

Women's basketball coach Walker quits Tuesday

By Kevin Schnepf
Sports Editor

UNL's women's basketball coach, Marcia Walker, has announced her resignation effective Tuesday morning. Women's Athletic Director June Davis accepted her resignation.

At a Tuesday afternoon press conference, Walker said she is resigning for "personal reasons" adding that she wasn't "cut out to coach at the level" of UNL.

George Stryker, former girl's basketball coach at Omaha Marian High School, has been named temporary coach.

Walker began coaching at UNL in August 1977 and coached the women to a 7-10 record this year. The Huskers have 13 games and two tournaments remaining to play this year.

Walker said the resignation was her decision.

"The decision was solely my responsibility and decision," Walker said. "I plan to get out of coaching and start a private business in the south."

Walker was athletic director and basketball coach at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D. prior to coming to UNL.

Walker said the competitive level at Dakota Wesleyan was not as great as it was at UNL.

"The kids here (UNL) are mostly Nebraskans who were superstars in high school," Walker said. "Before, (at Dakota Wesleyan) I was working with kids who were not superstars."

Walker, who said she had been considering resigning for a "long time", replaced George Nicodemus who was relieved by Davis last summer. Nicodemus has argued that he was not treated fairly when he was relieved.

Walker said that her decision had no connection with Nicodemus or the three players who quit while Walker was coach.

"Those three girls would have quit regardless of who the coach would have been," Walker said. Sophomore Anita Bahe, junior Marta Prichard and senior Sherry Brink quit the team while Walker was coach.

Davis said the university will follow the affirmative action requirements and search nationally for a full-time coach for the 1978-79 year. Davis said she hopes to name a new coach on or before March 15.

Stryker, who compiled a 66-7 record at Marian, will receive a part time salary, the amount not known until the official contract is drawn up, Davis said.

Stryker has been assisting Walker for two weeks on a voluntary basis, according to Davis.

"Stryker has been in contact with us all season. He said he would be available any time we needed him," Davis said. "As soft-



Photo by Bob Pearson
George Stryker becomes temporary women's basketball coach.

ball came about, Marcia needed some help."

Davis said that the women's athletic department needs one individual for full-time basketball coach and an individual for part-time softball coach. She added that the basketball coach needs to be paid a higher salary than \$6,000.

Davis said she had one discussion with Walker about getting assistance from Stryker. She said Walker's resignation was a complete surprise.

Stryker is now preparing the team for Wednesday night's game in Kansas City's Kemper Arena against Northwest Missouri State University. He said most of the players were shocked but had a spirited practice Tuesday afternoon.

"The best word to describe this is wow," Stryker said. "I hope I'm ready for this level of competition. It's certainly a step up from high school."

Stryker, who will help recruit this spring, said he plans no major team changes this year.



Photo by Bob Pearson
Marcia Walker says good-bye to UNL

sports

Iba: men's basketball down in a valley

By Rob Barney

Moe Iba, assistant coach for UNL men's basketball, said he is tired of answering questions about the difference between the UNL team that started with a 10-0 record and the team that now stands at 12-3. Iba said college basketball is a series of peaks and valleys.

The Huskers now are in a valley, he said. "We've lost some intensity on defense," Iba explained. "Some of that has to do with the practice time we've had lately.

"I thought against Iowa State, (a 65-59 loss last Saturday) they came out and played harder and better defense than they had the past few games before that," Iba said.

However, the improved defense was offset by poor shooting by the Huskers, he added.

"The defense must be a team's most consistent part of its game because all it takes is effort and execution," he said. "On the other hand, if the ball is not going in the basket for you there is nothing you can do."

UNL will try to break a two-game losing streak tonight at Norman, Okla. against the Oklahoma Sooners, coached by Dave Bliss.

OU has a 9-6 record and is in third place in the Big 8 with a 2-1 conference record. UNL is 1-2 in league play and tied for fourth place with Kansas State, Missouri, and Colorado.

UNL downed Oklahoma at the Big 8 Conference Holiday Tournament 75-68, but, Iba said, it will be difficult to win in Norman.

"Playing in Norman the past two years we've had poor first halves and good second halves," Iba said. "If we put a total game together we should give them a good ball game."

The Sooners (coming off a 91-61 loss to Kansas last Saturday) have an extra weapon for the Huskers tonight.

Junior forward John McCullough will play for OU. He was injured and missed the Big 8 Holiday Tournament game against UNL.

McCullough was the Sooners' leading scorer last season, averaging 15.2 points a game. He averaged 19 points a game against the Huskers, and scored 26 points in OU's 72-62 win in Norman.

McCullough is not scoring as much this season but he scares me to death," Iba said. "He always does well against us. He has the

size of a guard (6-foot-3), but plays forward and is very strong."

UNL Senior Terry Novak will defend against McCullough, Iba said.

The Cornhuskers are expected to start with the usual lineup; Novak and junior Curt Hedberg at the forwards, junior Carl McPipe at center, and sophomore Brian Banks and freshman Mike Naderer as guards.

"You think about making changes," Iba said. "You review the films to find out what you're not doing now that you were doing then," he said.

"We've had bad nights shooting. And it's been our leading shooters that haven't been hitting. But you can't give up on a Brian Banks and a Carl McPipe," he continued.

"The players are disappointed they let those two games get away from them. They realize the season's not over and I think we'll finish very high in the standings," Iba said.

In other Big 8 action tonight, Oklahoma State University (0-3 in conference play) plays at Kansas State University (1-2). Colorado University (1-2) plays at Missouri University (1-2). Iowa State University (3-0) will host Kansas University who is also 3-0.

Dual loss to Buffs ends wrestling winning streak

By Rick Huls

Defeating an all-American wrestler twice in two weeks is not an easy feat as UNL freshman Al Patton found out Monday night.

Patton was pinned by Colorado all-American Chuck Davis in six minutes and four seconds as the Buffalos won a dual over the Huskers 25-15.

The loss broke UNL's dual winning streak of four meets as well as making Patton's record against Davis to 1-1. UNL now is 4-3 in dual meets.

Two weeks ago in the Colorado Invitational, Patton beat Davis in an 11-8 decision to win the championship. But Monday night, Patton dislocated his shoulder three times during the dual's opening match and couldn't recover.

"After I fell on it five or six times I could barely go on," Patton said after the match. "It's an old high school injury that bothers me once in a while."

UNL wrestling coach Orval Borgianni said the shoulder was definitely a factor but added that he thought Patton may have been slightly overconfident about the rematch.

"It's probably better that Al was overconfident this time rather than to be overconfident and lose in the Big 8 after winning twice," Borgianni admitted.

"There's no doubt about it, Al can beat him next time around because he controlled the match at Colorado so well," Borgianni said. "And he wrestles better in tournaments than in duals."

Patton, a walk-on from Omaha Tech high school, said he hopes to get another crack at Davis in the Big 8 tournament early in March.

Ironically, Patton had planned to attend Colorado University and obtain a scholarship. But CU already had recruited all-American Davis and could not supply Patton with a scholarship.

Patton returned to UNL and says he is glad he did. "We have good coaches here and I'm happy at

Nebraska," said Patton, whose record is 11-5.

The team, wrestling with four freshmen, four sophomores and two juniors, had to substitute junior Jim Phillips in the 158 pound class for co-captain Court Vining. Vining did not wrestle due to a viral infection. Colorado's Ed Rusher decisioned Phillips, 8-5.

Two Lincoln natives, Bob Houser and Marty McCurdy,

won matches for the Huskers. Houser, a 150 pound freshman, decisioned Colorado's Roy Palmer, 12-5. McCurdy, a 177 pound junior, decisioned Mike Bertram, 7-3.

UNL sophomore George Mink, a 190 pounder from Greenwood, decisioned John Wix, 9-6 while heavyweight George Rambour, a sophomore from Columbus, pinned Colorado's John Hurlock.

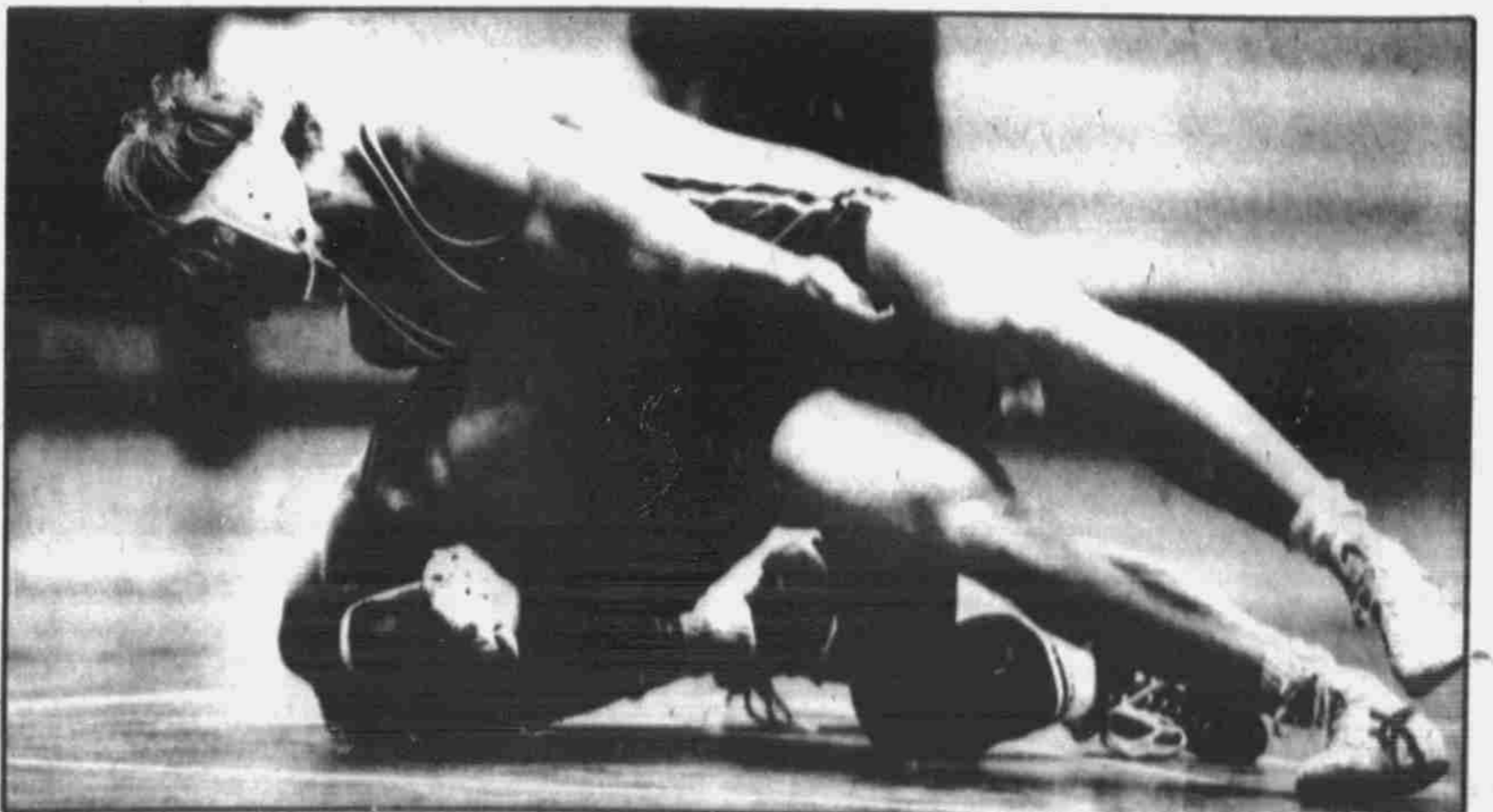


Photo by Ted Kirk
UNL's Bob Houser (on top) wrestles his way to a 12-5 decision win over Colorado's Roy Palmer. Houser was one of four Husker winners but Colorado won Monday Night's meet, 25-15.