

SPORTS

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

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SPORTS OPINION



Domes benefit all basketball fans, purists

MINNEAPOLIS — At least I got a seat. What I saw at the Midwest Regional this weekend at the Metrodome is the latest fad in NCAA basketball. Domed stadiums are becoming the premier venues for regional and Final Four action.

In fact, after this year's Final Four at the 20,000-seat Meadowlands Arena, there never may be another Final Four in a non-domed stadium again.

A new NCAA policy that takes effect next year requires future Final Fours to be played in venues that seat at least 30,000 fans.

The result is that the next five Final Fours are scheduled for domed stadiums, including the Georgia Dome, the RCA Dome and the Metrodome in the year 2001.

The city of Minneapolis considered this year's Midwest Regional a dress rehearsal for the upcoming Final Four. Experimenting with a new seating setup, nobody was denied a seat for this year's event. Almost 35,000 fans, most of whom seemed to be dressed in Kentucky blue, packed the Metrodome.

More than 50,000 people could easily watch an upcoming Final Four, even more depending on how well they want to see the basketball court.

Even though I sat so high I lost more than a pint of blood from my nose and watched several people using oxygen masks on their walk up to their seat, the view was not as bad as one would imagine.

For the first time all season, I actually saw a team rebound and box out when Kentucky shellacked Utah on Thursday night.

I had to ask the Kentucky fans in front of me what was going on. They were a little puzzled, but I explained to them that I was from Nebraska, and then they understood.

Basketball purists are up in arms over domed stadiums. Apparently their favorite team has never made it to a regional or Final Four.

More than likely, these purists are scalpers.

Tickets outside the Metrodome were selling for face value. The games did not sell out. Saturday at the Meadowlands, only 1,000 tickets will be available to the public with prices that surely will skyrocket on the street.

Imagine a championship event where every booster who wanted tickets could get them just by going to the ticket office. This would drive the University of Nebraska nuts.

It's a win-win situation for fans and schools. All the fans who want tickets get them, which makes happy boosters. And happy boosters mean big paydays in the donation tray.

Now if they could only make a 120,000-seat football stadium.

Walkerhorst is a senior broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Huskers hope to 'go out with a bang'

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team finds itself in a similar position for the fourth straight game.

The Cornhuskers are playing a team that was considered on the bubble to receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, and Nebraska must stop a key player who averages more than 17 points per game.

That team is Tulane, and the player is Jerald Honeycutt.

Nebraska, 19-14, plays the Green Wave, 21-9, in the semifinals of the National Invitation Tournament at 6 tonight in an ESPN nationally televised contest at Madison Square Garden in New York.

The Huskers will play either St. Joseph's or Alabama Thursday night. Senior guard Jaron Boone said he

was surprised the Huskers had made it this far in the NIT.

"We are very happy to keep going," Boone said. "The seniors want to go out with a bang, and this gives the younger guys some good experience of how to play in the postseason."

That experience has increased with Nebraska's three tournament wins over Colorado State, Washington State and Fresno State, all three of which had 18 or more wins.

In those three games the Husker defense has kept an all-conference player at bay.

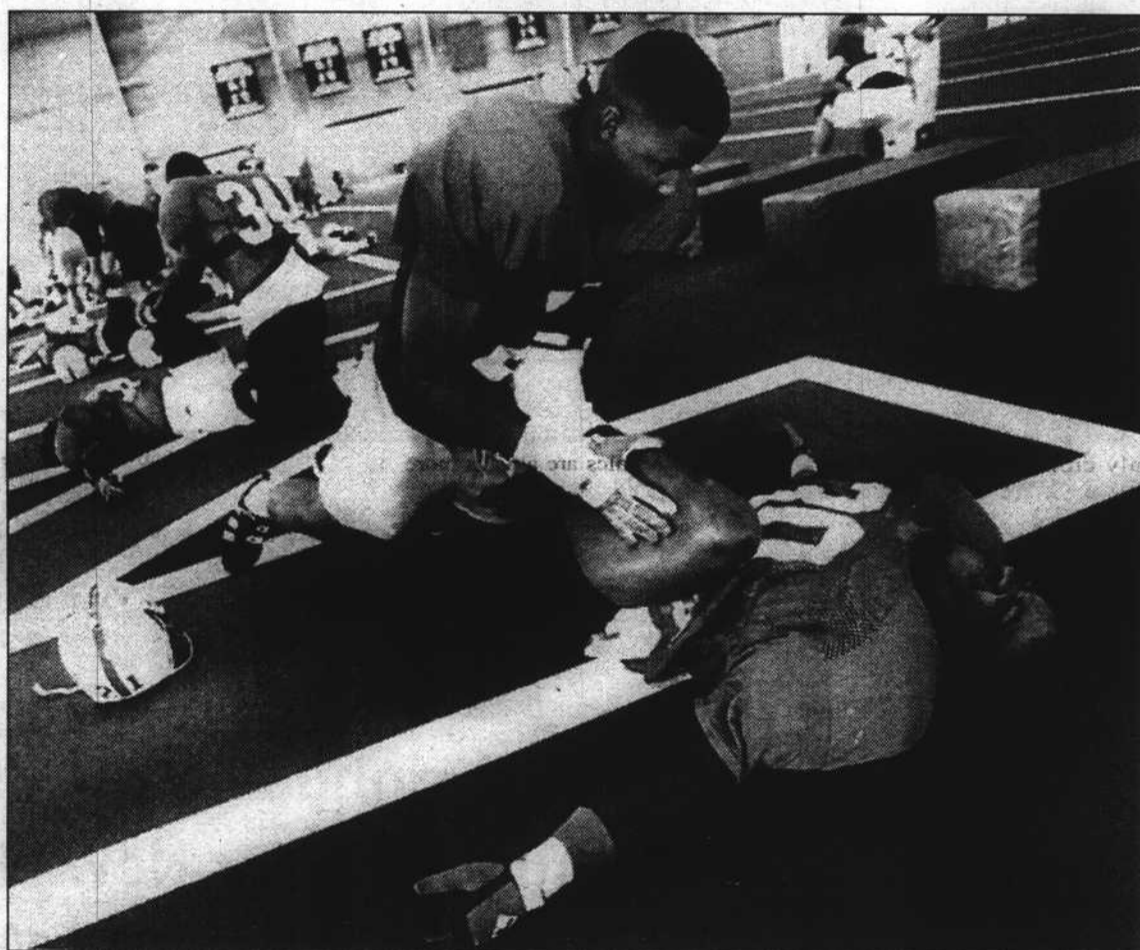
Against the Rams, Nebraska held All-WAC guard David Evans to nine points, 10 below his average. Washington State All-Pac 10 forward Mark Hendrickson, who averaged 17 points

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Basketball Starters

Madison Square Garden
New York
Tuesday, 6 p.m.

Nebraska (19-14)	Ht.	Wt.	Class	PPG	RPG
G Tyrone Lue	6-0	165	Fr.	8.2	3.0
G Jaron Boone	6-6	195	Sr.	14.0	2.7
F Erick Strickland	6-3	210	Sr.	14.6	4.8
F Bernard Garner	6-7	225	Jr.	10.6	6.5
C Mikki Moore	6-9	220	Fr.	9.1	5.8
Tulane (21-9)					
G LeVeldro Simmons	6-4	185	Sr.	12.4	3.9
G Chris Cameron	6-4	180	Jr.	9.3	5.1
F Correy Childs	6-6	215	Jr.	6.6	3.1
F Jerald Honeycutt	6-9	245	Jr.	18.1	7.2
C Lawrence Nelson	6-10	225	So.	5.2	3.6



Nebraska's top two I-backs, sophomore Ahman Green (right) and senior Damon Benning, stretch Monday before the beginning of the Huskers' first spring workout at Cook Pavilion.

Huskers start practice

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne was concerned Monday as the Cornhuskers walked through their first spring practice at Cook Pavilion.

Osborne wasn't worried about the Huskers' chances of winning a third straight national championship. He was more concerned about the amount of aggressiveness in the team's first live contact since Jan. 2.

"As usual, they're pretty aggressive," Osborne said. "It's been a long time since they have had contact. Considering the fact they were in sweat clothes, I was a little concerned about the number of guys on the ground and flying around out here."

Nebraska's practice Monday was the first of 15 spring workouts. The Huskers will practice on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for the next three weeks, and Monday and Wednesday the week of the Red-White Spring Game, which will be played April 20.

Several new faces dot the pre-spring depth chart, which features two redshirt freshmen listed No. 2.

"I was a little concerned about the number of guys on the ground and flying around out here."

TOM OSBORNE

Nebraska football coach

At SAM linebacker, Tony Ortiz is behind only Jamel Williams, a senior next fall. And at left guard, redshirt freshman James Sherman is second to senior Chris Dishman.

Quarterback is the team's least experienced position. Senior Matt Turman is No. 1. Junior Scott Frost is second, followed by sophomore Monte Christo and redshirt freshmen Frankie London and Jeff Perino. London, who had shoulder surgery last fall, will not scrimmage this spring, but he can practice.

Senior defensive tackle Larry Townsend, who had knee surgery this winter, will miss spring drills, as will senior wingback Riley Washington, who is out with a groin injury.

Larry Arnold, a senior SAM linebacker who quit the team last

has returned. Although he had to forfeit his scholarship, Arnold would be given a fair chance this spring, Osborne said.

Junior Aaron Taylor has moved to center, replacing three-year starter and All-American Aaron Graham. Chris Dishman has moved from left tackle to left guard and Adam Treu from right tackle to left tackle. Jon Zatechka is slated to start at right tackle and Eric Anderson at right tackle.

Taylor, a junior, earned All-Big Eight honors last season at left guard. He has not played center since his high school days at Rider High School in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Even though Taylor fumbled four snaps Monday hiking the ball

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Wrestlers fail in bid to improve

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

MINNEAPOLIS — After returning four All-Americans and a national champion, the Nebraska wrestling team was in good shape to improve on last year's finish at the NCAA Championships.

It did, but not by very much. Last year, Nebraska finished in sixth place. The Cornhuskers wanted to set a new school best by finishing in the top two this season. Nebraska's best NCAA finish was third in 1993.

They were on track to finish second, right behind national champion Iowa. But Nebraska didn't wrestle well when it had to. The Huskers ended in a disappointing fifth place, with four All-Americans.

"This is what we work 12 months a year for," Nebraska coach Tim Neumann said. "To not do it is distressing."

Nebraska put three of its nine qualifiers into the quarterfinals and was second in the team race, but remained 12 points behind Iowa.

When wrestling began on Friday evening, Nebraska held a four-point lead on the field, including Cal State Bakersfield, which moved into third place with 34 points.

The Huskers then hit a brick wall.

They dropped from second to ninth, gaining only 1 1/2 team points when Chad Nelson advanced to the medal round in the consolation bracket at 167 pounds. He finished the tournament an All-American in eighth place.

Unfortunately for Nebraska, that was the highlight on Friday.

At 118 pounds, Brad Canoyer lost and was out.

At 134 pounds, Tony DeAnda lost and was out.

At 142 pounds, Dusty Morris lost and was out.

At 177 pounds, Erik Josephson lost and was out.

126-pounder Jeramie Welder, who lost twice Thursday, was the only other Nebraska qualifier who didn't claim All-American honors.

Nebraska's hopes rested on the three semifinalists, Temoer Terry at 158, Ryan Tobin at 190 and Tolly Thompson at heavyweight.

All lost, Terry to defending national champion Ernest Benion of Illinois by default; Tobin to eventual national champion John Kading of Oklahoma; and Thompson, the defending national champion, to Justin Harty of North Carolina.

The Nebraska trio, however, came back to win third on Saturday.