

Sports

UNL's women cagers win despite slow game

By Ward W. Triplett III

It wasn't a thing of beauty, but the Nebraska women's basketball team did manage to beat Creighton despite nearly sleepwalking the game away.

"It was obvious to me that we were a much quicker team (than Creighton)" coach Kelly Hill said after the 75-70 victory improved the Husker record to 3-0.

"But, for some reason, we looked and played tired," she said. "We didn't play with much confidence or intensity."

Creighton, beginning the game with only nine players, led 12-10 when freshman guard Tanya Warren had to be taken out of the game with strained knee ligaments. Still, the Lady Jays managed to stay in the game by shutting out the Huskers during a four-minute period at the end of the half with nine points of their own, the 3-2 Lady Jays took a 37-33 lead into halftime.

It took five minutes for Nebraska to get the lead back at 43-41 on a steal and lay-up by Crystal Coleman. But Creighton, led by Conni Yori's outside shooting and baskets off the offensive boards, came back to lead by five again, 52-47 with 10:40 remaining.

Debra Powell, Cathy Owen and Terri Parriott then hit the next three baskets to give Nebraska back the lead and despite two driving lay-ups by Yori that momentarily swung the lead back over to Creighton, the Huskers gradually moved ahead. Another Yori basket tied the game at 64 with just under three minutes to play, but Angie Miller and Coleman hit baskets down the stretch to keep Nebraska on top.

"Nebraska finally wore us down at the end," Creighton coach Bruce Rasmussen said. "We're not very deep to begin with. Then, when we lost one of our key players who is also our best ball handler against the press, that really hurt us."

Yori, a member of last year's all-American freshman team, made 13 of 22 shots and six free throw attempts to finish with 32 points. She also got 12 rebounds despite having to take over for Warren as the Creighton point guard.

Debra Powell played all 40 minutes for Nebraska and finished with 20 points. Coleman, Kelli Benson and Miller added 13 each, while Coleman had five assists and Miller eight rebounds for the third consecutive games.

"When we were patient against their press or their half-court defense, we got the shots we wanted," Rasmussen said. "Players have a natural tendency to want to play at a fast tempo like Nebraska does. But we're not going to beat anyone like that because we don't have that kind of personnel. We made the mistake of getting caught up in Nebraska's type of game."

The Huskers will play two more double-headers before the men's games, Wednesday against Missouri at Kansas City and Saturday against Texas A&M.

Hill said her team did need to play a close game, particularly against a team with a good shooter like Yori.

"We can go back to practice now and know what we need to work on," she said. "We tried three different people on Yori, and none of them really stopped her. You need a great defensive player to stop a player like that, and tonight we didn't have one."

Serious volleyball a tradition at Acacia

By Ward W. Triplett III

The Acacia fraternity takes a certain pride in its A league volleyball team. The six-man unit is the defending fraternity league champion and ranked No. 3 going into the all-university playoffs.

As if that weren't enough, all three Acacia volleyball teams went undefeated into the playoffs this season. The only blight was an early season forfeit by the C team. The B team is ranked No. 7, making Acacia, 2255 Vine St., seem like a spawning ground for men's volleyball power at UNL.

"In the rest of the fraternity league sports, we usually take a pretty good beating," says Bart Moore, who is regarded as one of the best players on the A team and on the recently formed Nebraska men's volleyball club. "So we take it out on the rest of the fraternities in volleyball."

Moore said Acacia was good at volleyball when he pledged as a freshman. His interest in the sport was expanded by watching his cousin, Marla Lichty, play for the Husker women's team. He since has played with Acacia, the Lincoln city league and in the



Staff photos by John Zoz

STOPPING THE BIG GUN — Two Nebraska players try to defend against the two players most responsible for Creighton's offensive success Saturday night. Top, Terri Parriott works against Conni Yori, while bottom, Dave Hoppen tries to shut off the pass to Benoit Benjamin.

Husker basketball foes face high-rise offense

By Kevin Warneke and Jeff Browne

Last year, Wisconsin was the worst team in the Big 10. The Badgers finished 8-20, but coach Steve Yoder says the difference between that team and his current team is like night and day.

"We're a year older now," Yoder said. "We still don't have a senior class, but the sophomores and juniors have helped our maturity."

Tonight, Yoder's "youngsters" face Moe Iba's Huskers in a 7:30 p.m. game at Madison, Wisc. The Badgers are 1-1 this season, having lost to Northern Iowa, but beating Southern Illinois.

"We want to play a controlled offense," Yoder said about the Husker game. "The only way we're going to win is to go inside."

Cory Blackwell, at 6-6, is one of three returning Badger starters. Blackwell averaged 18.4 points per game last year, and has picked up from where he left off, Yoder said.

"He is the one kid on our team who is a true athlete," Yoder said.

The Badgers will have height to their advantage at guard, a problem that does concern Husker head coach Moe Iba.

"But it will be our first game on the road this year," Iba said. "Our main concern will be to keep the tempo up."

The Huskers beat Creighton 65-56 Saturday led by Dave Hoppen's 27 points.

Nebraska could manage only a 34 percent shooting performance against Texas Tech Tuesday. But, the Huskers shot 55.5 percent from the floor against the Bluejays.

Saturday's locally televised contest also pitted Nebraska's Dave Hoppen and Creighton's Benoit Benjamin against each other. Hoppen's 27 points tied his career scoring high which he set against Kansas State last season. Benjamin, who picked up his third foul with 7:31 remaining in the first half, finished with 10 points.

Hoppen, who tried to guard Benjamin up front while relying on baseline help from Nebraska teammates, said he was surprised with the Creighton center's low scoring output.

"I was worried about him scoring 27 points, not me," Hoppen said. "After he got in foul trouble, my teammates got me the ball and he would foul me or I would score. And I scored a lot."

Nebraska assumed control early, leading for the first time on Hoppen's marker from the right baseline only 2:40 into the game.

The Huskers never looked back and built up a lead that reached 15 points on Hoppen's slam dunk with 2:59 remaining in the half. Nebraska went into the lockerroom with a 33-20 lead.

Nebraska remained in control in the second half, mounting a 15-point lead with 18:38 remaining from Stan Cloudy's jumper from the top of the key.

Creighton staged a mild comeback coming within six points, 60-54, when Nebraska went into a slow-down offense with 1:08 left in the game. But, John Matzke's free throw, followed by a pair of free throws by guard David Ponce wrapped the game for the Huskers.

Creighton coach Willis Reed said when his team fell behind early, he knew they would have a hard time closing the gap.

"We wanted to keep the game close," he said. "A 13-point lead by Nebraska is not what I was looking for (referring to Nebraska's halftime lead), four or five was what I wanted. I thought we played pretty hard, but we got some people in foul trouble early, and that hurt."

United States Volleyball Association.

"When I came in, the seniors and juniors were really good, and it's kind of like a tradition now," Moore said. "It's not that we rush people who are good volleyball players, but they do pick it up while they're here."

The current C team of John Dederman, Mark Christenson, Tim Stortz, Jim Ballard, Jay Weisler and Dave Cox is made up of freshmen and pledges, with the exception of Cox, an active who is playing in his first year.

The B team of Ray Stoupa, Bob Wolf, Bruce Froendt, Nick Foley, Lennis Keyes and Joe Hajek, and the A team of Moore, Keith Burns, Kurt Brown, Jeff Iverson, Kevin Willis and Terry Schaefer each started as units as the C team.

The trick to the domination, according to Stoupa, has been that Acacia takes the game seriously.

"Most teams are content to hit the ball over the net," Stoupa said. "We've practiced, and we can run plays. We have certain people who are setters, and certain people who are hitters. A lot of guys don't work it out like that."

Moore said the teams practice Sunday afternoons. He has tried to install a 6-2 offense, similar to the one Coach Terry Pettit uses for the women's volleyball team.

"It helps so much to know what the guy next to you is going to do," Moore said. "A lot of times, the ball can fall between two people because they're waiting for the other one to make a move. We don't have that problem very much because we do practice and figure those things out."

With its sophisticated attacks, Acacia has dominated most of its opposition. If it can get by Phi Gamma Delta or Phi Kappa Psi Tuesday, the A team expects more than enough competition from Lambda Chi Alpha, Moore said. Stoupa said Sigma Phi Epsilon has the team to beat in the B league.

Moore said either Total Sound, the Awesome Cybers or Scum of the Earth are the favorites to win the all-university title.

"It's real tough to beat those independent teams," he said. "We're limited to playing guys from the house, while they can go out and pick up good people from all over."