

Sports

Huskers scalp Indians aided by Hoppen's record scoring

By Mike Reilley
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Southern Colorado head basketball coach Dick Drangmeister said his main concern prior to facing Nebraska's men's



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Roger Parker pulls a rebound away from Nebraska's John Matzke as Ken Cragun looks on.

basketball team was finding someone who could stop all-Big Eight center Dave Hoppen.

Drangmeister is still searching for someone after Hoppen scalped the Indians for a career high of 35 points en route to a 89-67 Nebraska victory before 9,356 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The 35 points broke the Sports Center single-game record of 34 points set by Andre Smith in 1979.

The 6-11 junior from Omaha also broke into Nebraska's top 10 in career scoring when he sank a pair of free throws with 4:12 remaining in the first half. Hoppen has 1,078 career points, 60 tallies short of the ninth spot held by Marvin Stewart.

"I didn't think I'd be able to score that many points," Hoppen said. "My teammates were able to get the ball down low. It sometimes seemed too easy."

NU head coach Moe Iba knew of Drangmeister's dilemma, and geared the Husker offense toward Hoppen.

"We just went to a two-game to get Dave the ball because they couldn't cover him."

Hoppen teamed with sophomore forward Bill Jackman, who scored nine first-half points, to give the Huskers a comfortable 50-28 halftime margin.

"I thought they did a good job of getting a 22 point lead at halftime," Iba said. "I'm proud of them for that."

Southern Colorado's Gary Taylor, a redshirt freshman, tied a Sports Center record shooting 7-7 from the field for 14 points.

The Indians traded baskets with the Huskers with the second half. Each team scored 39 points.

"The second half we had a lot of combinations that weren't very good," Iba said. "I'm happy with the win, but we can play better."



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

David Hoppen battles with Howard Swain on the Husker's defensive board during the first half of play in Thursday's game against the University of Southern Colorado in the Devaney Sports Center.

Pitt is first hurdle in Husker's title quest

By Jim Rasmussen
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

The women in the middle for the UNL volleyball team — center blockers Karen Dahlgren, Annie Adamczak and Michelle Smith — have a tough chore in store for them Saturday against Pittsburgh.

The chore will be to stop Pitt's Diana Kohutiak, the Panthers' top spiker, in the first-round NCAA tournament match.

"They go to her about 80 percent of the time," Smith said of Kohutiak. "We have to shut her down and force them to go to their weaker hitters. That's not easy to do."

Pitt Coach Shelton Collier said earlier in the week that Kohutiak, a 5-10 senior, is probably the best spiker in the eastern half of the country. But the Huskers don't need any special warnings about Kohutiak. They've seen her before. Nebraska took a four-set win from the Panthers in October.

"She really hits the ball well cross-court," Adamczak said. "We have to get up and block that shot and really concentrate, or it could be a long game."

Adamczak said the seventh-ranked Huskers, 27-3, have to guard against overconfidence against the unranked Panthers, 30-7.

"It might be in the back of our minds that since we beat them the first time, we don't have to work as hard," she said. "That could be a disadvantage."

From all reports, Pittsburgh has improved since its loss to Nebraska in the Tennessee Invitational. The Panthers won 12 of their last 13 and qualified for nationals by winning the Big East Conference tournament.

"They've become a great team," said Adamczak, a 5-10 junior from Moose Lake, Minn. "All their play-

ers are playing specific roles, and playing them well."

Dahlgren, a 6-0 sophomore from Bertrand, said she's excited to play Pitt again. She said the Huskers didn't play well in the first meeting between the teams. Now that Pitt is playing well, she said, the match should be interesting.

"If they've improved as much as everyone says they have, it will be like playing a whole different team," Dahlgren said. "But if we just stay with our game plan, I think we'll be all right."

Starters Dahlgren and

Adamczak will get help from Smith for the first time in six weeks. Smith, a 5-11 junior from Medina, Ohio, was sidelined Oct. 14 when she suffered a stress fracture in her foot. Smith returned to practice for the first time Monday.

"My timing was really off, but it's been getting better during the week," Smith said. "I'm starting to block a few balls and, hopefully, I'll get it together by Saturday."

Smith said she expects to play some in Saturday's match, depending on the situation.

"The team's adjusted to me not

being in there, so the coaches might not want to throw off that rhythm by putting me in," Smith said.

Regardless of who's playing, all three players agreed Nebraska's blocking will be one of the keys Saturday.

"If we serve tough and set up a strong block, we'll win," Adamczak said.

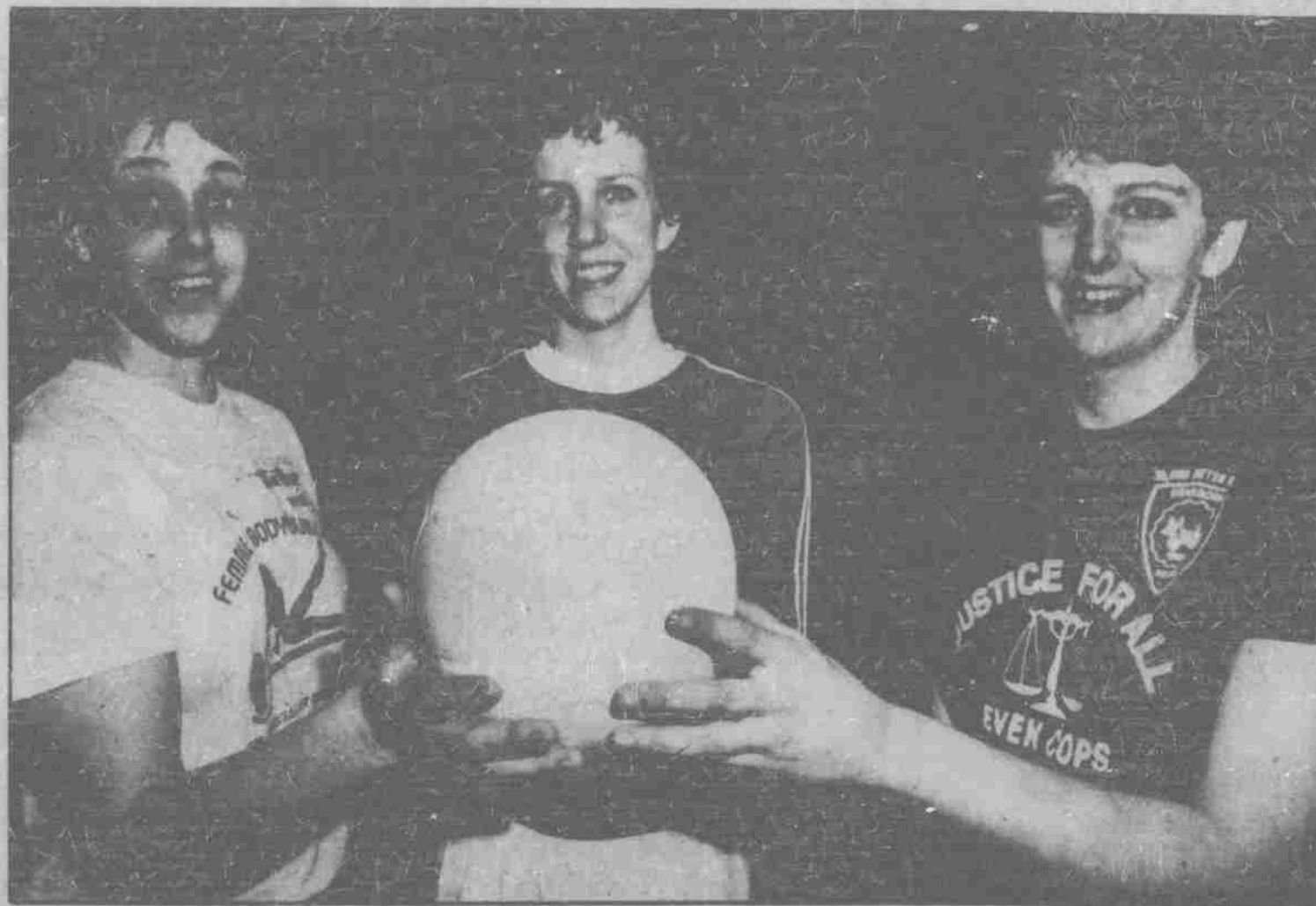
A victory would propel Nebraska into the second round, and another possible home match. After losing in the first round to Western Michigan last year, the Huskers are primed to go further

this year, Adamczak said.

"I think physically, we're one of the strongest teams in the nation, player for player," she said. "If we can control things physically, and not let down mentally, I think we have a very good chance to win the national championship."

Smith and Dahlgren said Nebraska can go a long way in the tournament. Dahlgren said consistency will be a big factor in the Huskers' title quest.

"If we keep working together and stay with our game plan, I think we have the potential to go very far," she said.



Dave Weesly/Daily Nebraskan

Left to right: Annie Adamczak, Karen Dahlgren and Michelle Smith.

Tigers set sights on Sugar Bowl bid

A trip to the Sugar Bowl will be on the line for the Auburn Tigers when they play Alabama at Birmingham's Legion Field Saturday. The game is on ABC at 11:30 CST on Saturday.

"This will be the toughest game of the season for us," said Auburn coach Pat Dyes. Alabama has the best defense in the conference, he said, and to beat Alabama, Auburn will have to play without errors.

The Tigers are ranked 13th in the nation and have one of the top 10 offenses. They are led by quarterback Pat Washington. Washington has passed for 1,116 yards and four touchdowns. His number one receiver is freshman Freddy Weygand. Weygand has caught 31 passes for 780 yards.

If Auburn loses to Alabama, they will travel to the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn., to play Arkansas. Louisiana State would then play Nebraska in the Sugar Bowl.