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## Sports Tubbs not overlooking Husker game The other Oklahoma starter is 67 senior

## By Tim Hartmann Staff Reporter

With Oklahoma coming off a nationally televised 86-82 victory over North Carolina State on Sunday and a game against Missouri on Saturday, the tendency might be to think Oklahoma will overlook Nebraska in tonight's game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"No," Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said. The Nebraska game is more important than the N.C. State game because it's a conference duel," he said.

Oklahoma comes into tonight's game with a 17-3 record and a No. 8 national ranking. In Big Eight Conference play the Sooners have posted a 5-1 mark and now are tied for first place with Kansas and Missouri.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said Oklahoma's success in basketball the last few years shows that the school is more than a football power. "How can you say Oklahoma is a football school when the last four years they've won 26 games in basketball (per season)?" he said.

Nee said Sooners deserve their high ranking because their talent is well-used.

"They have all the ingredients of being a nationally ranked team," Nee said. "They're quick, they're strong, they're very explosive offensively.

"Tubbs really uses them to their strengths," he said. "They attack the basket, they're very explosive, and I have a lot of respect for them." Tubbs said he thinks Nebraska will be a tough

opponent. "Nebraska has a good team," he said. "Brian

Carr is an outstanding point guard, and Danny's done a good job with the talent he has. They're not big, but they can play."

Oklahoma's starters are averaging at least 10

points per game which makes the team more difficult than Missouri, Nee said. Missouri defeated Nebraska 87-71.

"Oklahoma is more diversified than Missouri," Nee said. "They're much more explosive than Missouri. Where Missouri has one or two really powerful scoring threats. . . any of those guys can get 20, 25 (points) on a given night if they get hot," Nee said.

Tim McCalister, a 6-3 senior guard, leads Oklahoma in scoring, averaging 20.4 points per game. Darryl Kennedy, a returning all-Big Eight selection, is second in scoring at 16.6 points per game.

Two junior-college transfers, Harvey Grant and Ricky Grace, are next in scoring at 15.4 and 11 points per game, respectively.

"We usually have some J.C. players on the team, and they've always adjusted well," Tubbs said. "Their success hasn't surprised me." The other Oklahoma starter is 6-7 senior forward David Johnson. He averages 10 points and 6.6 rebounds per game.

"Johnson is really, really playing well and playing with a lot of confidence," Nee said. "He's on that new diet. He's melting down to 265."

The Oklahoma game will be the 110th consecutive game played by Brian Carr as a Cornhusker, one game short of Dave Hoppen's and Greg Downing's Nebraska record for consecutive games played.

With two seconds left in last year's game, Carr gave Nebraska a 66-64 victory on a 15-foot jump shot. The loss dropped Oklahoma's record to 4-7 overall in the sports center.

But Tubbs is not interested in the past or in comparing past teams to this year's squad.

"We're not interested in what happened last year or two years ago," he said. "We're interested in what's going to happen tomorrow."

