

sports

Huskers hope to bounce back after loss

After just one day of rest, the Nebraska basketball team is back in action tonight against the California State-Bakersfield Roadrunners at the Devaney Sports Center. Tip-off is set for 7:35.

The Huskers are coming off their first defeat of the season, a 78-56 loss at Purdue, the country's ninth ranked team.

Acting head coach Moe Iba said he was extremely proud of his team's performance in the first half of that game. The Huskers trailed by only two points, 33-31, at halftime.

"We played excellent in the first half," Iba said. "We played very smart and very alert basketball. We could have easily been ahead at halftime."

Iba said, however, that the team suffered some lapses in the second half. The Boilermakers outscored the Huskers 27-8 in the first ten minutes of the second half.

"We didn't play well in the first four or five minutes in

the second half, and that's all it took," Iba said. "Then we lost Andre (Smith) on fouls with nine minutes left. Purdue is a very good basketball team."

Iba said the loss could help the Huskers later in the season.

"I think it (the Purdue loss) definitely could help in the conference season if our team looks at it right," Iba said. "We played against some excellent talent, but if we'd have played the way we did in the first half for 40 minutes, we would have been right in it."

It could be a tired Husker team tonight. The team didn't arrive back to Lincoln until 1:30 a.m. Wednesday morning because of weather problems.

"We only practiced an hour today (Wednesday) to go through some things that California State-Bakersfield will do," Iba said. "The main thing we need to do now is to rest and get into the right mental attitude."

The Roadrunners are 1-2 on the season, losing to Sacramento State, 77-69 and Kansas 93-53 while beating Southern Utah State. Iba said, however, that the Roadrunners had two starters on the bench for disciplinary reasons against Kansas but should be at full strength for the Huskers.

Iba said the two Roadrunner players to watch for are their two senior guards, 6-5 Donald Towns and 6-4 Marcus Hays. Towns is averaging 12 points a game while Hays has 10 points a contest.



Photo by Mark Billingsley

Nebraska forward Tim West goes for the rebound in last Saturday's Creighton game. West is expected to start tonight against the University of California at Bakersfield. Tipoff is set for 7:35 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Through five games, Husker center Andre Smith still is the Husker's leading scorer and rebounder. The 6-7 junior has 93 points for an average of 18.6 points a game. Smith is averaging 10 rebounds a game.

Other Huskers in double figures are 6-4 forward Tim West with 15.4 points a game and 5-9 guard Jack Moore with 12.4 points a game. Moore leads the team in assists and steals.

Hayward backstrokes towards Olympics

By Ed McClymont

Whoever said that good things come in small packages might have been referring to UNL swimmer Sherri Hayward.

The 5-4, 120 pound, freckle-faced freshman from Columbus, Ohio hasn't performed like a freshman for the UNL women's swimmers. In her latest outing, she captured three first place finishes against Colorado State.

"It's hard to tell how freshmen are going to adjust to new programs, having to learn new techniques and differ-

ent coaching," said Head Swimming Coach Ray Huppert. "But she (Sherri) has accepted everything very well. She works hard and she's maintained quality. I'm a little bit surprised she's swam as fast as she has."

Hayward's high school didn't have a swimming program, so she swam in an Amateur Athletic Union program. She swam at the junior nationals (AAU) at Duke last spring and then swam at the senior nationals (AAU) at Ft. Lauderdale in August.

"I really like the team spirit here," Hayward said. "When you get tired it's a great feeling to have the team behind you."

UNL had an inside track recruiting Sherri because her AAU coach knew Huppert. Michigan, Alabama, Missouri and Iowa State all were interested in Hayward and she admits arriving at a decision was a difficult task.

"IT WAS one of the toughest decisions I'll have to make in my life," Hayward said. "My coach gave me lots of information on different schools. But it was my own decision."

Present UNL swimmers helped the recruiting process by calling Hayward last year and encouraging her to attend Nebraska.

Hayward is part of what Huppert calls "the finest recruiting year we've ever had on paper." Twelve freshmen, from Minnesota to North Carolina, are on the squad.

Hayward's three wins last weekend came in the backstroke and breaststroke. Huppert was pleased with the performance, but added that placing is not high on a swimmer's list of priorities.

"Our philosophy is first to see how we feel in the water, then we worry about our times, and finally our placing," Huppert said. He added that Hayward has been tried in practically every event.

"I'd rather swim in different events," Hayward said. "It gets boring swimming in the same events all the time."

Of all her events, the 200 backstroke appears to be Hayward's best shot at making it to the Olympic qualifying meet.

"I'm already matching my best times ever and my goal is to make it to the Olympic trials this June," Hayward said.

HAYWARD AND her teammates will be hosting the UNL Christmas Classic Friday and Saturday, which involves the men's and women's teams of UNL, high school and AAU performers. One of the obvious reasons for holding the meet is to help Nebraska in the recruiting area.

"It helps whenever we can bring potential recruits into our pool," Huppert said. "We have a very fast pool and when athletes come in and swim some of their best times it tends to inspire them."

Three hundred swimmers will be competing in the classic, according to Huppert. He also said that their facility is one of the few in the area that could handle such a meet. Officially the meet is sponsored by UNL and it is open to AAU members. The meet will not operate under NCAA rules.

Currently, the swimmers have already broken 10 of the school swimming records, a feat that has never been accomplished at UNL. Hayward is already the owner of five of those records. That success hasn't put Hayward's progress on hold, however.

"I feel I have a long ways to go," Hayward said. "I'm working a lot harder, and I think I'm doing a lot better."

Roundball records

Big Eight Basketball Standings

	W	L	PCT.
Missouri	6	0	1.000
Kansas State	5	0	1.000
Nebraska	4	1	.800
Oklahoma	4	1	.800
Colorado	3	1	.750
Iowa State	3	2	.600
Kansas	3	2	.600
Oklahoma State	3	3	.500

UNL baseball clinic Saturday

Nebraska's baseball staff will feature a free clinic on baseball fundamentals Dec. 15 in Schulte Fieldhouse. Managing the clinic will be NU head coach John Sanders, assistant Ron Johnette, graduate assistants Pete O'Brien and Tim Carroll, along with several current NU players.

For ages 8-12, the clinic will be from 9 to 11 a.m., and for ages 13-17, the clinic will be from 1 to 3 p.m.

Even though the clinic will be in the Fieldhouse, located directly north of Memorial Stadium, Sanders said all participants should dress warmly and bring their own baseball equipment.

In another Husker baseball development, Nebraska's Buck Beltzer Field is being expanded. Opened last season, the Astroturf complex had a seating of 936, but with a 390 seat addition, Beltzer Field will now have a capacity of 1,326.