

# sports



## Huskers host Utah State in first-round NIT action

Although the UNL basketball squad suffered a semifinal loss in the Big Eight postseason tournament, their 21-7 record has earned them a National Invitational Tournament bid.

The Huskers will host Utah State University Wednesday night at the Sports Complex. The first two rounds of the NIT are played at on-campus sites with the four surviving teams advancing to New York City's Madison Square Garden. But getting back to last Fri-

day's semifinal action the Huskers lost to Missouri 61-58, while fifth-ranked Kansas University was knocked off by Kansas State University.

The championship game of the second annual Big Eight postseason tournament billed two teams which finished in fourth and sixth places in the final Big Eight standings.

Missouri University halted UNL hopes for an NCAA berth in Friday night's 61-58 loss, and defeated Kansas State University Saturday night, 71-68, in overtime. The victory sends the Missouri to Wichita for the Midwest regionals after finishing sixth in the conference standings.

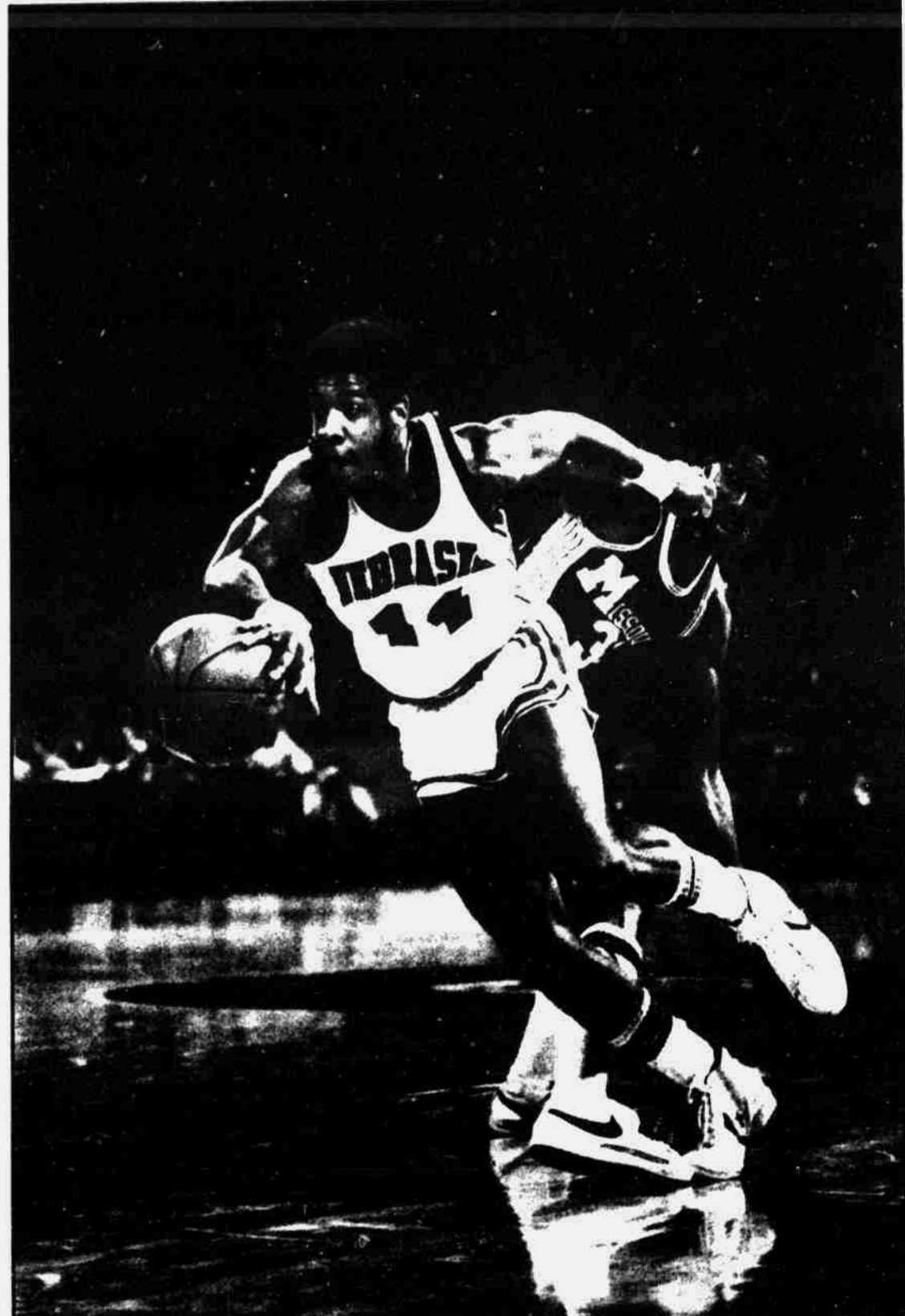
Kansas State, with an 18-11 record, upended tournament favorite Kansas University Friday night, 87-76. However, the Jayhawks ranked fifth nationally have received an NCAA berth with its 24-4 record.

The Huskers had an opportunity to play Kansas State Saturday night, but three costly turnovers in the last two minutes of play gave Missouri the win.

UNL led 58-55 when center Carl McPipe left the game with 5 fouls with 2:04 remaining. UNL failed to score again as Missouri took advantage of two bad passes and raced to a 61-58 final score.

McPipe ended up with 11 points and 8 rebounds while guard Brian Banks pumped in 12 points. But it was the play of all-tourney selections, Clay Johnson and Stay Ray, that boosted Missouri.

Johnson pumped in 20 points and Ray chipped in 18 points.



Photos by Ted Kirk

Scenes from Big Eight playoff tournament action Friday night in Kansas City's Kemper Arena. Clockwise from left: Nebraska's Brian Banks scoops up an errant ball. Half-time performances were offered by University of Missouri dancers. Gerard Myrthil drives around Missouri's Clay Johnson. A dejected Joe Cipriano comments after the game. Nebraska was eliminated from the tournament by Missouri 65-58.

### sports shorts

Louisiana State University, ranked third in the nation's gymnastics poll, handed UNL a 215.65 to 211.65 defeat at Baton Rouge Friday night.

UNL, ranked 11th nationally, had a high team score in the high bar with 37.05 points but still could not upend the Tigers.

The Huskers were led by Mark Williams who scored a 9.55 in the high bar and Barry Cook with an all-around score of 52.15. UNL's next meet will be at the Sports Complex, March 24, when they host the Big Eight Cham-

pionships.

Six women from the UNL's women's swim team qualified for nationals last weekend in the Region VI Swimming and Diving Championships at the University of Minnesota.

Jodea Eckstrom qualified in the 200-yard backstroke, Kristi Wells qualified in the one-meter diving competition, and two UNL relay teams also qualified.

The 400-medley relay team of Cindy Agee, Ellen Hollander, Eckstrom, and Anne Watland qualified with a time of 4:07.57. The 200-medley relay team of Agee, Hollander, Eckstrom and Jana Frymire also qualified for nationals.

Two UNL wrestlers qualified for nationals in the Big Eight Wrestling Championships at Stillwater, Okla. last weekend, but UNL scored only six points.

Court Vining, in the 158-pound class, and George Mink, in the 190-pound class, each placed fourth to qualify for nationals to be held March 16-18 in College Park, Md.

Oklahoma State University won the Big Eight title with 83 and one-fourth points while defending champion Iowa State University finished second with 78 points. Oklahoma University finished third, Missouri University finished fourth, Colorado fifth and UNL finished last.

The UNL women's tennis team continued its winning ways with a 9-0 dual win over Creighton University at the Sports Complex Saturday.

Singles winners for UNL included Joyce McVicker, Sue Sloboth, Vicki Maseman, Judy Huerter, Dee Pavelka, and Molly Matthews.

The doubles teams of Lori Kochen and Wendy Wiedman, Patti Briant and Janet Walz, and Sue Bauers and Karen O'Shea also won for UNL.