

Sports

Huskers to play

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

For the fifth consecutive season, Nebraska's volleyball team will be playing in the NCAA post-season tournament. Nebraska, currently ranked No. 6 in the nation, will face Pittsburgh in the first round Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Nebraska Coliseum.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he feels his team is playing well and they are ready for the tournament.

"I think the team is ready for this," Pettit said. "The practices have been a little crisper, and the team knows what they want to do. This is a different season and the players know that every game is for keeps."

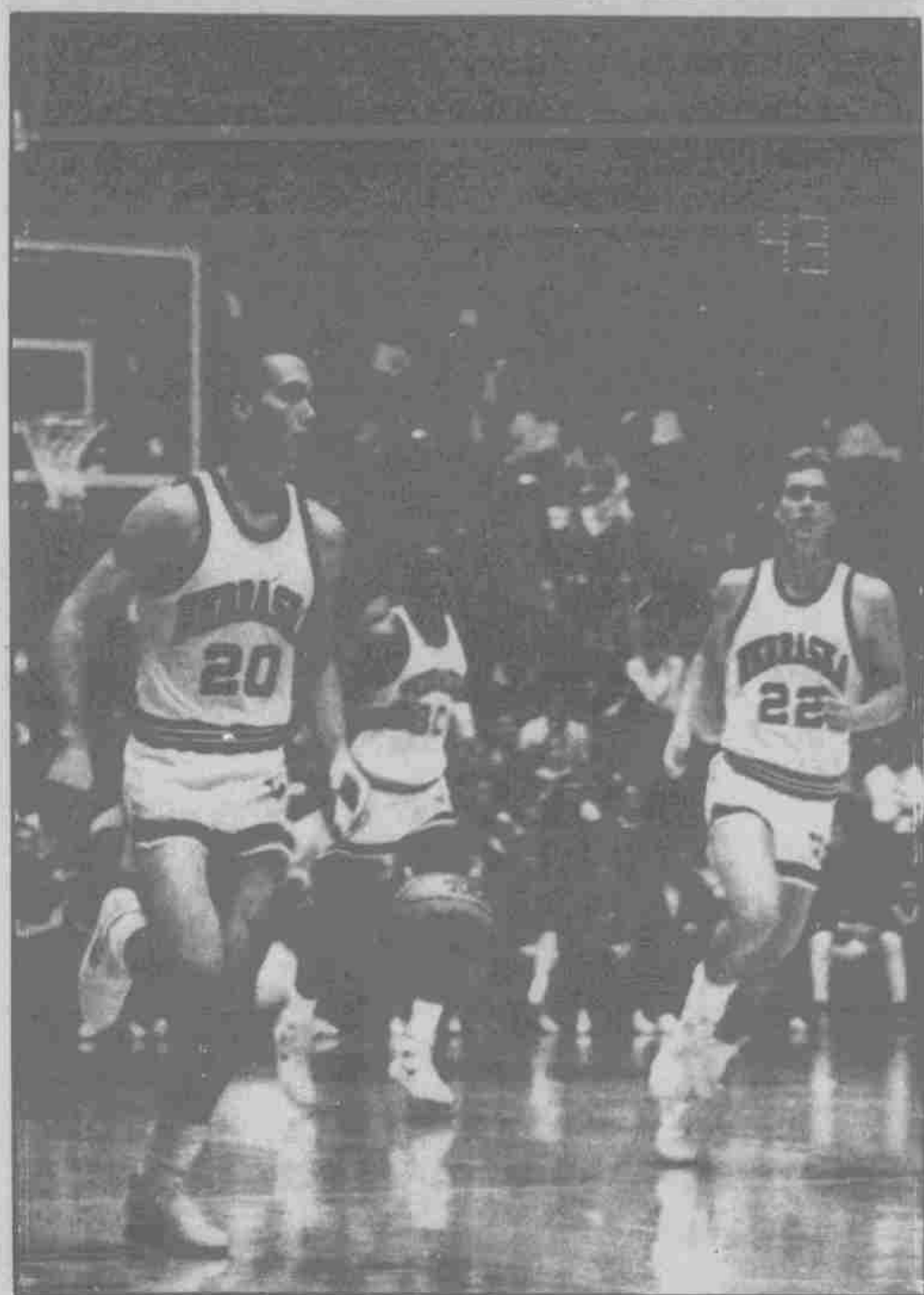
If the Huskers win Saturday's game against the Panthers, they will host the Midwest regional tournament and Sports Center Dec. 11 through 14.

Pettit said he thinks his team has a good chance of going to the Final Four in Stockton, Calif., Dec. 18 through 20 because of the way the tournament format is set up. No West Coast teams will be in the Midwest regionals this year. Only Midwest and East Coast teams will qualify.

Last year, the Huskers hosted the Midwest regional tournament and reached the finals but lost to Southern California 15-5, 11-15, 12-15, 7-15.

Pettit said this year's team is better because the players are more seasoned, are playing good defense and have been handling the ball a lot better.

See VOLLEYBALL on 8



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Cornhusker center Angie Miller takes a shot over Montana State defenders while teammate Stacy Imming moves in to assist during last week's Nebraska Invitational Tournament.

NU ready for swim meet

By Jeff Apel
Staff Reporter

The biggest challenge of the year will be awaiting the Nebraska women's swimming team when it competes in the Husker Invitational Friday through Sunday.

Nebraska Coach Ray Huppert said the invitational has the potential to be one of the top swimming meets of the year.

Among the teams who are competing in the women's portion of the meet are seventh-ranked Clemson, No. 19 Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado State and North Dakota.

"The way we look at it, it's going to give our athletes an opportunity to see how we do against some of the top competition in the country," Huppert said. "We see it as a real chance to enhance our performances."

Huppert said he wants his swimmers to shoot for NCAA qualifying marks rather than a team title.

With the field in the Husker Invite as strong as it is, Huppert said, there is a good possibility that several Huskers could trim their times enough that they could automatically qualify for the NCAA meet in March.

"The title is always important," Huppert said, "but our important priority is to get our cuts. If we swim fast, the team scoring will fall into place."

Clemson Coach Bob Boettner said that his squad will also try for national-qualifying times this weekend.

Boettner said that although his 3-1 squad is the heavy favorite entering the meet, he doesn't want it to feel pressure.

He said he has eased the tension by instructing his swimmers not to be concerned with the outcome of the meet.

If the Lady Tigers perform to the level they are capable of, Boettner said,

they should be able to capture their first Husker Invite title.

"We feel like we have to swim at our best level to win," Boettner said. "One reason we came was we were looking for a good, fast meet and I'm sure we have found one."

Boettner said his squad has been swimming good enough this season that it should be considered a legitimate contender for the NCAA title. The Lady Tigers' only loss this year is to No. 2 Florida.

Clemson is led by Pam Hayden, who swims the freestyle and butterfly. She previously competed on the U.S. National Team.

Huppert said that aside from Clemson and Division II North Dakota, the remainder of the field appears to be pretty evenly balanced.

Kansas has complemented its runner-up finish in last year's Big Eight meet by adding several talented recruits, Huppert said. New Mexico has some talented swimmers who could have an impact on the meet, he said.

What hurts the Lobos, Huppert said, is lack of depth.

"They in no way have the depth we have," he said, "but they do have great first swimmers."

Colorado State — another entry for this weekend — defeated the Huskers 149-119 in a dual meet earlier this year and then edged them for the team title at the Wyoming Relays.

Huppert said despite the two losses to Colorado State, Nebraska will carry no grudges against the Golden Rams.

"That's behind us," he said.

Tickets for the Husker Invitational can be purchased at either the Nebraska ticket office or the ticket booths located just outside of the Bob Devaney Sport Center pool. Friday and Saturday's portion of the meet will begin at 11 a.m., with the final for both nights slated for 6. Sunday's final session of the meet will begin at 8 a.m. with the final session starting at 2 p.m.

Tennis competitors defeated at tourney

Nebraska's Steven and Stuart Jung both were defeated Wednesday at the ITCA Clay Court Qualifying Tournament at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Steven was defeated by Mark Keil of

Southern Florida University 6-3, 7-6, while Stuart lost to Grant Fitzsimmons, also of Southern Florida, 7-5, 6-2.

Nebraska's men's spring tennis season begins Jan. 9, 1987 at the Milwaukee Tennis Classic in Milwaukee, Wis.

Jays a natural rival

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee sees the Nebraska-Creighton game as a great natural rivalry.

"When you have two quality programs 45 miles apart, it's built for a rivalry," Nee said. "It's hit some low points but it's on the increase again."

"The state is big enough to have two quality Division I programs."

The Cornhuskers take their 1-1 record to the Omaha Civic Auditorium Saturday to battle the Bluejays.

Creighton is off to a good start this season. The team upset Iowa State in its season opener Tuesday, 80-65.

"We're very impressed with what we know of Creighton," Nee said. "They're off to a great start and their win over Iowa State was impressive."

The Bluejays will have a slight height advantage when they play Nebraska. They're led by two freshmen, Mike Pomeroy, a 6-11 center, and 6-6 forward Todd Wisner.

Another freshman, Matt Roggenburk, leads the Jays in scoring, rolling up 19 points against Iowa State after coming off the bench.

Senior guard Gary Swain pumped in 16 points against the Cyclones and was followed closely by forward Kenny Evans with 10. The 6-4 Swain also hauled in 11 rebounds Tuesday.

Nee said he is also impressed with Creighton coach Tony Barone.

"They are playing a really great team game with a lot of enthusiasm and

they're playing hard," Nee said. "They have a lot of patience and take the right shots. On defense, they play really hard-nose, man-to-man and mix their defense well."

The Huskers have won the last six contests between the two schools, including the last three on the Bluejays' home court.

Last season Nebraska led by only one point at halftime, but pulled away in the second half for a 19-point victory in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nee said Nebraska's performance against Creighton in the past is unimportant to him.

"Danny Nee's won none in a row, so it doesn't matter," Nee said. "It's a big game and it's important, but every game is important. You have to take one at a time. The next game is always the most important."

Nee said guard Brian Carr and forward Bernard Day are recovering from their injuries.

"Brian practiced yesterday, but we kept him out of contact," Nee said. "Bernard has a very tender hip, but he practiced yesterday in a limited role. I think both will be back at about 95 percent today."

Carr landed on his head in the Oregon game after being fouled on a drive to the basket. He received a bruise and temporary loss of vision caused by a migraine headache. Day suffered a bruised hip in the California-Irvine game.

The two teams will again square off in Lincoln on Jan. 3. Tip-off for this week's contest is set for 7:30 p.m.

Miller leads team

By Jim Ballard
Senior Reporter

Angie Miller's Nebraska basketball career almost never happened.

"I always wanted to play here, but Nebraska never recruited me," Miller said. "They thought I was too slow and couldn't play, but after we won the State Tournament, they offered me a scholarship."

Not only did she accept it, but the senior from Clintonia stepped in early and has been a starter for the past three years.

Miller enters her final season as Nebraska's No. 3 all-time leading scorer. She ranks No. 7 in rebounding. Last season she earned honorable mention in all-Big Eight, scoring double figures in 26 of the Cornhuskers' 27 games.

With the arrival of coach Angela Beck, Miller has a positive attitude on this year's team, something that wasn't there in the past.

"The biggest thing she brought was the idea of teamwork and to believe in ourselves. That's something we never did before," Miller said.

Miller, who is a team captain this year, leads a group that returns with all five starters from last season. She said she feels the experience will definitely be an advantage as the season gets into full swing.

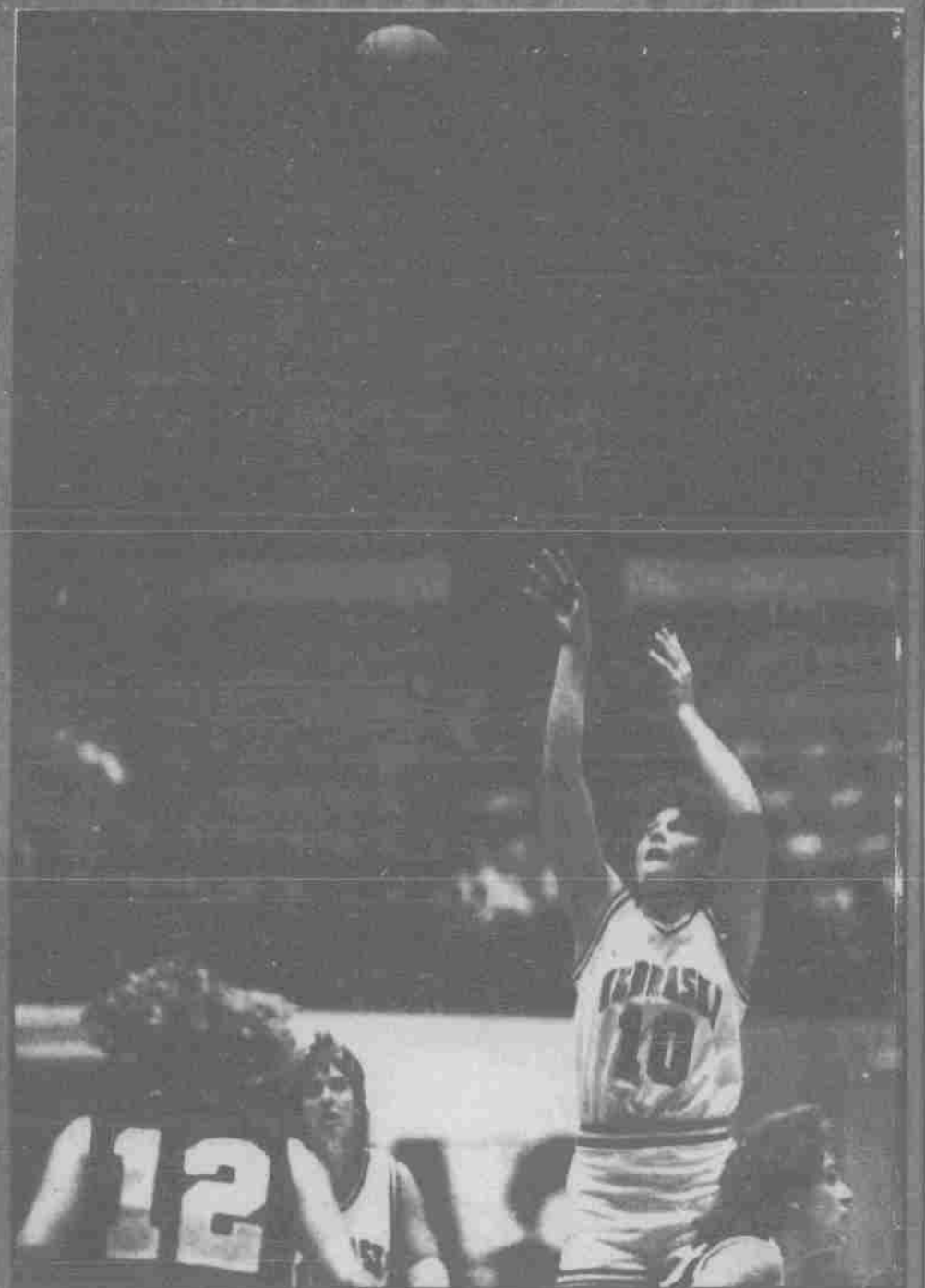
"It will help a lot that all the starters are back," Miller said. "It really helps to have been playing together the last two or three years."

Even though Nebraska loses size, Miller, who at 6-0 is the tallest starter on the team, doesn't see that as a hindrance.

"We don't use height as an excuse," she said. "We have to live it and do other things right to compensate for it."

"In fact," Miller said, "I usually remember things that are hard to remember. They think they should know of somebody shorter than them."

Although Miller has earned post-season honors and has averaged 12.7 points a game this past season, she said she doesn't see that as a trip to the NCAA tournament.



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska guard Brian Carr brings the ball downcourt Monday against Oregon as Bernard Day (20) and Joel Sealer (22) move into position. The Cornhuskers will try to improve their season's 1-1 record Saturday night against Creighton.

year, she said she doesn't strive for show personal goals.

"I really don't have any (goals)," she said. "Just to win and to place in the top four in the conference."

Miller believes the way to get that top-four finish, and possibly even a trip to the NCAA tournament

comes down to the basics.

"We have to execute our offense and play the same over and over, where we have to hustle and play scrappy and believe in ourselves," Miller said. "If we play really hard and be intense every game, nothing is impossible."