

Too early to think about boycott, Nee says

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Talk of a boycott by coaches and players over the NCAA's defeat of Proposal 42 is a little premature, Nebraska coach Danny Nee said Thursday.



Nee

"There's nothing on the table that I know about."

Proposal 42 would have raised the number of basketball scholarships from 13 to 14.

"As of today, I have not heard anything that would substantiate a boycott," Nee said.

"In the last 24 hours, I haven't heard from a coach who knows anything about it."

The Black Coaches Association is apparently considering taking action because the proposal was defeated at the NCAA convention in San Antonio. The defeat of the proposal eliminates 300 scholarships, which could have afforded more opportunities for minorities, the BCA said.

But Nee said a boycott of games was not a way to protest.

"The coaches have to go back to the table and study this," he said. "We should boycott against gang violence and AIDS, instead."

Cornhusker assistant coach Jimmy Williams, a member of the BCA, said something had to be done.

"I don't think it'll be an all-out boycott," he said. "A lot of these

— "There's just nothing there at this point but a lot of smoke."

—Nee

Nebraska basketball coach

discussions have been made without the discussion of the coaches."

The coaches' frustration with NCAA legislation goes beyond the defeat of Proposal 42.

"The scholarship issue is one important factor," he said. "It takes away scholarships and opportunities."

"But it's from frustration over legislation being passed without the coaches having a say on it."

NCAA efforts at achieving gender equity — including scholarship cuts — may be a cause of all of the frustration, Nee said.

"It's all over gender equity," he said. "They're just trying to balance the sports."

"It's hurting men's basketball, which is one of the horses in this race."

But in a way, Nee said, keeping the scholarships at 13 can benefit a program like Nebraska.

"It enlarges the pool of athletes," he said. "Now we can go into Indiana and Michigan to get players."

If a boycott occurred, Nee said, his players would decide as a team whether to join it.

"If there is a boycott, we're going to do it as a team," he said. "If they vote yes, we'll all do it. If they vote

no, we're all not going to do it."

Williams said it was more likely that the coaches, rather than the players, would boycott.

"I think there will be some kind of protest," he said. "Not by players but by coaches. A coach boycott would be a lot more appropriate than a player boycott."

But Nee said he didn't think a boycott would occur anytime soon, and he wasn't going to take the first step in starting one. But something has to be done, he said.

"I don't see that as an issue right now," Nee said. "If you forfeit a game, you're talking about heavy hits. If both teams boycott, it's a double loss."

"There's just nothing there at this point but a lot of smoke. I see a potential problem here, and I don't think it's just going to go away."

Kangaroos look to punch out Huskers

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Editor

During the past two years, the University of Missouri-Kansas City hasn't let Nebraska kick them around on the basketball court.

The Cornhuskers have struggled with the Kangaroos in the past, but Nebraska coach Danny Nee said that a week of rest would help his team in Saturday's 7:05 p.m. game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"If you can get a little break in your schedule, this is a good time to have it," Nee said. "We got days off, we got more preparation, we got fundamentals, and we got execution. Any time you have more preparation for a game, it's helpful to Nebraska."

The Huskers, 11-2 overall and 2-0 in the Big Eight, are riding a 10-game winning streak, but haven't played since pounding Colorado 106-67 last Saturday in Lincoln.

UMKC lost to the same Buffalo team 84-76 on Wednesday, but Nee said the Kanga-

Probable Starters

Nebraska
VS.
Missouri-Kansas City
Saturday, 7:05 P.M., Bob Devaney Sports Center

Nebraska (11-2/2-0)

F 44 Bruce Chubick	6-7 1/2	232	Sr.
F 34 Melvin Brooks	6-8	235	Jr.
G 21 Erick Strickland	6-3 1/2	210	So.
G 52 Eric Piatkowski	6-7	215	Sr.
G 24 Jaron Boone	6-6 1/2	191	So.

Missouri-Kansas City (5-10)

F 25 Darecko Rawlins	6-5	175	So.
F 42 Rick Muller	6-10	225	Jr.
C 44 Dennis Jacobs	6-11	245	Sr.
G 23 Tony Dumas	6-6	185	Sr.
G 20 Travis Salmon	6-5	195	Jr.

DN graphic

roos still posed a serious threat to Nebraska's winning streak.

"If you go back and look at the scores of Nebraska and UMKC, you can see that we have had a lot of trouble with UMKC," Nee said.

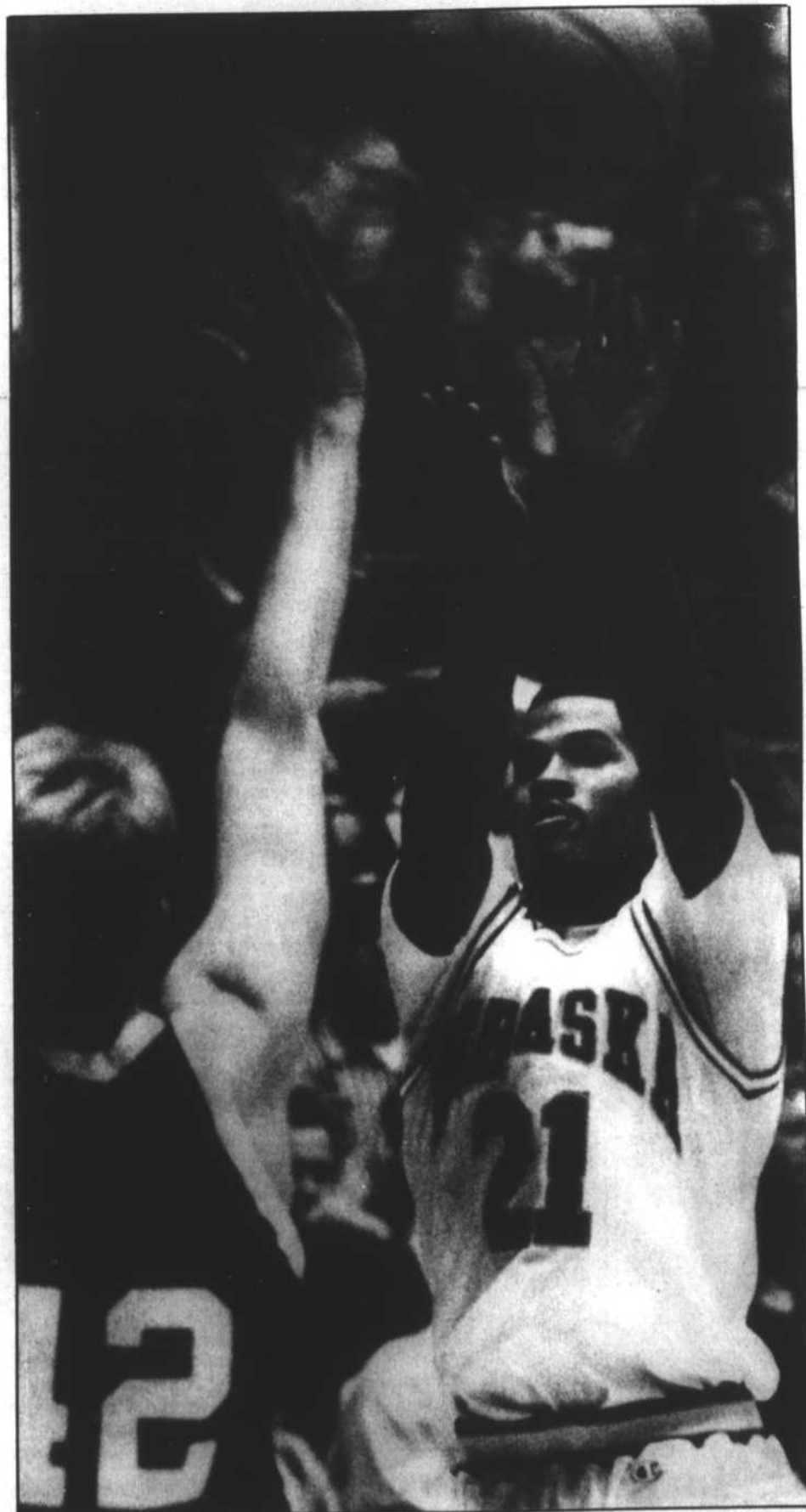
Coach Lee Hunt's Kangaroos gave the Huskers a serious scare last year in Kansas City, before Nebraska escaped with a 66-65 win. As time ran out, UMKC's Tony Dumas missed a three-pointer that would have won the game.

Two years ago, UMKC took the Huskers down to the wire in Lincoln before losing 74-71. The Kangaroos blew a 68-64 lead with less than four minutes to play.

Dumas was a major pain for the Huskers last year, and he has been a thorn in the side of opponents this season.

"The nucleus and the heart and soul of the UMKC basketball team is Tony Dumas," Nee said. "Tony Dumas is for real. He is as good as we will play against in the conference. He can do it all and right now he is playing at a really high level."

See KANGAROO on 8



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska's Erick Strickland pulls up and shoots a three-point shot over Colorado defender Greg Jensen in the second half of the Cornhuskers' win over Colorado last Saturday. Strickland and the Huskers will face the University of Missouri-Kansas City Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Huskers lose freshman QB to small school

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Only three days after Nebraska lost Calvin Jones to the NFL draft, another underclassman has decided to depart from the Cornhusker football program.



Rutz

Ben Rutz, a freshman quarterback from Oklahoma City, has transferred to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College in Miami, Okla.

Northeastern Oklahoma A&M coach Mike Loyd said Rutz wanted a chance to play, something he would not likely see at Nebraska.

"I think people need to understand he is not leaving Nebraska with a sour taste in his mouth, but with the utmost respect for Nebraska," Loyd said. "He just wants an opportunity to play. They have a great player there in Tommie Frazier. He has absolutely no animosity toward Nebraska or anyone associated with their program."

Rutz, who could not be reached for comment, redshirted his first season at Nebraska. He followed with a promising spring, in which he competed for the starting quarterback job. But then he had a major setback.

See RUTZ on 8

Coach's problem: Too much talent in 1 weight class

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann has a pleasant problem on his hands as his team prepares for this Saturday's 7:30 p.m. dual match against No. 18 Indiana at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

On one hand, he has Mike Eierman, an All-American last year, at 142 pounds.

On the other hand, he has Justin Ware, a redshirt freshman who was the only Cornhusker to win a title last weekend at the Great Plains Invitational, also at 142 pounds.

The decision for Neumann is who will take the reins at 142 for the remainder of the season.

"It's a problem that everybody would like to have," Neumann said. "We'll have to make that decision."

Eierman, who won his first match last weekend and then left after being notified of the death of two of his friends, is ranked fourth in the nation with an 18-3 record.

See INDIANA on 8