

Sports

Nebraska cagers stage upsets

By Scott Ahlstrand

The Nebraska women's basketball team took their show on the road during the semester break and came home with three wins and two losses.

The Cornhuskers improved their overall record to 9-3, posting wins against Kentucky, California-Santa Barbara and Pepperdine, while dropping decisions to Cincinnati and UCLA.

"It was a good trip for us. I'm really pleased with the way we played," first-year coach Kelly Hill said.

"You hate to say you're doing better than you expected," Hill said, "but I am a little surprised that we've been upsetting and beating the people that we have."

Nebraska opened the trip with a 90-86 upset win against the Kentucky Wildcats. The Huskers shot an impressive 67 percent, connecting on 39 of 58 field goal attempts. Junior guards Cathy Owen and Crystal Coleman led the way. Owen shot a school record 10 of 10 from the field, while Coleman made 10 of 11 tries.

"We were really fired up for Kentucky and I think we caught them a little off guard," Hill said. "They may have been overlooking us."

The following night, Nebraska dropped a 92-88 decision to Cincinnati. Coleman again led the way, contributing 26 points to the Husker cause. Nebraska had a chance to win the game, but some last-minute shots wouldn't fall.

"We came out a little flat," Hill said. "We had a chance, but we didn't get the breaks we needed to win."

Nebraska followed the Jan. 5 game with the Bearcats with a Jan. 8 game with California-Santa Bar-

bara.

UCSB pushed the Huskers for a while, but a balanced scoring attack led by senior Deb Powell's 26 points allowed Nebraska to pull away for a 97-84 victory.

After dumping UCSB, the Huskers moved down the coast to take on the UCLA Bruins in famed Pauley Pavilion. UCLA beat Nebraska, 84-54.

The Bruins were much taller than Nebraska and played a strong inside game, Hill said. Poor shooting doomed the Huskers as they shot 37 percent from the field, and 36 percent from the free throw line.

"Pauley is kind of an awesome place, and I think it made a few of our players nervous," Hill said. "It was the first game that we were dominated by inside people. They were hot and they scored on us inside when they wanted to."

Nebraska came back from their 30-point loss to UCLA to post a 102-89 victory against Pepperdine. The Huskers played one of their best games of the year, Hill said. Powell was the game's leading scorer, tying her career best with 34 points.

Hill said Powell, Coleman and Owen played well on the trip.

"You could tell that the traveling didn't bother them very much," Hill said. "They know what it's like and they showed some leadership on the trip."

Nebraska will open their Big Eight schedule Jan. 18 against Iowa State at Ames. Hill said the younger players should be better prepared to play on the road now.

"It's important for our younger players to know that they can play good ball away as well as at home," Hill said.



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska diver Reynaldo Castro begins a dive from the 3-meter board in Saturday's Nebraska Mid-Winter Invitational. Castro qualified for the NCAA championships in both the 1-meter and 3-meter events.

Coach Bentz satisfied with team's progress

UNL men's swimming Coach Cal Bentz was happy about his team's performance this past weekend in the Nebraska Mid-Winter Invitational, even though University of Houston swimmers dominated the results.

"Of course we would have liked to win a few more events," Bentz said, "but we're very satisfied with the overall progress of our team. As far as training is concerned, we're right where we want to be now."

The team went to Hawaii over Christmas break, and Bentz said the hard work done there is one reason for the Huskers' progress.

Team scores were not kept in the invitational so Bentz was not concerned with how his team fared against Big Eight schools Iowa State and Kansas.

"We are mainly worried about how our team is progressing right now," he said. "There is a long season still to go."

Kevin Weires' win in the 200 freestyle was the lone Nebraska swimming victory. No Husker swimmers posted NCAA qualifying times in the meet. However, three Nebraska divers, Reynaldo Castro in two events, and Mike Heaton and Eric Ogbene in one event each, bettered NCAA qualifying standards.

Houston's Ang Peng Siong was the standout in the meet as he won three individual events and participated in three relay victories.

Nebraska travels to Carbondale, Ill., Friday for a meet against Southern Illinois. The meet will mark the third time this season the Huskers have competed against the Salukis. The team will be in Columbia, Mo., Saturday for a meet with the Missouri Tigers.

Cyclone women ready for clash

By Jeff Korbek

Great things were expected of the Iowa State Cyclones women's basketball team this season, so you might figure that Coach Debbie Oing would be a bit worried about her team. But Oing is confident about her team's chances against Nebraska Wednesday night in Ames.

"We are a better team than our record indicates, and we are able to win every game we play," Oing said. "We were on the road for five weeks and it is tough to play on the road."

While Nebraska's 9-3 non-conference record equals the best start ever for a Nebraska women's basketball team, Iowa State has struggled to a 3-10 start.

Nine of Iowa State's 13 games have been on the road, including a stretch of seven losses in eight games. They closed their non-conference schedule with a win at home against Grand View College of Iowa.

Oing said the problem is not with shooting. She said the team lacks a good defense. The Cyclones have allowed almost eight more points per game than they have scored.

"We lost some games that could have gone either way," Oing said.

Oing said the Cyclones had always played well against Nebraska. She said the Cyclones have to stop Nebraska's running and press, and rebound well.

Nebraska will be led by senior Debra Powell (17.6 points) and freshman center Angie Miller, the team's leading rebounder. The Huskers will be without the services of sophomore Jacquie Shackelford, who reinjured her left knee in practice.

Oing has altered her starting lineup by inserting two freshmen, forward Ann Holland and guard Chris Awender. Junior center Tonya Burns leads the team in per game scoring (13.5) and rebounding (8.4).

Oing changed the lineup because she felt some people were playing more consistently than others and added that the younger players are starting to develop.

Maulers hope Rozier boosts league

By Bob Asmussen

For a professional football league to survive, one of the key ingredients is a group of star players.

Former Chicago Bears coach George Halas considered Red Grange the star player for the National Football League. In the 1940s Otto Graham in the All American Football Conference and later, Joe Namath in the American Football League, are generally credited as making their leagues competitive.

Pittsburgh Maulers General Manager George Huddleston hopes people will look at Mike Rozier as the player who makes the United States Football League a success. Rozier signed a three-year contract with the Maulers January 3.

"Mike will be one of the best two or three players in the league," Huddleston said. "Our offensive line could be very strong."

The other Mauler backs Huddleston noted are halfbacks William Miller and Amos Lawrence, plus fullback Walt Easley. Miller has had two 1,000-yard rushing seasons in Canada while Lawrence is one of only a handful of backs to have gained 1,000 yards in each of four college seasons.

"We're very deep at the running back position," Huddleston said. "Even without Mike we would have had an outstanding backfield."

The Maulers are negotiating with Washington Redskins offensive lineman Russ Grimm. Huddleston said the Maulers have a good chance of signing him.

One thing working against the Maulers could be

their schedule. They will play in the East Division which includes the Philadelphia Stars and the New Jersey Generals.

"The Generals have really loaded up," Huddleston said. "Philadelphia had the best record in the league last season."

"It's going to be a real challenge for us to be competitive," Huddleston said.

Rozier's signing has helped the team's ticket sales. Public Relations Director Bill Keenist said the response since the Maulers have signed Rozier has been overwhelming.

"We've had five times the number of calls since we drafted Mike," Keenist said. "Mike's signing should let Pittsburgh know that the Maulers are serious about building a winner."

Keenist said Rozier's fan appeal goes beyond his playing ability. He said people in Pittsburgh like Rozier because Rozier likes Pittsburgh.

"Mike showed the town how he felt by signing," Keenist said. "The fact that he would turn down the NFL to play here means a lot to the people of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh is the best football town in the world."

Ticket sales for the Maulers didn't begin until mid-November because of problems the Maulers had in obtaining a lease for Three Rivers Stadium. Both the Steelers of the NFL and baseball's Pirates tried to fight the lease.

"We haven't set an attendance goal yet, but no matter what it is, with Mike Rozier, we'll be able to reach it," Keenist said.

Rec Announcements

Meetings for managers of men's and women's intramural basketball teams and Co-Rec volleyball teams will be tonight in the Nebraska Union in a room to be announced.

The basketball managers for both men's and women's teams will meet at 5:30 p.m. and the volleyball managers will meet at 6:30 p.m.

Both the day and the times of the meetings were incorrectly reported in the Daily Nebraskan Jan. 16.

Today is the last day to register a team with the Office of Campus Recreation to play in the snow softball tournament. Play will begin in the tournament Friday in men's, women's and Co-Rec divisions.

The opening round of intramural sports trivia will be tonight in the balcony of the Coliseum at 6 p.m. No prior registration is needed.

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