

Sports

Iba concerned about CU's height

Probable Starters

Colorado (8-17, 0-12)
 F — Torin Williams 6-9 So.
 F — Matt Bullard 6-10 Fr.
 C — Scott Wilke 6-9 So.
 G — Mike Reid 6-1 Sr.
 G — Michael Lee 6-4 So.

Nebraska (16-9, 6-6)

F — Bernard Day 6-5 Jr.
 F — John Matzke 6-7 Sr.
 C — Chris Logan 6-5 Sr.
 G — Harvey Marshall 6-3 Sr.
 G — Brian Carr 6-1 Jr.

By Jim Ballard
 Staff Reporter

Nebraska plays its final regular season home game tonight against Colorado in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

ney Sports Center.

Cornhusker seniors Chris Logan, Harvey Marshall and John Matzke will play at home for the last time. Plus, during a pre-game ceremony, Nebraska's all-time leading scorer Dave Hoppen will have his jersey retired. It will be the first basketball jersey ever retired at Nebraska.

The last game Hoppen played this season was against Colorado. The Huskers won, 77-60. But the Buffaloes learned from that game, said Colorado assistant coach Floyd Kerr.

"Since we played them 25 minutes without Hoppen, we have an edge in that we know how to play them without him in there," Kerr said. "We changed our system slightly, and we'll play the same type of game that we did last time, hopefully with more intensity."

Colorado, which enters the contest at 8-17 with no wins in the Big Eight, has a height

advantage over the Huskers, something that Nebraska coach Moe Iba said he worries about.

"Right now, our team's not very big and that has hurt us in our last two games on the boards," Iba said. "Colorado is a good rebounding team, and they have a number of big players they can rotate inside that can hurt us."

Among those players are 6-10 freshman Matt Bullard and sophomore Torin Williams. Bullard leads the Buffs in scoring at 12.6 points a game and rebounding at 6.5 a game. Williams chips in with 11.8 points a game. Guard Michael Lee averages 10.4 a game.

Kerr agrees that Colorado's height could be a Buffalo advantage.

"To offset that, their overall quickness is better than ours, but if we can stick to our game plan and push it inside, it should be an interesting contest," he said.

Despite their 0-12 Big Eight record, Kerr said, the Buffs are playing better as the season winds down.

"We feel like we have come on in our last two games, and we're doing things now that we wanted to do all year long," he said. "Lately we've had the opportunity to win games, a situation we weren't in before."

"Our goal now is to win one, and then the next one. That first one is the toughest, but if we win, maybe we'll get some momentum going into post-season play."

Iba said a win tonight and Saturday against Kansas State would be important for the Huskers.

"You never know what's going to happen in post-season play, so the more wins you have the better," he said. "Plus, it's good to go into tournament play on a positive note."

Tip-off against the Buffaloes will be at 7:35 p.m. in the sports center.

Victory escapes NU as Ivy's shot fails in final seconds

By Geoff Goodwin and Todd Aron
 Staff Reporters

Nebraska's hopes for an upset win over Colorado were dashed Tuesday night when Maurtice Ivy's jump shot drew iron but no net.

Colorado held on for a 68-66 victory.

Nebraska 66

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Miller | 21 |
| Ivy | 17 |
| Bolli | 8 |
| Stephens | 8 |
| Block | 4 |
| Cotello | 4 |
| Hill | 2 |
| Soulliere | 2 |

Colorado 68

| | |
|----------|----|
| Carson | 26 |
| Tripp | 10 |
| Ford | 9 |
| Bankks | 7 |
| Turner | 7 |
| DeWitte | 5 |
| Holwerda | 4 |

Nebraska still had a chance to win after Colorado's Bridget Turner missed the second end of a one-and-one, and Nebraska grabbed the rebound with only four seconds left. They were unable to get off a shot.

Nebraska never led in the game but refused to die.

After trailing by eight, 32-24, at the half the Huskers made a run at the Lady Buffs to draw within two at 42-40.

Colorado made a spurt of its own, outscoring Nebraska 15-8 to take the lead at 57-48.

Even then Nebraska refused to give up. They chipped away at the lead, finally cutting it to 67-66 on Angie Miller's jumper with 53 seconds left.

Nebraska coach Kelly Hill said Ivy was the intended shooter on the Huskers last possession.

"That was the shot we called," she said. "We got a good screen. We just didn't hit it."

For Ivy it was the last shot in a disappointing shooting night that saw her hit 6 of 19 from the field.

But it was on defense that Ivy shone. Hill assigned her the task of guarding Colorado's playmaker, Bridget Turner. Ivy held Turner to 7 points but more importantly she forced Turner into committing nine turnovers.

"She (Ivy) put good pressure on Bridget," Hill said. "We wanted to pressure the ballhandler and deny (LeaAnn) Banks the ball."

Banks was held to seven points but grabbed 13 rebounds to lead both teams.

The spark for Colorado was sophomore Erin Carson who came off the bench to score 26 points. Colorado coach Ceal Barry praised Carson's performance.

"She kept the lead for us," Barry said. "She did some good things for us in the second half."

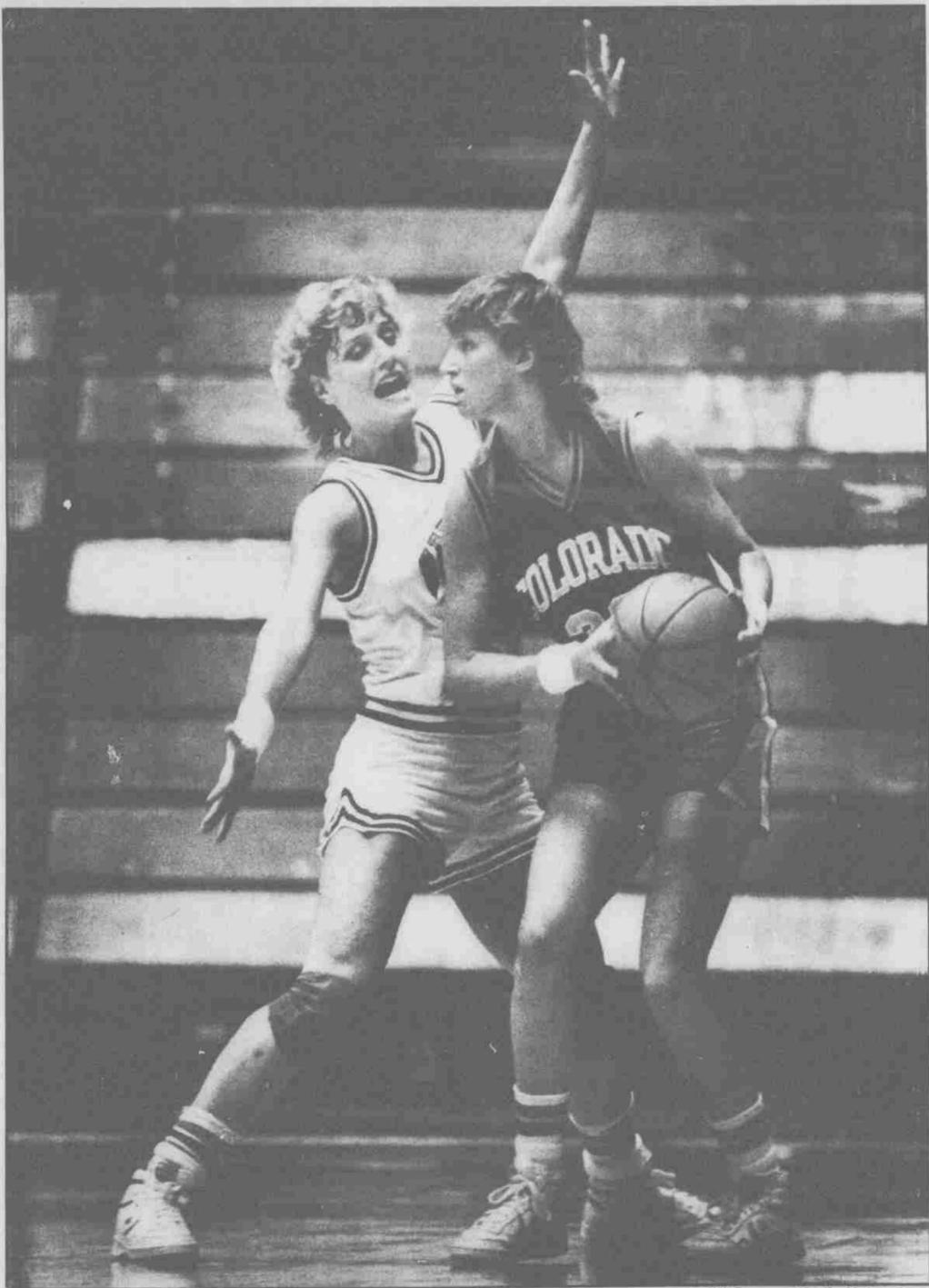
Hill agreed that Carson's play was a key factor in the outcome.

"She was a big plus for them," Hill said. "She gave us problems."

Hill said the key to Nebraska's comeback in the second half was playing better defense.

"We were able to take Colorado out of their offense," she said. "And we worked the ball inside a little more. We were more patient on offense in the second half."

The win improved Colorado's record to 18-8 and 8-5 in the Big Eight. Nebraska fell to 11-15 overall and 4-9 in the conference play.



Nebraska's Shelly Block, left, cuts off Colorado's Erin Carson from going inside with a pass during second-half action Tuesday night. David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Bullard leads Buffs in scoring

CU freshman surprised at his starter status

By Geoff Goodwin
 Staff Reporter

When Colorado freshman Matt Bullard started school last fall, he says, he never expected to be a starter for the Buffs.

"I expected to be a reserve, but I came out here and started playing in pickup games against some of the guys on the team, and I started improving," said Bullard, 6-10. "You get better by playing against people who are better than you."

Bullard said the jump from high school to college ball has not been easy.

"You always have to work hard," he said. "In high school, I was the best player on the floor, but here everybody's good."

Bullard, who is from West Des Moines, Iowa, visited Nebraska on a recruiting visit. But he chose Colorado after visiting Boulder.

"I liked everything," he said. "The atmosphere, the students, the players, the coaches. They were all great."

Before the season started, Bullard set three goals for himself: To average 15 points a game, 7.5 rebounds a game and to be named the Big Eight Newcomer of the Year.

Colorado's leading scorer has a chance of reaching the first two, but he has conceded the Newcomer of the Year award to Kansas State's Norris Coleman. "He definitely deserves it," Bullard said. "He's a tremendous player."

Bullard said he expects tonight's game with Nebraska to be different than the Cornhusker-Buffalo game earlier this season in Boulder, Colo.

"We're going to use a totally different defensive scheme," he said. "Before, we just concentrated on (former NU center Dave) Hoppen."

Bullard praised the Huskers, particularly Bernard Day, whom he guarded in the first game.

"(Day) had a great game against us; he was really impressive. We've got to shut him down," he said.

Despite Colorado's 8-17 record, Bullard said he has no trouble getting prepared for games.

"It's a lot of fun just to play," he said.

In fact, Bullard said he is optimistic about the rest of his career at Boulder, since the Buffs will lose only three seniors.

"I'm really looking forward to the future," he said. "I think we're really going to improve with Coach (Tom) Apke here. He seems really confident. He's one of the reasons I came here."

Bullard said that criticism of Apke for Colorado's season is unfair.

"It's not his fault as much as everybody thinks," he said. "We've had some close games and some breaks go against us. We could have a better record."