



Staci McKee/DN

Nebraska's Jaron Boone puts pressure on the Spartak Club's Vlacimir Chursin during the first half of Nebraska's 122-59 victory over the Kiev, Ukraine, national basketball team Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

NU's 'unselfishness' leads to big victory

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

A new offense and an increased emphasis on unselfish play helped the Nebraska men's basketball team start off its season with a 122-59 exhibition win over the Spartak Club Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The new no-post offense helped the Huskers spread the floor against the club team from Kiev, Ukraine, and get open jumper after open jumper and layup after layup.

Despite the score, Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the game was a building block for the Huskers.

"I wish it was more competitive but that is something we don't have any control over," Nee said. "But I think it was a good, solid, unselfish performance. Obviously, we have to improve in a lot of areas, especially our turnovers, rebounding and all the fundamentals. But it is something we can build on."

Six Huskers scored in double figures, led by Jaron Boone, who scored 23 points, and Eric Piatkowski, who added 21 points.

Nine of Boone's 23 points came on a team-high three three-pointers. Boone said it was the willingness of his teammates to make the extra pass that helped him have a big game on offense.

"It's 'we' this year," Boone said. "It's not

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The teams will get better as we play, and we'll get better, too. I think, right now, we might even be ahead of where we should be.

—Strickland
Nebraska guard

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individually, it's all about 'us.'"

The unselfish play of the Huskers — coupled with poor defense by Spartak Club — helped Nebraska shoot 68.1 percent from the floor, including 64.3 percent from three-point range.

Nee said the unselfish play of all the Huskers led to the balanced scoring.

"We had a lot of unselfish play, which was obvious from the play of Piatkowski," Nee said. "He turned down shots and made some plays."

Nee also said he was impressed with the leadership that Piatkowski and point guard Jamar Johnson provided.

See WIN on 8

Freshman steals spotlight, gains confidence in debut

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

The players that Nebraska basketball fans have become accustomed to over the past three seasons were still up to their old tricks in Nebraska's 122-59 victory over the Spartak Club Tuesday night.

Jamar Johnson was still running the show at point guard. Eric Piatkowski was still nailing down three-point bombs. And as usual, Bruce Chubick was scrapping on the floor for a loose ball.

But someone else stole the show in front of the 9,747 Cornhusker fans in attendance.

Freshman Mikki Moore put on the Nebraska uniform for the first time and came away with much more than he expected.

The 6-foot-11, 195-pound center from Gaffney, S.C., finished the game with 14 points and a great deal of new fans. Moore shot 100

percent Tuesday night, hitting 5-of-5 field goals and 4-of-4 free throws, and added six rebounds.

"It was surprising to me because I didn't think I was at this level," Moore said. "I know I still have to improve on a lot of things, but (Tuesday night) was a good feeling."

Moore had just found out he would not be redshirting this season. Nebraska coach Danny Nee asked Moore if he wanted to redshirt before Tuesday night's game, Moore said.

"Coach Nee left it up to me, but he said if it was up to him that I wouldn't redshirt," Moore said.

Nee said he would have liked to see Moore redshirt and develop more physically, but said Nebraska needed him because of its lack of big men.

"It was strictly a numbers thing," Nee said. "We think we need another body, and the way

See MOORE on 8

NU rolls to preseason win over St. Louis Hoopsters

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck said she could feel somewhat relieved after seeing her team in its first action Tuesday night.

The Cornhuskers did not show any signs of letting down coming off last year's 23-8 season as they rolled to a 80-61 preseason victory over the St. Louis Hoopsters.

Beck said the game was beneficial to her and her coaching staff.

"It was a good test for us," she said. "I realize this (opponent) isn't close to the talent we'll see

By ignoring NU, sportswriter ranks first in stupidity

After a week of worrying about Miami stealing a shot at the national championship away from the Cornhuskers, Nebraska fans can now get their Big Red feathers all ruffled up about a rematch between Notre Dame and Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl.

While every Husker fan has a right to be upset that Nebraska still isn't considered one of the top two teams in the country by the "bowl poll," they should try to maintain hope.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne has said that people shouldn't let themselves get all riled up about the polls because they can't do anything about them anyway.

Osborne has been able to keep things in perspective a little better

than most other Husker fans. But I think even the genteel Doctor Tom would be upset if he knew of some of the specific injustices being done to Nebraska by the Associated Press voters.

In the AP poll, the Huskers received no first-place votes, 13 second-place votes, 17 third-place votes and 15 fourth-place votes.

OK, a few rebels think there are three teams that deserve a higher ranking than the Huskers. I can live with that as long as they aren't shunned from the top four.

But along with those 45 votes, Nebraska also received eight fifth-place votes and five sixth-place votes.

Voting Nebraska fifth or sixth is ridiculous, but one voter among the

during the year, but I think it was a good opener. I was able to see a lot of different combinations out there."

The Huskers jumped out early, going on a 15-3 run that helped move them to a 23-9 lead with 12:21 remaining in the first half.

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We have a little more speed this year, and we'll try to utilize that.

—Beck

Nebraska women's basketball coach

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"We have a little more speed this year, and we'll try to utilize that," Beck said. "We want to score a lot of points, but we want our defense to be strong. We are expecting our defense to create the opportunity for our offense."

The Hoopsters did put on a run of their own.

Back-to-back baskets by Angie Rougeau helped St. Louis cut the Nebraska lead to only 30-18 with 8:15 remaining in the first half.

Beck said she wasn't concerned about her team's dry spells.

"It's still going to take a little time for us," she said. "I was a little disappointed in our rebounding, and our defense let up now and then. Generally, I was pleased with it."

Nebraska held a 41-23 advantage at halftime and came out on fire in the second half, going on an 11-2 run.

Nafeesah Brown, who finished with a game-

See BECK on 8



Jeff
Griesch

AP writers managed to set himself apart on the stupidity scale.

He was somehow able to justify to himself that Nebraska is no better than the eighth best football team in the country.

Oxford Eagle sportswriter Don Whitten voted Notre Dame, Florida State, Miami, Auburn, Florida, Ohio State and Tennessee ahead of the Huskers in this week's poll.

Whitten, who's from Mississippi,

mysteriously justified including five teams from the south in his top eight.

I won't argue that any of the squads Whitten ranked in his top eight don't deserve to be mentioned among the most talented teams in the country. But Tennessee has a loss and a tie, which should put them out of sight.

Whitten and the other AP voters should vote for the teams that have proven to be better on the field, not who appears to be tough on paper.

To get a better perspective of Whitten's almost criminal vote of Nebraska at No. 8, let's take a look at a completely objective college football poll.

The New York Times Computer Rankings are based on comparative

scores, quality of the opposition and record.

In the Times' poll, Nebraska is ranked No. 2, with a power ranking of .969, just ahead of Notre Dame's .968. Florida State managed to maintain the top spot despite the loss to the Irish on Saturday.

I said the computer rankings were objective, I didn't say they were completely fair.

And at least they're better than a poll that relies on a good 'ol boy from the south.

Griesch is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.