

Sports

Nee says play of Carr, Buchanan gives Huskers edge in close games

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

The credit for two consecutive overtime wins last week should go to the seniors on the Nebraska basketball team, Coach Danny Nee said at his weekly press conference Monday.

"It was just a great way for them to end the regular season," Nee said. "I

just think that they have really done so much."

The Cornhuskers defeated Oklahoma State 79-77 Wednesday night in Stillwater and upset Kansas 83-81 Saturday afternoon in Lincoln. Nee said that Nebraska has been able to win the close games because of the leadership of starting guards Brian Carr and Henry Buchanan.

"Every bit of success we've had has been related to those two in the form of a pass, a free throw by one of them, or a shot," Nee said. "I really think they give a stabilizing effect, a calming effect to the other kids."

Against Oklahoma State Carr hit two free throws with one second left in regulation to send the game into overtime and then hit a three-point shot during the overtime period. Buchanan penetrated into the free-throw lane against Kansas and then passed to Derrick Vick with one second remaining for the game-winning shot.

Carr and Buchanan have also been effective from behind the three-point line in the last few games, Nee said.

"Brian Carr the last three games is shooting 56 percent from the three-point line, and Buchanan 64 (percent)," Nee said. "As a team we're shooting 52, and that's a significant stat."

Nee also praised the play of senior Bill Jackman and Bernard Day and junior Keith Neubert.

"Jackman is playing great," he said. "He's really playing great. I think he puts too much pressure on himself on his outside shooting. I think when he does all the other things he's doing well, he doesn't have to worry about it. He hit a couple of big baskets (Saturday), but I think sometimes he thinks he has to shoot the ball when he doesn't."

The two victories gave Nebraska a record of 50 percent in Big Eight Conference play, which Nee said is due to a strong effort from the players.

"To be 17-10 (overall) and 7-7 in the conference is, I think, a heck of an accomplishment and the kids deserve a lot of credit for that," he said. "I really think they've done an excellent job."

The 7-7 record was good enough for a fifth-place finish in the conference. Nebraska will face Kansas State, which finished fourth in the conference, Friday in the opening round of the Big



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Bernard Day (30) and Bill Jackman try for the rebounds after a shot from Kansas' Mark Pellock (40) during the Cornhuskers' 83-81 win over the Jayhawks' Saturday.



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Anthony Bailous is closely guarded by the Jayhawks' Kevin Pritchard as he attempts to pass the ball to a teammate during Nebraska's overtime victory over Kansas Saturday.

Eight Tournament in Kansas City. Kansas State is coming off a big win at Oklahoma, but Nee said neither team will have momentum in the game.

"I think that all goes out the window when the ball goes up," Nee said. "I think the team that comes in, executes, plays to their full potential, puts the ball in the basket, makes their free throws, plays good defense, is the team that is going to win."

Nee said the team that plays three consistent games will win the tournament. "I think Missouri has certainly shown

their consistency, but I tell you that if I was in the other bracket, I wouldn't want to play Kansas or Oklahoma, because they're going to come in breathing fire," Nee said.

With several top underclassmen returning next season, Nee said that the Big Eight has a chance to develop into one of the most powerful conferences.

"I just think that Big Eight basketball is sitting right on the doorstep of popping in and really being one of the top two or three conferences in the country," he said.

Title bid falls short

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — According to Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck, the Cornhuskers went to war against Kansas in the semi-final game of the Big Eight Women's Basketball Tournament and lost the battle.

They lost 74-73 to the Jayhawks, to be exact.

Nebraska's Maurice Ivy set a Big Eight Conference scoring record by hitting 13 of 17 shots from the field and nine free throws for 35 points. Ivy's performance put her in third place on the all-time Nebraska women's scoring list. Ivy finished the tournament with 53 points and eight blocked shots.

The Huskers defeated Oklahoma State 83-69 Saturday to reach the semi-final game. Amy Stephens had a game-high 26 points against the Cowgirls, Ivy and Stacy Imming scored 18 points each for the Huskers.

Beck said that Kansas played a hard, physical game and that the Jayhawks shut down Stephens' shooting, who

only scored two points in the game.

"We were very physical out there," Beck said. "I'm proud of our team effort. We were right with them from the field and only one short at the line."

Beck said the thing that hurt the Huskers most was their performance at the free-throw line. Nebraska shot 38 percent from the line in the first half and finished at 55 percent for the game.

Coming into the tournament, Nebraska was third in the Big Eight with 69 percent free-throw percentage.

The Huskers fell behind 7-0 early but then took the lead, 19-12, with 12:06 left in the first half after a 14-2 scoring streak.

Kansas tied the game 27-27 with 19 seconds left in the first half. Evette Ott scored six straight points for the Jayhawks to give them a 38-33 lead at halftime.

Beck said that Kansas did a good job applying pressure on Nebraska's guards in the backcourt. She said that because of the pressure, the Huskers couldn't

get the fast break going.

The one thing Beck said she was happy with was Ivy's performance.

Ivy said she knew Kansas was shutting down Stephens' offensive game and that she had to do the scoring for Nebraska.

"Amy wasn't hitting her shots like she usually does and I felt that I had to pick up some of the slack," Ivy said. "I had a good game, but there's not as much satisfaction in knowing that you're not going to the championship game."

Nebraska fell behind 63-52 with 7:47 left in the game. The Huskers began to cut the Jayhawks' 11-point lead by using their full-court press to force Kansas turnovers. Nebraska went on a 12-4 scoring spree, led by Ivy and Imming baskets, to cut Kansas' lead to two, 65-63.

The Jayhawks increased their lead to six, 71-65, with 2:28 left in the game on a jump shot by Sandy Shaw. Once again, though, Ivy kept Nebraska in the

See BECK on 9

Husker gymnasts fall to Bruins

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Top-ranked UCLA got its revenge Friday against the Nebraska men's gymnastic team as the Bruins defeated the No. 3-ranked Cornhusker men's gymnastics team 280.4 to 278.9 at the Southwest Cup Invitational in Tucson, Ariz.

Nebraska's women's team continued to have its problems at the Southwest Invitational, finishing fourth with a 181.1 behind Ohio State with a 184. Arizona State finished second with a 186 and No. 2-ranked UCLA won the

meet with a 187.05.

Nebraska men's coach Francis Allen said the Bruins were helped by "over-scoring of judges" because they were on Pac-Ten turf.

"I thought the judges at the meet leaned a little bit towards UCLA because they are a Pac-Ten team," Allen said. "UCLA came out fired up because they wanted to beat us, but we're better than they are and our team knows it."

The Huskers hit only 75 percent of their routines, Allen said. The top all-arounder for the Nebraska was Tom

Schlesinger, who scored a 56.4. Each of Nebraska's performers gave up a point, he said.

One of the highlights of the meet, Allen said, was when Nebraska freshman Patrick Kirksey scored a career-high 55.8 in the all-around.

"I think we were a little inconsistent Friday," Allen said. "If our guys would have hit, then we would have beaten UCLA, but the best thing that came out of the meet is the guys know if they perform then they will be in that final three at the NCAA finals in April."

See HUSKERS on 9

Tennis team to travel

By Mark Derowitsch
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team will compete at the Brigham Young Invitational March 4 through 7 in Provo, Utah, and the outcome of the meet will mean a great deal for the Huskers.

The ranking means nothing when it comes to intraregional play. On any given day, any team across the country could be beaten.

—Valentine

have Kansas coming in. So we feel that we have good intra-regional play coming in."

Hawkins said the doubles teams should be noticed this week for regional selection.

"Right now, the No. 1 and 2 doubles teams are playing well," Hawkins said. "Carl Green and Jill Pritchard are very capable of taking matches over Utah and BYU. If they win, there should be no doubt about their qualifications."

Other teams competing in the invitational are Cal-Santa Barbara, Alabama and Wisconsin. But the Huskers' toughest challenge will come from BYU.

The Cougars are 9-3 in duals, coming off three wins last weekend, including a 5-4 win over No. 10-ranked Clemson. Brigham Young was ranked No. 17 nationally in the pre-season poll, but Valentine does not expect the rating to carry the team to dual wins.

"The ranking means nothing when it comes to intra-regional play," Valentine said. "On any given day, any team across the country could be beaten."

Hawkins said she thinks Nebraska could do well at the invitational.

"It will be a very strong week," Hawkins said. "We're trying to have a positive outlook on it. It will be good preparation for our spring trip and the Big Eight meets. We just have to focus on playing well, and if so, we should win as a team."

"Sometimes we schedule a little tougher teams toward the end of the year," Hawkins said. "I would have not like to play this three weeks ago. But based on our progress, I feel we should do well. This is as tough as it gets for us this year."

Since qualifiers for the NCAA Championships are based on regional selection, Nebraska players must prove themselves against Utah and BYU.

"Since BYU and Utah are in our region, any wins individually could help in the selection for the NCAA," said Nebraska coach Kathy Hawkins. "There is more to be competing for than just team wins. It could give our players some good exposure."

BYU tennis coach Ann Valentine feels the same way.

"We have to make an effort to play teams from our region," Valentine said. "Nebraska will be here and we