

Sports

It's a basketball weekend at NU



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Stephanie Bolli goes up for a shot against Missouri last Saturday.

'Improved' Cyclone women have depth, Wettig says

By Lori Griffin
Staff Reporter

Fresh from its first road-conference win in two years, the Nebraska women's basketball team will attempt to keep its two-game winning streak alive when it plays Iowa State Saturday at 5:15 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The women's game will follow the men's game, which will be televised regionally.

'They have shown that they are definitely underrated in the conference.'

— Wettig

The Cornhuskers, 9-7 overall and 2-1 in conference play, lead the series 13-5. The two teams split last year's games. The Cyclones won 81-74 in Ames, Iowa, and the Huskers defeated the Cyclones by 10 in Lincoln.

Iowa State may have lost in Lincoln last year, but Coach Pam Wettig said the team is improved. Iowa State lost the game in the last three minutes, Wettig said.

"We do not have the same depth as we did last year," Wettig said. "We have much better depth."

The Cyclones are 12-4 overall and 1-2 in conference play. Although the Cyclones' conference record may not seem very impressive, Wettig said, the team is much better than its record shows.

"We lost to K-State at the buzzer on a controversial situation and lost to Oklahoma by 23," Wettig said. "We beat Colorado at the buzzer also. The buzzer seems to be the diversity of the conference."

Nebraska coach Kelly Hill said "Iowa State is one of the most-improved teams in the conference."

"You have to give Iowa State a lot of credit because they have improved quite a bit over last year," Hill said. "They are playing consistent and smart and are probably one of the most underrated teams in the conference."

One of the reasons for Iowa State's improvement is the play of junior transfer Stephanie Smith. Smith, who transferred from St. Ambrose, was recruited by Nebraska and is Iowa State's leading scorer. She averages 18.3 points and 11.3 rebounds a game.

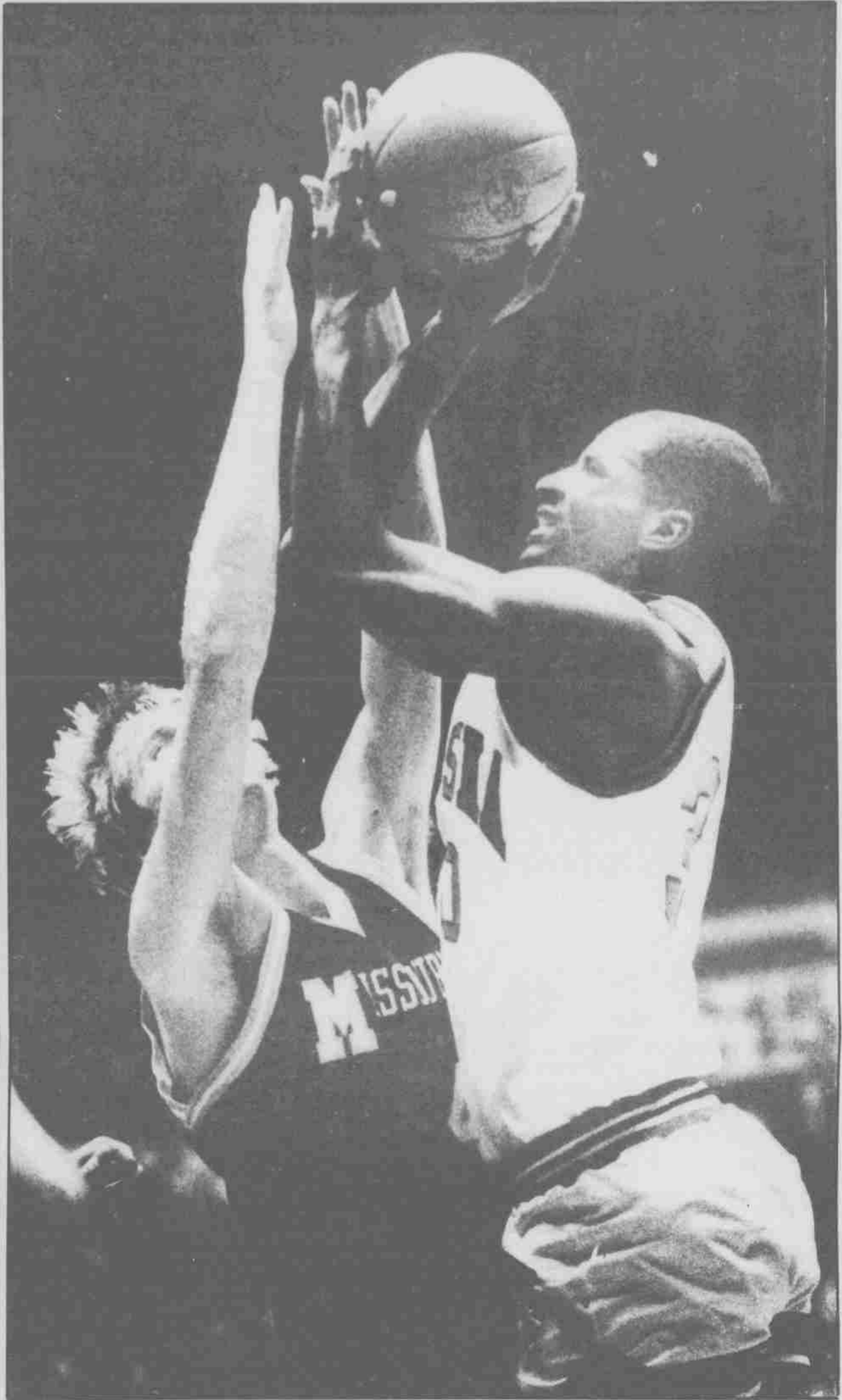
Iowa State has received some good production out of their co-captains, Wettig said.

The Cyclones co-captains are 5-7 senior guard Jane Lobenstein and 5-11 senior forward Monica Missel. Lobenstein averages 9.7 points a game. Missel averages 8.1.

"Nebraska should give us a great matchup," Wettig said. "They have shown that they are definitely underrated in the conference. I think that all of the teams in the conference are underrated (compared to the ones on the West Coast)."

Probable starters for the Cyclones include: Missel, Smith, Lobenstein, Sandy Hafner and Lisa Greiner or Etta Burns.

Probable starters for the Huskers include: Angie Miller, Stephanie Bolli, Shelly Block, Maurice Ivy and Amy Stephens.



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Bernard Day goes up for a shot over Missouri's Mike Sandbothe last Saturday.

Iowa coach says mistakes could cost team the game

Probable Starters

Iowa State (12-5)

F - Jeff Grayer 6-5 So.
F - Ron Virgil 6-4 Sr.
C - Sam Hill 6-9 Jr.
G - Gary Thompkins 6-3 So.
G - Jeff Hornacek 6-3 Sr.

Nebraska (11-5)

F - Bernard Day 6-5 Jr.
F - John Matzke 6-7 Sr.
C - Dave Hoppen 6-11 Sr.
G - Brian Carr 6-1 Jr.
G - Harvey Marshall 6-3 Sr.

Tip-off: 3:08 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

By Mike Reilley
Staff Reporter

Not again.

Iowa State will be in Lincoln on Saturday to meet the Nebraska men's basketball team, and Cyclone coach Johnny Orr said he expects a close game.

"The last three years we've had the same caliber teams," Orr said in a telephone interview from Ames, Iowa. "That usually makes for a close one."

The teams' records back Orr's assessment. The Cyclones are 12-5, Nebraska 11-5.

One difference: their conference marks. Iowa State is tied for second place with Missouri, at 3-1. Nebraska, after nipping Oklahoma State on Anthony Bailous' buzzer shot, is 1-2 in the Big Eight Conference.

The Cyclones won their third Big Eight game when they romped past Colorado, 90-62, Tuesday night in Ames. Jeff Grayer, the Cyclones' leading scorer, had 23 points against Colorado.

Orr said the final score didn't reflect either team's play.

"We just caught Colorado at a good time," he said. "They were coming off a couple of heart-breaking losses at home and they didn't play well."

Iowa State's only conference loss was a 95-82 setback at Oklahoma last week. Orr said his team played "tentatively" against the Sooners.

"We played pretty well though," Orr said. "We made a run at them down the stretch. We had four chances to cut their lead, but we couldn't hit."

The Cyclones must do several things to beat Nebraska, Orr said.

"We just can't make any mistakes against a team like Nebraska," he said. "We have to go at them offensively and defensively. They're well-coached and disciplined."

Another key, Orr said, will be to limit center Dave Hoppen's scoring, but not try and stop him.

"You can't stop him," Orr said. "I've said since his freshman year that he hasn't received the notoriety that some of the other big men have. If he got more television exposure, he would be the premier center in America."

The Cyclones' 6-9 center, Sam Hill, will cover Hoppen. Hill had 18 points in a 74-57 Cyclone loss in Lincoln last year. Hoppen had 19 points in that game.