

# Freshman makes changes, hopes for UNL victory

By Paul Martin

After changing from having a coach who wasn't concerned with defensive performance to one who stresses that facet of basketball, freshman Chris Leigh has had some adjustments to make.

Leight said her basketball coach at Platteview High School, Darrell Brandenburg, felt the game was won or lost at the offensive end of the court.

At UNL, Leigh said Coach Lorrie Gallagher is a strong believer in defense, which has caused her to change her priorities on the court.

An old knee injury that flared up in pre-season training has slowed the adjustment process, Leigh said.

"It doesn't really bother me," she said. "It just goes out at the weirdest times. But I get it taped now, and that really helps," she said.

### Prep athlete award

While in high school, Leigh said, she participated in volleyball and track in addition to basketball. Her all-around athletic ability earned her the 1979 Sunday Journal & Star Female Prep Athlete of the Year Award. But when it came down to deciding which sport to pursue in college, Leight said basketball prevailed easily.

"I always liked basketball the best," she said. "Maybe it was because that is what I was the best at," she added.

Her decision to come to UNL, was made

with equal ease, she said.

"I wanted to get to a major college and I wanted to stay in the state, so that kind of narrowed it down," she said. "Besides, both my parents came here and they were pushing it," she said.

### Disappointing finish

Leigh said she was satisfied because the team has played several good games, but said that their seventh-place finish at the Big Eight tournament was extremely disappointing.

"That was the lowest point in our whole basketball season," she said. "We didn't play as well as we are capable of. I think we showed that when we played Missouri (after the tournament) within two."

The Tigers were runner-up to champion Kansas in the Big Eight tournament and beat UNL, 65-63 on Feb. 6.

With the disappointing finish in the Big Eight, Leigh said the 17-13 Huskers have something to prove when they play in the sub-regional AIAW tournament.

"We have a good chance of winning our sub-regional if we play it right," Leigh said. "Most of the teams in it we have played before and know we can beat."

The sub-regional phase of the AIAW tournament begins Feb. 28. Until then, the Huskers will "just be getting ready for the tournament," according to Leigh.

The Huskers have four games left before the AIAW tournament, starting with a Friday night contest with Central Missouri State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

UNL freshman Chris Leigh (right) attempts to defend the basket against a UNO player.

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