

Sallee helps to create basketball team unity

By Todd Walkenhorst
Staff Reporter

Nebraska basketball center Chris Sallee and his teammates are looking for team unity this season, an element that may have been missing from prior squads.

"The other guys said that players used to just try to go out and get their numbers," Sallee said, "but now team unity is preached to us. We even have meetings on Tuesday nights to try to create unity and a family feeling."

Sallee, a 6-foot-10 junior from Scottsdale, Ariz., said that the returning players created a team atmosphere from day one.

"They accepted us from the beginning," Sallee said. "They saw it as a team after that."

With the team unity, new players were able and expected to contribute to the program.

"Us younger guys step up," he said. "The three returning guys are the focal point of our team."

In Nebraska's exhibition victory over the Russian Red Army Wednesday night, Sallee compiled 11 points and eight rebounds.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee was impressed with many of his players' efforts Wednesday night, including Sallee's. Nee said that Sallee's performance would help him down the road.

"Chris Sallee had a good game that he needed," Nee said.

Sallee still has elements of his game that he would like to work on before the Huskers' regular season opener Nov. 25 against Northeast Louisiana in Puerto Rico.

"Rebounding is going to be crucial," Sallee said. "I would like to increase rebounds, it will take more practice boxing out."

Nebraska's new players have been able to practice in the Huskers' first two exhibitions. Sallee said he thought the newcomers have been able to blend in well in the last few weeks.

"The transition has been smooth," he said, "but we're not completely all together yet."

The Huskers appeared to be sluggish in the first half as they held only a 51-47 lead at halftime, but Nebraska outscored the Russian Red Army 54-36 in the second half.

"He (Nee) was pretty hard on us at halftime," Sallee said. "It was a wake-up call. We came out and played hard in the second half."

Recruits

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gotten stronger. Not only that, he's a smarter player."

Garner accepted the Huskers' offer last week when his team stopped by Lincoln en route to Hutchinson (Kan.) Community College for its season-opening tournament. Western Nebraska, already 5-0 this year, won the tournament. Garner is averaging 15.3 points and 9.6 rebounds per game.

Campbell said Garner originally had planned to sign in the spring, but after going through a few weeks of the recruiting process, he chose to sign early.

Many of the nation's top teams were pursuing Garner, Campbell said. "We had at least 20 people come in here to see him," Campbell said. "He just didn't want to go through it all the way until the spring."

back, taking a 10-5 lead.

After five sideouts, Nebraska continued to dominate. The Huskers scored the final five points, with the last two kills coming from Winsett, who led Nebraska with 10 kills.

Pettit said Colorado billed the match as the biggest in school history and set itself up for a letdown with a lengthy pre-match pep rally, with speeches from the seniors on the squad.

"There were 3,600 people here to see us," Pettit said. "That's what it amounts to."

Colorado's largest crowd before Wednesday was 2,879 against Nebraska in 1992.

Colorado

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was in a position to win," Pettit said. "Tonight's a different story."

He said Nebraska came in and took control from the beginning.

"I watch Colorado," he said, "and it's a lot different to win something than to keep it. And tonight I felt they were playing to keep, and they were a little tentative. It will be interesting to see what happens in the Big Eight (tournament)."

Colorado quickly established a 5-2 lead in the second game. But behind the serving of Maria Hedbeck and Billie Winsett, Nebraska stormed

Huskers fight off Red Army raid

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team got a wake-up call from Coach Danny Nee at halftime.

After Nee's halftime speech, the Cornhuskers responded by defeating the Russian Red Army-Air Force basketball club 105-83 in front of 8,485 Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

At halftime the Huskers led only 51-47, allowing the Russian Red Army-Air Force to shoot 47 percent.

Nee said one reason for the troubles in the first half was that the Russian Red Army-Air Force basketball club caused his team some problems.

"Nebraska did not play up to its potential," Nee said. "After half we adjusted and played a little better."

Husker guard Jaron Boone agreed with Nee and said the defensive effort in the first half was dismal.

"On a scale of one to 10, about a four," Boone said. "We came in at halftime, we recognized what they were doing and adjusted on it, then we started playing better."

Boone led Nebraska with a game-high 22 points.

In the first half Nebraska trailed 25-19 before a three pointer by Erick Strickland and a lay up by Tom Wald pulled Nebraska within one.

Nebraska regained the lead, 36-33, in the first half when Jason Glock made a three-pointer.

Glock's basket would give the Huskers a lead they would never relinquish the rest of the game.

Forward Terrance Badgett said the Huskers struggled because they got out of their game plan in the first half.

Badgett said Nee made them aware of that at halftime.

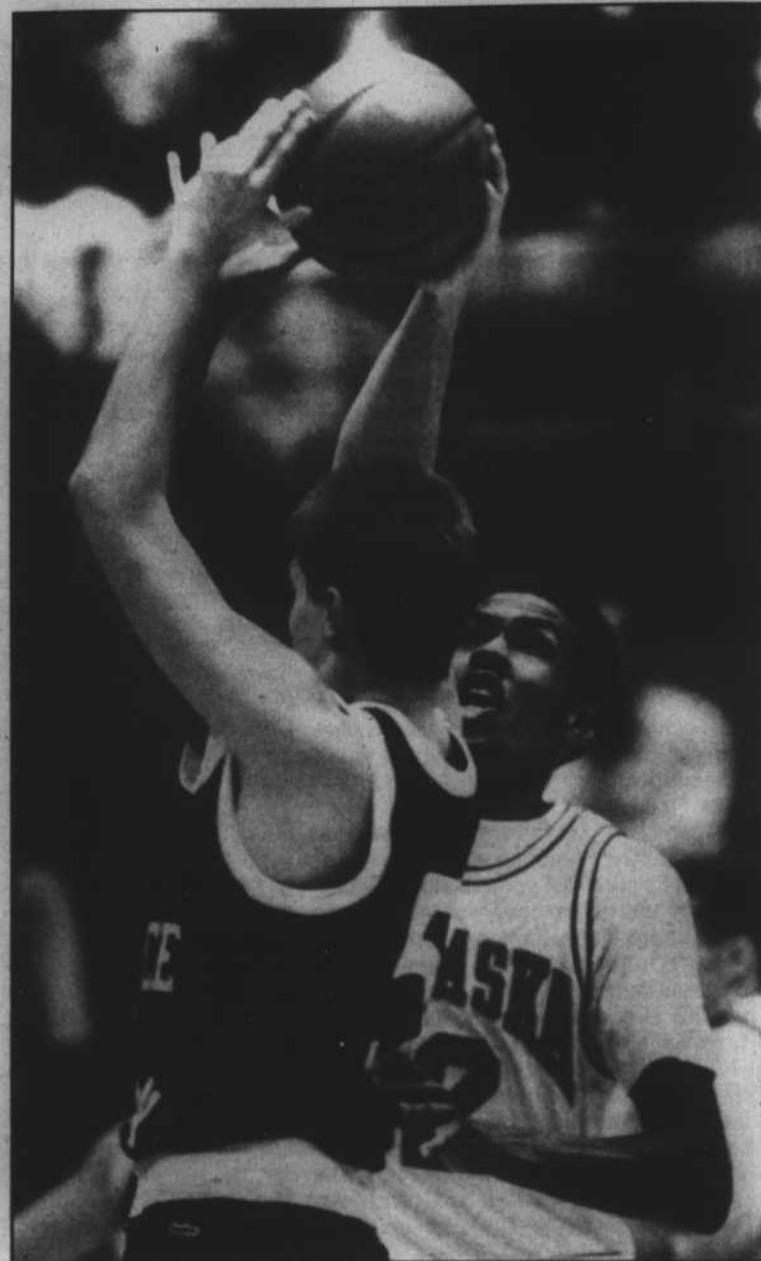
"They (the coaches) had a game plan for us and with us not listening, we paid for it in the first half," Badgett said. "We listened to it at halftime, and that helped us a lot."

Whatever happened at halftime worked.

The Huskers held the Russian Red Army-Air Force basketball club to only 36 points in the second half.

The Russian Red Army-Air Force basketball club shot just 41 percent in the second half.

Included in that was a 20-4 run started by a Boone 3-pointer to



Jay Calderon/DN

Nebraska center Mikid Moore applies pressure to Russian Red Army forward Sergey Timofeev during the Huskers' win Wednesday night.

give Nebraska a 67-57 lead.

During that span, the Huskers rolled off 12 straight points before Alexander Petrenko ended it with a jumper to make the score 84-63 with 8:44 remaining.

Valeri Tikhonenko led the Russian Red Army-Air Force basketball club with 19 points.

The Huskers shot 63 percent in the second half to help put the Russian Red Army-Air Force basketball club away.

Down the stretch, the Huskers were led by Chester Surles, who

scored nine of Nebraska's final 21 points.

Surles put Nebraska over the 100-point mark with a layup with 1:51 remaining.

With the regular season starting Nov. 25 against Northeast Louisiana at the San Juan Shootout in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Boone said the Huskers still had some things to work on.

"The next six days we need to really focus," Boone said. "Hopefully we can go down and win the tournament."

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Electronic News

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FTP

Tuesday, November 29	10:30 - 12:00 noon	Bancroft Hall, 239
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Finger/Talk

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