

# Reid

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drive in front of me and cut me off," he said. "I may be sick, I'm so competitive."

Opposing fans love to hate him. Last week, during the Huskers' game with Iowa State, Cyclone fans booed every time Reid touched the ball. Earlier this year when playing at Wisconsin-Green Bay, Reid taunted angry fans after the Huskers had secured a victory. And against Oklahoma on Saturday, he clapped along with the Nebraska pep band's version of "Another One Bites The Dust" while urging Husker fans to join in.

"Whatever the team needs, I try to do," he said. "If it takes diving on the floor, taking the charge. . . . It's the way I was brought up. You play to win."

Although he talks, glares and fumes at opponents, Reid has never been whistled for a technical foul. It could be called controlled emotion.

"Usually when I get into a verbal confrontation, it's with a player who plays exactly like me," Reid said. "You just butt heads and play as hard as you can."

"After the game, I'd much rather have a player say, 'I respect Beau Reid,' than, 'That Beau Reid is a nice guy. We just beat him by 30.'"

Fellow senior Rich King said the Reid mentality has spread to the rest of the team.

"I work harder because Beau is here," King said. "Last year, when he was gone, I didn't work as hard."

He is fiery with his teammates, stirring them up with speeches before the big game, practicing hard and getting team problems immediately into the open.

"At team meetings, if somebody has a gripe, Beau is the first one to look at them and tell them to get it off their chest," freshman forward Eric Piatkowski said. "He lets you know exactly how he feels."

"There's no maybe with Beau," King said.

Lancaster, Ohio, is about an hour southeast of the state capital, Columbus, which is also the home of Ohio State.

"That's where I had always wanted to play, in the Big Ten, in front of the huge crowds with all the great players," Reid said.

**“There is no word to explain how hard I take losing. I hate losing probably worse than anything in the world . . . I may be sick, I'm so competitive.”**

Reid

But after a stellar junior year at Lancaster High School, Reid was participating in a summer camp that featured Ohio University coach Danny Nee as a guest instructor.

Then Beau started draining it. "(Nee) had me do some shooting drill in front of the camp and I think I made, like, 35 jump shots in a row," Reid said. "And then he said, 'I'd like to sign you.'"

Nee admits he was impressed.

"I'd done that drill at a lot of camps and I'd never seen anybody hit that many shots," Nee said.

Nee followed his star recruit throughout his senior season while leading his Ohio team to a 22-8 season. That record enabled Nee to look for a bigger job. He was hired by Nebraska.

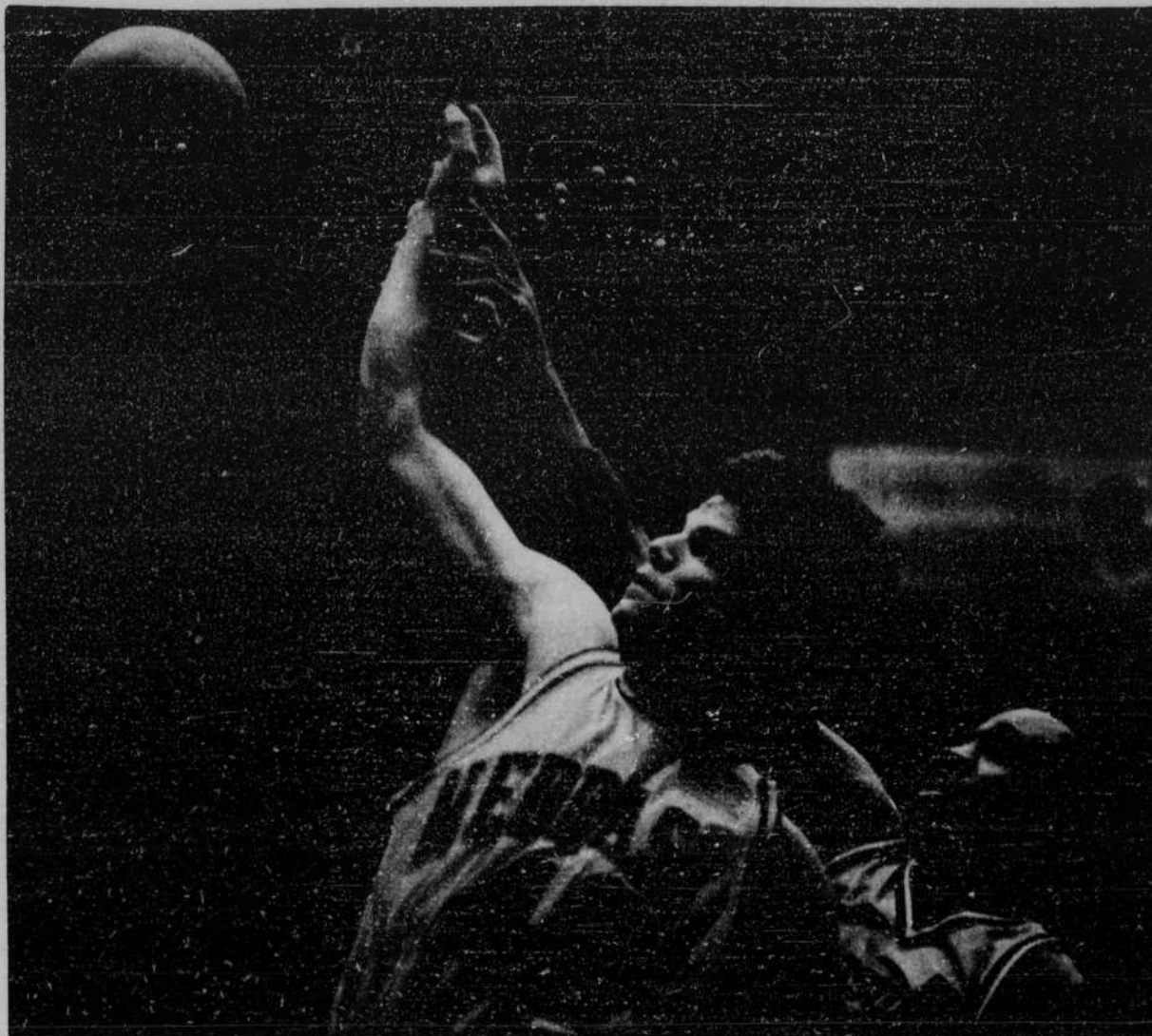
Reid didn't flinch in following his new coach:

"When he told me it was Nebraska, all I could think of were players like Danny Manning, Jeff Grayer and Mitch Richmond. And I said, 'Hey, I'm with you.'"

After sitting out a season because of transferring from Ohio in 1986-87, Reid started playing for the Huskers. He faced Iowa State's Grayer, Kansas State's Richmond and even downed Manning and Kansas with a buzzer-beater in 1988.

Along with Clifford Scales and the 7-foot-2 King, Reid was expected to lift Nebraska to a higher basketball level.

It didn't happen immediately.



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

The Huskers went 13-18 and 17-16 in the trio's first two seasons.

"I guess we felt pressure," Reid said. "There has always been so much more expected out of us three than anyone else on the team. We felt it was unfair at first."

Reid suffered through what he called the longest year of his life last season, tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during a preseason pick-up game. Reconstructive knee surgery followed and Reid missed nine games before returning against Wagner.

He was helpless, however, as his knee forced him to miss even a few more games after his return. Nebraska sank to a 10-18 record and seventh-place in the Big Eight.

Eighteen losses, and he felt them all.

"Last year was especially difficult because we didn't just lose, we

They won't. At 23-4, Reid and the Huskers have won the most games in school history, and could record Nebraska's first NCAA NCAA tournament win. At 22-5, they're virtually assured of setting a NU school record.

"It's funny how all Beau and I used to talk about is actually working out," King said. "We thought if we could beat Michigan State, Creighton, we might even be ranked; then we looked at each other and said, 'Maybe.'"

Reid said this season could trigger long-term basketball success at Nebraska.

"Another goal of ours was to start a tradition where there had never been any," Reid said. "You have to start somewhere, and we wanted to make something great happen."

Reid graduated with a degree in finance last spring and is pursuing his master's degree in business administration. He has been named to all-academic teams each year he has played.

"When I'm in school, I don't want any help from anyone," Reid said. "I want to get a good grade, I want to get the best grade in the class so people can't say it was given to me."

He credits his father, former Husker assistant Arden Reid Jr., for instilling that desire.

"He taught me how to win, not only on the court, but in the classroom," Reid said. "That carries over into life and it's something no one can ever take away from me."

Reid will marry UNL graduate Julie Saffer in May. King will be his best man.

"That's honestly been one of the greatest honors of my life, to be his best man," King said. "To be respected by someone as respectable as Beau Reid."

Without superior physical ability and with a once-torn knee, Reid's chances of being drafted by an NBA team are iffy. But he said he will be prepared for life whether his basketball career continues or not.

"If I have a chance to play basketball after college, I'm going to take advantage of the opportunity," he said. "If it doesn't happen, I've prepared myself for the real world. I think I'll fit right into the business culture because of my competitiveness. No matter what I do, I'll always believe in myself and believe I'll be successful."

The only suit Reid plans to wear in the near future, however, is that of Big Eight champion. He will play his final home game March 3 when Nebraska hosts league-leader Kansas in what could be a game for the conference title.

"Beating Kansas in the final game would cap it off for me," Reid said. "The final game at home, playing for a Big Eight championship for the first time in I don't know how many years, that would be a storybook ending."

**GIVE SMOKING A KICK IN THE BUTT.**

Reid battles Missouri's Jamal Coleman for the ball. "After the game," Reid said, "I'd much rather have a player say, 'I respect Beau Reid,' than, 'That Beau Reid is a nice guy. We just beat him by 30.'"

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