

Sports

Ivy still considering Huskers; won't decide until end of season

By Stu Pospisil

Maurtice Ivy is on Nebraska's "Most Wanted" list. The Omaha Central basketball player is also on the University of Iowa's list. And the University of Southern California's, and No. 1 Louisiana Tech's, and Minnesota's...

Considered one of the top five guard prospects in the nation, Ivy has been wooed by more than 150 colleges, including most top 20 schools.

After consulting with her parents and high school coach Paul Semrad, Ivy has narrowed her list to 10 schools: Nebraska, USC, Iowa, Louisiana Tech, Colorado, Nevada-Las Vegas, Missouri, Kansas, Arizona State and Minnesota.

Semrad said Ivy won't decide on a school until Central completes its season in March.

"We haven't talked about it lately," he said.

"My parents will play a large role in where I'll go," Ivy said. "They'd like to see me stay close to home. Nebraska is, I'm sure, where my parents would like me to go."

"If I have a lot of fans," the all-stater said, "they wouldn't have to go far to watch me play."

Husker Coach Kelly Hill said that without a doubt, Ivy is No. 1 on her recruiting list. Hill said Nebraska is one of Ivy's three top schools.

Iowa assistant Coach Jennifer Bednarek said Ivy visited the Iowa City campus on an unpaid visit several weeks ago, but she couldn't draw any conclusions.

"We showed her our program," Bednarek said. "We're proud of our fan support. We usually draw 2,500 to 3,000 fans for games."

Sonia Hogg, co-coach of top-ranked Louisiana Tech, said the Lady Techsters may be at a disadvantage because of the 700 miles separating Ruston, La. and Omaha.

"The distance could be a problem for her," Hogg said, "being so far from home. I don't know how that will affect our recruiting."

USC Coach Linda Sharp said Ivy was on her initial recruiting list, but they can't make a decision until they see her final grades. We try to recruit the whole person, so we're waiting to see what kind of student-athlete she is.

Semrad said the college coaches have abided with a recruiting plan he set up with the Ivy family. Most home visits were made before the season to get them over with, he said. He screens all phone calls and letters, which he gives to Ivy.

"I don't know where she keeps all of them," Semrad said.

"It's been a new experience for me," said the coach of the defending Class A state champions. "I wasn't sure what to anticipate."

"I've learned to deal with pressure," Ivy said. "It's nice knowing that colleges want you."

"It's been pretty hard to say 'no' to coaches. Louisiana State contacted me late, and they've been calling. That's where coach has been a great help."

Nebraska's Hill has a reserved seat in the Eagles' gym as she has watched

almost every Central game.

"Maurtice has all the skills to start as a freshman," Hill said. "Her athletic ability, her jumping ability, her transition game are excellent. She's suited for our kind of game."

"Maurtice could make an immediate impact here. I think that will be important (in her decision), and I definitely have pointed that out to her."

Ironically, Ivy had never seen a Husker game before this season, Hill said. She has come to Lincoln on her own since, and watched the Oklahoma State game Wednesday evening.

Ivy started recruiters on the path to her home as the second-leading scorer for the North squad in the National Sports Festival last summer.

"Since I was playing with college girls," Ivy said, "I think that if that's the way they play, there's a good chance to play a lot next season."

Ivy became Nebraska's all-time girls scoring leader with 42 points against Omaha Northwest this week. While Ivy averages 25 points and seven rebounds a game, she is proud of her defense.

Ivy has made more than 80 steals, a statistic Semrad likes.

"Defense is something Maurtice has worked on since she was a freshman," Semrad said. "I have no fears about putting her on the other team's best player."

Ivy also runs track, but said she is glad she still plays basketball.

"When I was young, I liked to play for fun," Ivy said. "When I was in junior high school, I wanted, if I kept playing, to get something out of it."

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Nebraska Basketball

The Women:
Nebraska (13-5, 3-3) at Kansas State (14-4, 4-1)
Ahearn Fieldhouse Saturday 7:35 p.m.

THE STARTERS:

Pos.	Nebraska	Yr.	HL	Pts.	Reb.
G	Kelli Benson	Sr.	5-7	8.3	3.1
G	Cathy Owen	Jr.	5-6	10.2	4.9
C	Angie Miller	Fr.	5-10	13.4	7.3
F	Debra Powell	Jr.	5-10	19.7	6.8
F	Stacy Imming	Fr.	5-8	7.2	2.3

Pos.	Kansas State	Yr.	HL	Pts.	Reb.
G	Sheronda Jenkins	So.	5-8	9.8	NA
G	Cassandra Jones	So.	5-7	12.1	3.7
C	Angie Bonner	Jr.	6-1	13.1	5.9
F	Jennifer Jones	So.	6-1	13.1	5.9
F	Carlisa Thomas	Fr.	5-10	4.8	4.4

The Series: Kansas State leads the series 16-1. The Wildcats defeated Nebraska twice last season by scores of 100-73 and 104-103. The lone Nebraska victory in the series was 68-65 during the 1978-79 season.

The Game: 11th-ranked Wildcats are coming off a 73-68 win against Iowa State in Manhattan Wednesday night. Nebraska defeated Oklahoma State 85-78 Wednesday.

Cathy Owen, a junior guard, led Nebraska Wednesday. The Ventura, Calif., native scored 21 points on eight of 12 shooting from the field.

"She's been playing well for us since Crystal (Coleman) became ineligible," Nebraska Coach Kelly Hill said. Owen, despite being a guard, is fifth in rebounding in conference play.

Wednesday's win gave Nebraska three consecutive wins. Kansas leads the conference and Kansas State and Missouri are tied for second. Nebraska is fourth.

"A win over them (Kansas State) would really say a lot for the character of our kids and our program," Hill said.

Nebraska's Debra Powell leads the conference in scoring and is third in the conference in rebounding.

The Men:
Nebraska (12-6, 2-5) at Kansas State (9-9, 1-4)
4:10 p.m. at Ahearn Fieldhouse



Craig Anderson/Daily Nebraskan

Junior guard Cathy Owen

THE STARTERS:

Pos.	Nebraska	Yr.	HL	Pts.	Reb.
G	David Ponce	Sr.	5-10	8.2	1.6
G	Eric Williams	Sr.	6-2	7.3	2.2
C	Dave Hoppen	So.	6-11	19.8	7.2
F	John Matzke	So.	6-6	4.2	2.2
F	Stan Cloudy	Sr.	6-4	13.1	6.6

Pos.	Kansas State	Yr.	HL	Pts.	Reb.
G	Jim Roder	So.	6-3	9.8	1.9
G	Eric Watson	Jr.	6-2	7.6	3.0
C	Alex Williams	Fr.	6-8	6.4	2.8
F	Eddie Elder	Jr.	6-9	13.6	8.1
F	Lafayette Watkins	Jr.	6-8	4.7	3.1

The Series: Kansas State leads the series 92-87. The Huskers swept the Wildcats in two games last season winning 59-43 and 56-45. Nebraska has an overall record of 7-28 in Ahearn Fieldhouse.

The Game: Kansas State is coming off a 75-69 upset victory against Iowa State Wednesday. It was the Wildcats' first conference win. The Wildcats' only loss at home this season was against 12th-ranked Oklahoma.

The Wildcats most consistent player this season has been Eddie Elder. The Tulsa, Okla., native is the player with whom Nebraska Coach Moe Iba said the Huskers have to be concerned. Iba said he didn't know who would have the responsibility of trying to stop Elder.

Iba said Nebraska's 54-52 victory against Oklahoma State in overtime Wednesday was much needed. The victory ended a three-game skid.

"I think any time you lose three games like that it shakes your confidence," Iba said.

Iba said junior forward Curtis Moore played well against Oklahoma State Wednesday. Moore filled in and scored two key baskets when John Matzke fouled out.

"I thought maybe the surprise was that he (Moore) did a nice job of covering (Joe) Atkinson," Iba said. "Maybe I haven't been fair to him, but I've been scared to play him against a player who's 6-6 or 6-7. I think he's going to start getting a lot more playing time."

A win against the Wildcats would bring the Huskers to .500 in the conference. Iba said Nebraska can't take Kansas State lightly.

"Kansas State's got a nice ball club," Iba said. "They've got as good a team as almost anyone in the conference."