

Sports

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee said at his weekly press luncheon Monday he was happy with the 68-65 victory Nebraska posted at Colorado on Saturday, but he thought his team could have played better.

"I think we could have played a lot better Saturday," Nee said. "On Saturday's game, the pleasing thing was when the game was on the line certain players performed well."

Nee said he was especially pleased with the play of seniors Brian Carr and Bernard Day, as well as junior Henry Buchanan.

"I thought Bernard Day really wanted the ball in a pressure situation and scored some key baskets," Nee said. "I thought Buchanan made the free throws with the leadership and that Brian Carr had a sense of control, a smartness about him."

"With 30 seconds left to go in the game, sometimes a lot of people go blank," Nee said. "I really thought that a lot of our guys did the things the right way at the end of the game to win it."

The game was Colorado's 25th consecutive loss in Big Eight Conference play. Nee said that Colorado has a good team and should break the streak soon.

"I think we dodged a bullet out there. I really thought that they played well enough to win," Nee said. "We were lucky enough to



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska coach Danny Nee ponders a question during his weekly press luncheon Monday.

win. I really feel that their day is coming. I think they'll get someone soon."

A number of Cornhusker players have some small injuries right now, Nee said, which is affecting the way they practice and play.

"We've got a lot of nagging injuries — a sprained ankle on Anthony Bailous, a sprained ankle on Keith Neubert," he said. "Derrick Vick is not recovered yet; he's still limping

around. He's not going to practice today."

"The three sprained ankles really affect us because they're front line (players)," Nee said. "When they (are) at 100 percent they've got to work extra hard. When they have nagging injuries that affect their mobility, it hurts us more."

Nee said that forward Bernard Day has a jammed thumb. Of the injured players, Vick is the most questionable for this Wednesday's game with Iowa State, Nee said.

Since the Huskers are now in Big Eight play and post-season play is drawing near, Nee said he expects his players to play with small injuries.

"This time of year you have to play with little injuries, you have to practice with little injuries," Nee said. "As long as they're not detrimental to your health, I think you have to find a way of playing."

Nee said he feels that both of Nebraska's games this week — Iowa State Wednesday and Kansas State on Saturday — will be difficult. Earlier this season, both teams defeated Nebraska on the road.

Iowa State broke Nebraska's press, out-rebounded the Huskers and "scored at will inside or outside," Nee said.

"They manhandled us in Ames," Nee said.

Kansas State, who defeated Nebraska 114-82 to open the Huskers' Big Eight season, is one of the most improved teams in the conference, Nee said.

Nee says team must play hurt down the stretch

Rekeweg pleased at Nebraska

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Jeff Rekeweg's road to Nebraska has had a number of detours, but he's glad to be here.

Rekeweg, a 6-6 junior forward, went to DeKalb High School in Waterloo, Ind. As a senior he was an all-state selection and was named the area player of the year. Rekeweg accepted a scholarship offer from Valparaiso, and went to that school with hopes of coming in and playing right away.

"I signed with Valpo early in my senior year," Rekeweg said. "I thought it would be the ideal situation — go to a small school and dominate, start as a freshman."

During his freshman year at Valparaiso he saw playing time, averaging 16 minutes a game. He started one game that season and finished with averages of 6.7 points and 2.5 rebounds a game.

However, Rekeweg wasn't happy at Valparaiso because he felt the coach wasn't truly into the team, and had no real ambition to turn Valparaiso's program around.

"The coach was happy where he was at," Rekeweg said. "After playing all out all my life I couldn't just sit there. I couldn't just vegetate for four years."

And so Rekeweg transferred to

Southern Idaho Junior College, in Twin Falls, Idaho where he played his sophomore season. Rekeweg said he was much happier with the coaching staff at Southern Idaho. It showed on the court, where he averaged 10 points and six rebounds a game.

Then Rekeweg transferred to Nebraska. Rekeweg said that Nebraska's facilities and coaching staff, especially Coach Danny Nee, attracted him to Nebraska.

"I had heard a lot about the facilities and I had heard a lot about Coach Nee," he said. "I came here on a (recruiting) trip and I was really impressed with the facilities."

This fall Rekeweg came to Nebraska and planned to participate in the Cornhuskers' pre-season workouts. He was shocked when team doctors discovered he had a hernia.

"I had no idea," Rekeweg said. "We had our team physicals and they found it then."

Rekeweg underwent surgery to correct the injury, and he said that right now it doesn't affect his playing. It slowed his progress, though, because it forced him to miss several pre-season practices.

"I'm 100 percent right now," Rekeweg said. "It was just getting back (into playing form that was difficult). Once

that happened, I couldn't lift or play for six weeks."

After falling behind the team, Rekeweg is finally back in playing form. He has seen action in only nine of the Huskers 21 games, and the lack of play may be why he is only shooting 30 percent from the field this season, he said.

"My shooting percentage is as low as it's ever been in my career," he said. "But it's kind of hard when you're not playing to get into the flow of the game."

Rekeweg said he is pleased with the low number of turnovers he has committed this season and he thought that he's played "fairly well," overall. His best game of the season probably came against Northwest Missouri State, when he came off the bench to lead the Huskers in steals with three and tie Bernard Day for a team-high seven rebounds.

Even though Rekeweg has not seen a great deal of playing time he said he's happy to be at Nebraska. He feels the program is improving, he said.

"I like it. I'm really impressed," he said. "It's on an upswing, I feel."

Rekeweg, a finance major, said he also likes Nebraskans and the university. "The people are nice, the school is challenging — I really like it."

Depth supports tennis team in Las Vegas dual victories

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's tennis team traveled to Las Vegas last weekend and won all three of their duals.

Coach Kerry McDermott's Cornhuskers defeated the University of Nevada-Las Vegas 5-4, Murray State 6-3 and the University of Nevada-Reno 8-1.

The matches were at the UNLV courts.

McDermott attributed the Huskers' success to their depth, particularly at the Nos. 4, 5 and 6 singles positions and the No. 2 doubles position. Ken Feuer, Brad Scheidegger and Pat Carson rotated at the No. 5 and 6 position and

each won two matches and lost none. Mike Marsh, Nebraska's No. 4 player won 2-1.

The No. 2 doubles team of Stuart Jung and Robert Sjolholm went 3-0. At No. 1 doubles, Marsh and Steven Jung posted a 2-1 record.

"Our doubles play was really good," McDermott said.

McDermott said he wasn't as pleased with the play at the Nos. 1, 2 and 3 singles positions. Steven Jung, Sjolholm and Stuart Jung occupied the three positions, respectively, and each were 1-2.

McDermott said he'd like to see some improvement at his top positions.



Joe Dorcak/Daily Nebraskan

Heads or tails?

Nebraska's Crystal Savage dismounts from the balance beam during the Heartland Invitational Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Cornhusker women finished second in the meet to Arizona State, and the men tied Oklahoma for first place.

UNL wrestlers surprise Oklahoma

By Rob White
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's 22-10 dual wrestling victory over Oklahoma Friday came as a surprise to many, but not to everyone.

"I'm sure many expected it other than the people in our wrestling room," Nebraska coach Jim Neumann said. "It's been 39 years since we've beaten Oklahoma. I'm sure a lot of people thought that it would just be a matter of time, but nobody really thought we would beat them."

Nebraska wrestled with matches in the first three weeks of the season to come from behind and win.

In the 177-pound class, Cody Olson knocked off Oklahoma's Joe Siskind by a 10-0 margin. In the 150-pound class, Travis Johnson defeated Mike Rader by a 10-0 score. Both duals were high-scoring and exciting.

"That's the kind of thing that we want," Neumann said. "When you get rolling like that it can really help your self-confidence."

Nebraska may have started to turn the momentum around in the

167-pound matchup when John Cory scored a takedown with five seconds left in the Mark Rollins 6-4.

"At least 700 paper there were some surprises, based on past performances," he said. "At 110 (pounds), when you get a true freshman against a senior you certainly don't expect a pin, but Jason Kolber did a super job for us."

Kolber pinned nationally-ranked Chris Bellis to start the dual.

In a matchup of rated wrestlers, Nebraska's Bill Ferris, (ranked No. 10) battled to a 4-4 draw with Oklahoma's Darren Higgins, ranked No. 3 nationally.

"The match at 150 (pounds), was a little bit surprising because Kevin Turner, who had been wrestling at 160, had lost to Higgins several times, but Ferris probably wrestled better than Higgins," Neumann said.

The upset victory over Oklahoma's dual record is 11-1, while Oklahoma's match slipped to 2-2, heading into the meet. Nebraska was ranked No. 11 by the National Wrestling Coaches Association poll and No. 15 by Amateur Wrestling News. The Sooners were ranked No. 11 and the

14 in the two polls.

Neumann said the win over Oklahoma, the defending Big Eight champion and national runner up will put the Huskers in a good frame of mind heading into the Big Eight Conference Tournament beginning March 7.

"That's the first time in recent years that we've beaten one of the big three (Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Iowa State) in the conference," Neumann said. "That will give us a lot of confidence heading into the conference tournament."

One Nebraska wrestler who appears to be a shoe-in to qualify for the national tournament is 134-pounder Gil Sanchez, who ran his record to 27-1 with a 20-0 technical fall over the Sooners' Dave Cherry.

The top four Huskers in the conference automatically qualify for the national tournament.

Nebraska travels to Cedar Falls, Iowa, Friday for a dual with another nationally ranked team, No. 3-ranked Northern Iowa.

"We'll have our hands full again," Neumann said.