

# sports

## Home advantage to Mizzou again

Jack Shockley

When a team goes on a losing streak, it usually lasts for a couple of games.

But in the case of Nebraska's basketball team, that streak is approaching its fifth year.

The Cornhuskers, you see, have not defeated the University of Missouri on the Tigers' home court since 1974. They will be seeking only their second win in Columbia in the last 12 years when they face the Tigers Saturday night at 7:35 p.m. in Hearnes Fieldhouse.

Nebraska assistant coach Tom Baack said the home court advantage again will probably help the Tigers, but noted that the Huskers have been playing well on the road lately.

"We've lost some tough games to some pretty good people on the road, so there probably is something to their home court advantage," Baack said. "But we've been playing good ball on the road in our last couple of games, especially against Colorado."

The Huskers were beaten in that game on a driving lay-up with two seconds left.

In their previous road outing, the Huskers defeated Oklahoma 69-53 in the Big Eight Holiday Tournament, a game many observers feel was Nebraska's best this season.

Missouri is fresh off a 58-55 upset win over 20th-ranked Kansas Wednesday night in Lawrence. Baack said the Tigers, 6-9 overall and 2-1 in conference play, are playing better basketball now than earlier in the season.

### Good ball

"Missouri is playing good ball," he said. "They're handling the ball more and not running like they were early in the year."

The Tigers got off to a poor start this season, suffering through a seven-game losing string that included a 58-56 overtime loss to the Huskers in the Holiday Tourney.

But after a loss to Oklahoma State in the conference opener, they defeated Oklahoma on regional television and then beat Kansas.

The key to stopping Missouri is to contain the Tigers' Curtis Berry and Larry Drew, Baack said.

"Berry and Drew have been playing good ball lately. We're going to have to stop them in order to win," he said.

Baack said that Berry, last week's Big Eight Player-of-the-Week, will present problems for the Huskers.

"He's got good size and quickness and it's tough for big men to handle him inside," he said.

Berry, who moved from forward to center after starting center Lex Drum had knee surgery, has averaged 20 points a game since changing positions.

UNL continues to be plagued by poor free throw shooting. The Cornhuskers are shooting slightly less than 60 percent from the free-throw line, the lowest average in the conference. Against Kansas State Wednesday, they converted only five-of-13, a performance that nearly cost them the game.

### Free throws

"Free throws are just something you have to practice," Baack said. "I don't believe you can become a good free throw shooter during the season."

"The way everyone's been talking about it, it makes them think about it too much instead of just going up there and relaxing."

Baack said Husker guard Brian Banks is still bothered by a knee injury that forced him to sit out two games.

"He still doesn't have the quickness he had before the injury, and it's still got to be hurting him a little."

However, Banks played well against K-State, Baack said.

Missouri coach Norm Stewart said his team is wary of the Huskers.

"Nebraska is living up to its billing as a conference favorite," Stewart said. "If they had been able to win at Colorado—and they almost did—they would have had two wins on the road and been in the driver's seat."

"They're in good shape because they haven't lost at home," he said.

The Huskers, now 9-6 on the year, will be trying to break a four-way first place deadlock against Missouri, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa State and Oklahoma all are tied for first in the Big Eight with 2-1 conference records.

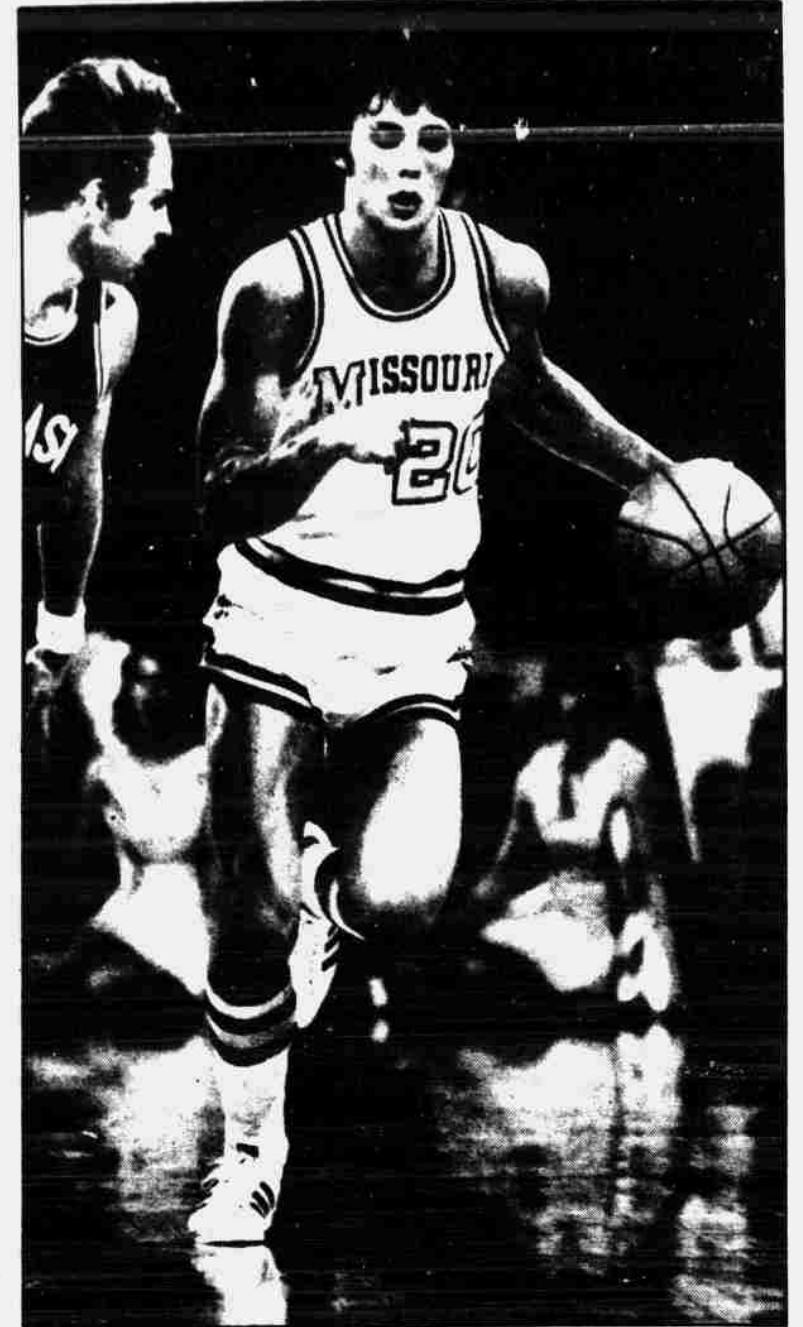


Photo by Bob Pearson

Missouri guard Kenn Stoechner drives against Jack Moore of Nebraska at the Big Eight Holiday Tournament. The two teams will meet again in Columbia, Mo. Saturday night.

## Crew team rows despite coach's actions, loss of frosh morale

By Kirk Wolgamott

Responding to charges by their former coach that his salary was not properly paid, a UNL crew team spokesman said Wednesday an agreement had been reached on his salary before the season and it was being followed when the coach resigned.

Nancy Weaver of the crew team said coach Frank Sands had agreed to a salary of \$4,000 which would be paid after the team had held fund raising activities. Sands had charged in the Dec. 15, issue of the *Daily Nebraskan* that the salary, which he said was \$3,000, had not been paid.

Sands caused a delay in payment when he ordered 10 extra oars, at the cost of \$1500, an expense which was not anticipated in the crew team's budget, Weaver said.

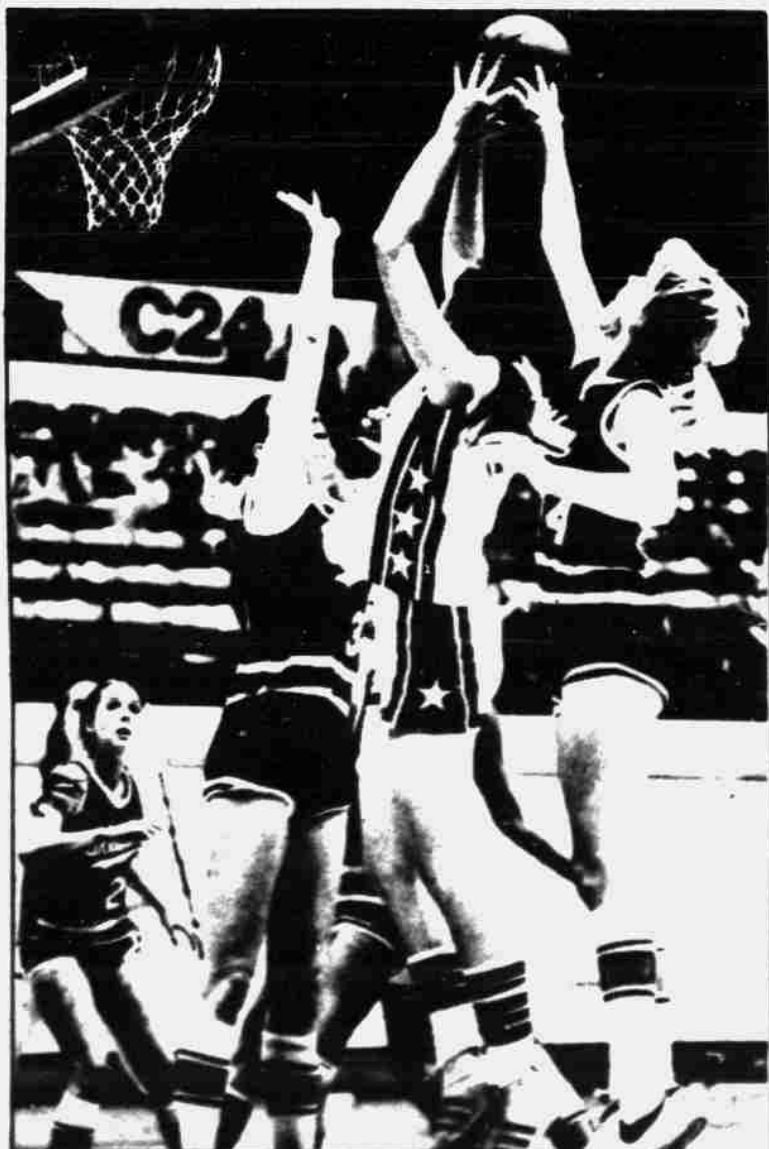


Photo by Mary Anne Golob

Nebraska's Janet Smith (42) captures the rebound from Sooners' Janet Freeman (14) and Barbara Johnson (31) in first-half play of the Big Eight Women's Basketball Tournament at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Sand's actions and comments had damaged the crew team, she said.

She said his actions caused a sense of mistrust and a loss of morale on the team, especially among freshmen.

"It really hurt the freshmen morale, but they are coming back now."

"Students just have to buckle down on their own and work together a lot more," crew team captain Jim Dalton said.

But he said, "The main point of crew is to compete and have fun."

Although they have had financial troubles, Weaver said team debts are nearly paid from money made by cleaning the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We should be in the black by the year's end," she said.

## UNL women win easily, face KU tonight

By Kirk Wolgamott

The Nebraska women's basketball team roared to a 28-point halftime lead and coasted to an easy 82-60 victory over Oklahoma Thursday night in opening round play of the Big Eight Women's Basketball Tournament.

The win moved the Lady Huskers in tonight's semifinals at the Bob Devaney Sports Center against Kansas, who was an 85-67 victory over Colorado. Kansas State, an 86-64 winner over Oklahoma State will meet at 6 p.m. Missouri, which trounced Iowa State 91-69, while Nebraska and Kansas will tangle at 8 p.m. today.

Forward Diane DeVigna scored 11 of her 13 points in the opening seven minutes to spark the Huskers to an early 23-7 lead.

The Lady Huskers stretched the lead to 46-18 at the half while shooting 54 percent from the field. Oklahoma shot a cold 35 percent. For the game UNL was 37 for 66 for a blistering 56 percent.

"The home court made the difference," UNL Coach Lorrie Gallagher said. "The girls wanted it real bad and they went out in the first half and proved it."

Mathaline Otis led the Lady Huskers with 16 points, and pulled down 12 rebounds. Following DeVigna's 13 points was Carol Garey with 12 points. A total of ten players scored for Nebraska. Janet Smith added nine points and eight rebounds.

Gallagher said Otis played a good game offensively and defensively and also cited DeVigna, Garey, Smith and Grainne Murray for their outstanding play.

"It was our most outstanding team effort so far this year," Gallagher said. "Our bench was fabulous."

Gallagher said her team will have to slow down and run their offense against the powerful Jayhawks.

"We'll fast break if there's room," she said. "But Kansas plays exceptional defense and they make a lot of steals."

The money raised is used for coaches' salaries and to purchase new equipment such as the new shell purchased in 1978.

According to Dalton, the outlook for this year's team is good. He said that they have an excellent women's team. The lightweight four crew was last year's champion in the midwestern spring meet held in Wisconsin.

Also cited by Dalton as possible Big Eight champions were both the men and women's freshmen eight.

Dalton also said that the excellent equipment coupled with their return practicing to Capital Beach, may help the Huskers defend their Big Eight championship.

"We're trying to get back on our feet. All it boils down to is student responsibility. It's really up to us now," Weaver said.

## Tourney to be televised

The Lady Huskers lost to Kansas 85-69 in an earlier meeting this year. But, Gallagher said her team is looking forward to another shot at Kansas.

"I think the draw on the tournament was good," Gallagher said. "The losing teams were placed in the right brackets and the remaining teams are close and it could go either way."

## Crew loses coach again

Live television coverage of the final game of the Women's Basketball Big Eight Conference Championship Tournament will be broadcast from the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday at 8 p.m. on the Nebraska Educational Television Network.

The final game concludes three-day competition. Defending champion Missouri returns with a strong team, with Kansas State, Colorado and Nebraska figured as strong challengers.

Lincoln sportscaster Dick Janda will provide the play-by-play commentary, and University of Nebraska at Lincoln Women's Athletic Director June Davis will offer color commentary.

## Crew loses coach again

The UNL crew team lost another coach Wednesday when Mark Potadle, the women's coach, resigned. Potadle cited a busy school schedule as the main reason for the resignation, according to Paul Koerner, freshman crew coach. Potadle was unavailable for comment.

Frank Sands, former head crew coach, resigned in December and the program still is without a head coach. Koerner said the varsity is helping out with the women's program until a coach can be found.