the people to do it."

Rec Scoreboard

Results from Monday's games.

Men's basketball

Independent A

Burnt Toast 81, Acacia All Stars 65; No Way 96, Moving Crew 78; Buzzard 57, Heavy C and the Boyz 54.

Independent B

BDM & Co. 54, Magnificent MRKY 52; The Law 87, Bulls 61; The The 59, Gators 44; Law V 53, Hoosiers 47; Reel Men 59, Bomb Squad 31; Blue Wave 80, Gravity Kings 52; Misfits by forfeit over Renobs; The Nads 57, Panhandle Crusaders 56; Cather 7-Ind. 92, Mann's Men 46; NROTC 172, Damage Inc. 55; Short 'n Sloppy 82, Step Brothers 49; NA4 74, Country Boys 43; Bar Stools 78, Possum Love 45; Brown House by forfeit over FCA Reserves; Looped Mortars 80, Cramdens 52; Smack's Attack, EC BHS Team double forfeit; Cowboys 86, Status Quo 63; BP Express 64, Sreksuh 43.

Independent C

Primetime by forfeit over The Good

Morticians; Skiv's Sooners 68, The Burns 45; The Ballers 64, Court Gnomes 54.

Residence B

Schramm 2 52, Burr 3 West 38; Selleck 8100 67, Cougars 46; Harper 3, 49, Spurs 37.

Lightweight

Falstaff by forfeit over Beta Theta Pi.

Soccer

Residence/Independent

FCA by forfeit over International Stars I; International Stars II 12, Schramm 8 0.

Residence BC

Steamrollers 5, Fury 1; Vicious Hell Hounds 2, Scorpions 1; Oatmeal 2, EX-PTG 1.

Women

Alpha Delta Pi 2, Phi Mu 0.

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