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**Ivy leads team on and off the court;
all-Big Eight forward out for record**

By David Mussman
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's all-Big Eight forward Maurtice Ivy said she feels she's on her way to her best season yet, leading the Cornhuskers to a possible Big Eight championship this season.

Ivy, a junior from Omaha Central High School, is starting for the third straight year and climbing the list of Nebraska record holders in both scoring and rebounding.

Ivy said she feels responsible for the success of the team this season.

"I'm a leader on and off the court," Ivy said. "I have to give everyone else on the team my support."

She said, however, that Nebraska's coach, Angela Beck, has made the biggest impact on the team this year. Ivy said that Beck has brought the team together and established herself well as their new coach.

Averaging 23 points and eight rebounds per game, Ivy is making a sizable impact herself. She set a new all-time Nebraska individual game scoring record with 46 points against Illinois. She has also had double figures in scoring and rebounding in five games this season.

In high school, Ivy led the state in scoring for three years. In her last two seasons she led Omaha Central to a 50-0 record and two consecutive state championships.

Ivy said she chose Nebraska over 200 other schools that recruited her.

"I came here mainly because of my parents," Ivy said. "It's close to home so my parents can come see me play."

As a freshman, Ivy averaged 14 points per game and 5.5 rebounds. During her sophomore year she improved those marks, scoring 531 points (19.7 per game), pulling down 233 rebounds (8.6 per game) and leaping for 27 blocked shots. She led the team in all three areas.

Ivy said that despite feeling the responsibility to achieve equal or better performances this season, she doesn't feel any pressure.

"Handling the pressure is just something I'm used to doing," she said.

"I think we can win the Big Eight this year," Ivy said, "and I'd like to see us go to NCAA's too. I want us to get established in the polls."

Ivy says she is working to make all-Big Eight for the second consecutive season as well as second-team All-American. Ivy said she hopes to make first-team All-American as a senior next year.



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Maurtice Ivy puts up a shot over an Oklahoma State defender two weeks ago. Ivy scored 26 points in the 75-61 Cornhusker win.

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