

SPORTS

Wednesday, August 23, 1995

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Recruiting lures Smith away from NU

SPOKANE, Wash. — Peru State isn't exactly a breeding ground for basketball coaches.

But Jeff Smith can thank Peru State for giving him a jump on the assistant coaching job at Eastern Washington.

After spending seven years under Nebraska coach Danny Nee, Smith left his part-time assistant position in May for Cheney, Wash., a small town of about 10,000 people an hour away from Spokane.

When Steve Aggers left Kansas State to take the head coaching job at Eastern, Smith had an advantage.

Aggers coached at Wayne State from 1985 to 1990, while Smith played and coached at Peru State.

When Smith went in for an interview in late May, Aggers knew who he was getting.

And Smith knew what he wanted. Something he didn't get at Nebraska as a restricted earnings coach.

Smith wanted the chance to recruit at the Division-I level.

He interviewed at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, a Division-II school, and a Division-III school.

When Eastern Washington offered, Smith said goodbye to other options and Nebraska.

"I was basically as far as I could go in scouting and video," Smith said. "I maxed out there."

Aggers, Smith and David Carter have a lot to do before maxing out in Cheney.

Eastern Washington had only two winning seasons in the past 12 years. Under John Wade, the Eagles won 34 games — in five years.

Eastern finished 6-20 last season, but the Eagles made some improvements.

They broke a 29-game Big Sky Conference losing streak and a 44-game road slide.

"We have a little more rebuilding here, a lot of rebuilding," Smith said. "This team needs an attitude change."

Eastern Washington is not Nebraska, or even Kansas State. And the Big Sky is nowhere near the caliber of the Big Eight.

But Smith will take what he learned at Nebraska and apply it at Eastern Washington.

"Any time you're coaching against Roy Williams, Eddie Sutton and Norm Stewart," Smith said, "you're going to learn a lot. I learned a lot from Coach Nee."

Nee was all for Smith moving up in the coaching ranks, Smith said.

"This was anticipated. We talked about it for quite a while," Smith said. "I think he's happy for me. Advancement is good."

But advancing the Eastern basketball program may take awhile. The Eagles struggled to get 1,000 people at Reese Court on Elm Street in Cheney.

Aggers and Smith come from schools used to filling arenas.

At Eastern, it could be a Nightmare on Elm Street.

Pearson is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan copy desk chief.

New hoops assistant finally here

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

Lincoln may not be Los Angeles or Miami, but Scott Howard is happy to be in Nebraska.

A former Iowa State walk-on, Howard has spent much of the last decade near the nation's beaches coaching basketball at Southern California and Miami, (Fla.).

On Tuesday, the newly hired Cornhusker assistant coach moved into his office at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Howard, who graduated from Iowa

State in 1983 and has also coached at

Iowa, Illinois and Drake, was hired in early July. But recruiting duties have kept him on the road until this week.

"I just got to Lincoln yesterday," Howard said Tuesday. "I'm getting moved in, so I haven't seen much yet, but I'm glad to finally be here."

Nebraska coach Danny Nee was left with two vacant coaching spots this summer after Gary Borgen and Jeff Smith left the program. Borgen was hired as an NCAA compliance officer under Associate Athletic Director Al Papik.

Smith, who has unofficially been replaced by former Husker Bill Johnson, accepted an assistant coaching position at Eastern Washington.

Howard and fourth-year coach Jimmy Williams will be Nee's top

assistants this season.

"Scott's a young coach with a lot of experience and a high energy level," Nee said. "He's got a well-balanced background and brings us an enthusiastic attitude to the table."

Howard said his history in this part of the country would allow him to quickly feel at home in Lincoln.

"I knew a lot about Nebraska and the Big Eight," Howard said. "I knew the kind of support this program receives and the success it has had over the last few years."

A year ago, the Huskers finished 18-14 and failed to qualify for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1990. Howard said he didn't think last year's dropoff was indicative of Nebraska's future.

"It seems like Nebraska will be

extremely competitive for a long time, now that we have established a pattern of winning," Howard said. "You start making trips to the NCAAs, and it's like a snowball that keeps rolling."

Six newcomers — two true freshmen, three redshirt freshmen and a junior college transfer — will join the Nebraska roster this fall. The Huskers also return six experienced seniors, one junior and one sophomore.

Senior center Chris Sallee, who averaged 6 points and 5 rebounds last year, probably will not be available for the second half of the season. Sallee's five-year clock expires at the end of the fall semester. Nee said several appeals to grant Sallee an extra semester had been denied by the NCAA.

Experienced Williams set to lead

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

Tyrone Williams has started 20 games during the past two seasons and played in all but one game in his sophomore and junior seasons.

But he said it seemed like only yesterday that he was a freshman watching others play in front of him.

Now, as a senior, he has to lead.

"It doesn't seem that long ago that I was out here trying to learn the system and everything," Williams said. "It went by very fast. This leadership role came up on me very quickly."

Williams quickly made a name for himself at cornerback in 1993 after sitting out his freshman season.

The 6-foot, 185-pounder from Palmetto, Fla., started eight games as a sophomore, recorded 38 tackles (nine in the Orange Bowl) and earned Big Eight Co-Defensive Newcomer-of-the-Year honors.

Williams totaled 42 tackles, three interceptions and five pass breakups last season. He was named to the conference coaches All-Big Eight first team.

"Tyrone Williams is an important part of this football program," defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "He's one of those guys that I'm sure our opponents think has been here forever. The thing about it is, he has improved every year."

Now that Williams is a senior, he said his role had changed on the defense.

"The young guys might not be used to certain situations or certain types of games," Williams said. "I bring a lot of experience. I've played in all types of games — big games, cold ones, warm ones, some that didn't mean anything and some that have meant it all. I know the game situations and how to practice so

you're ready for it."

He's also played against all kinds of receivers.

"I've played against three first-rounders — J.J. Stokes, Charles Johnson and Michael Westbrook," Williams said. "All that experience just gave me the confidence that I can play with anybody. Now that it

is my senior year, I'm going to put all the pieces together."

Williams said putting the pieces together meant reaching all the goals he had set for himself and the team.

"If we don't win the national championship, I just want to know that we did our best," Williams said. "I would be very disappointed if we went out there and just gave a game away — a national championship game or any game along the way. I just want us to go out and give it our best to win another one."

"About the only personal goal I have is to dominate my receiver every game," Williams said. "At the end of the year, I want to be an All-American. But I just concentrate on doing my job."

Williams said his ability to make plays when Nebraska switched to the 4-3 defense helped his chances of playing right away.

"Coming here, I didn't think I would play as soon as I did," Williams said. "But once I started playing, I was getting a lot of confidence. I knew I could do this or, I knew I could do that. I was surprised by how fast it happened."

"My first year here I didn't think the secondary got much respect at all. Once we got the 4-3 defense in here and started making plays, heads started to turn. I'm glad I came here and was part of something like that."



Jay Calderon/DN
Nebraska cornerback Tyrone Williams leaps for a ball during a drill at football practice Tuesday.

Beer to flow less freely at CU's Folsom Field

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Thirsty fans at University of Colorado football games are going to have to work a little harder for their beer this season.

Starting with the Sept. 9 game against Colorado State, beer hawkers no longer will cruise the stands selling suds in Folsom Field. Fans will have to hike to a concession stand behind the seating areas and present a picture identification.

Nebraska plays at Colorado on Oct. 28.

Colorado is the only school in the Big Eight and the new Big 12 that still sells beer at football games.

But the school is trying to cut the

amount of beer that people drink.

Under the new policy, sales will be restricted by age. Customers ages 21 to 25 can have only one beer at a time; those older than 25 can have two beers at once.

The policy is aimed at gaining more control over who buys beer and the amount of drinking in general, Colorado Associate Athletic Director John Burianek said.

Although beer vendors did not venture into student sections last year, it was still a challenge to keep alcohol out of underage hands, Burianek said.

The new policy could help beer drinkers stay within their limits, Colorado Sports Information Director Dave

Plati said.

If fans are sober enough to walk to the concession stand, that could mean they can handle another beer, Plati said.

When fans are seated, vendors have a harder time evaluating their conditions, Plati said.

The move for more moderate drinking at games comes as Boulder County leaders try to deal with problem drinking across the community.

Their focus often falls on CU.

The school's new policy for football games was initiated independently before an "Alcohol Summit" was held on campus in June, Burianek said.

"We just felt it was time to do some

things that would make more sense," Burianek said.

CU Regent Jim Martin, who has called for a total ban on beer sales at Folsom, called the new policy, "a step in the right direction — but only a first step."

The Colorado athletic department wants to keep the tap flowing, Plati said.

"It's a big source of income for us, and obviously Coors is a big corporate sponsor," Plati said. "There will always be a number of bad apples who will try to ruin it for everyone. We'll just try to keep the bad apples to a minimum."