

Nebraska basketball team goes west for Christmas vacation tournament



Joel Sartore/Daily Nebraskan

South Dakota's Scott Goodall battles Harvey Marshall for a rebound in a Nebraska victory this season.

The competition will heat up for both the men's and women's basketball teams in tournaments and tough away games during Christmas break.

Moe Iba's squad, 7-0 after an overtime victory at Texas Tech Saturday, will host Washington State Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center before heading to California-Irvine for the Cable Car Classic.

Washington State was predicted to finish last in the Pacific-Ten this season, but the Huskies have won five of six games.

At the Cable Car Classic, Nebraska may face its toughest opponents of the pre-conference season. Host Santa Clara has beaten UCLA. The only blight on its schedule so far is an 18-point thumping by Weber State. Cincinnati was 3-24 last season but is now 5-0. It's also the best start for Cincinnati since the 1977-78 season.

Nebraska will open the classic against Cal-Irvine, once a potential national threat when it starred Kevin Magee. But the Anteaters were 2-3 going into the games last week at Montana and Portland. Both victories came against Hawaiian teams last weekend.

The Anteaters are led by 6-6 forward Troy Carmon, a senior transfer from Colorado State and 6-10 Johnny Rogers, who transferred from Stanford. Rogers averaged 13 points per game for Stanford and was the Pacific Ten rookie of the year in 1982. He led the conference in field goal percentage as a sophomore. Rogers was averaging 24.2 points and 8.2 rebounds per game before the Montana and Portland games.

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