

# Sports

## NU smashes through NIT detour; Huskies next tournament roadblock

By Mark Derowitsch  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska men's basketball Coach Danny Nee almost had his spring break plans derailed by the Arkansas Razorbacks in the second half last night, but the Cornhuskers prevailed for a 78-71 win.

Nee's spring break plans include a trip to his hometown, New York City, where the Huskers have a chance to play in the National Invitation Tournament final four at Madison Square Garden. The Huskers need one victory to reach Nee's homecoming trip after holding off a Razorback rally.

The next roadblock will be the University of Washington. Nebraska will play the Huskies in the third round of the NIT at 1:30 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"I'm really proud of this basketball team," Nee said. "I don't think that we're the prettiest basketball team in the country but we're still playing and finding a way to win. I think it's a credit to the players."

Nebraska took a 31-12 lead into the locker room at halftime thanks to 15 Razorback turnovers and 20 percent shooting from the field. Arkansas hit only three of 15 shots in the first half but connected on six of nine free throws. Arkansas' 12 first half points

set a sports center record. The previous mark was 13 set by South Dakota State and Southwest Missouri State.

At the start of the game, Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson said he thought the Razorbacks started slow because of fear.

"We got off on the wrong foot," Richardson said. "We had 15 turnovers and hit only three shots, so that's very scary. We had fear of shots, fear of

movement, fear of the break, so the first half we were in a situation of total fear."

Arkansas came out in the second half and traded four baskets with the Huskers until it reeled off eight straight points to cut the lead to 14 with 15:16 left in the game. Derrick Vick broke the scoring run with a layup. Vick scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half. Anthony Bailous led Nebraska with 20 points.

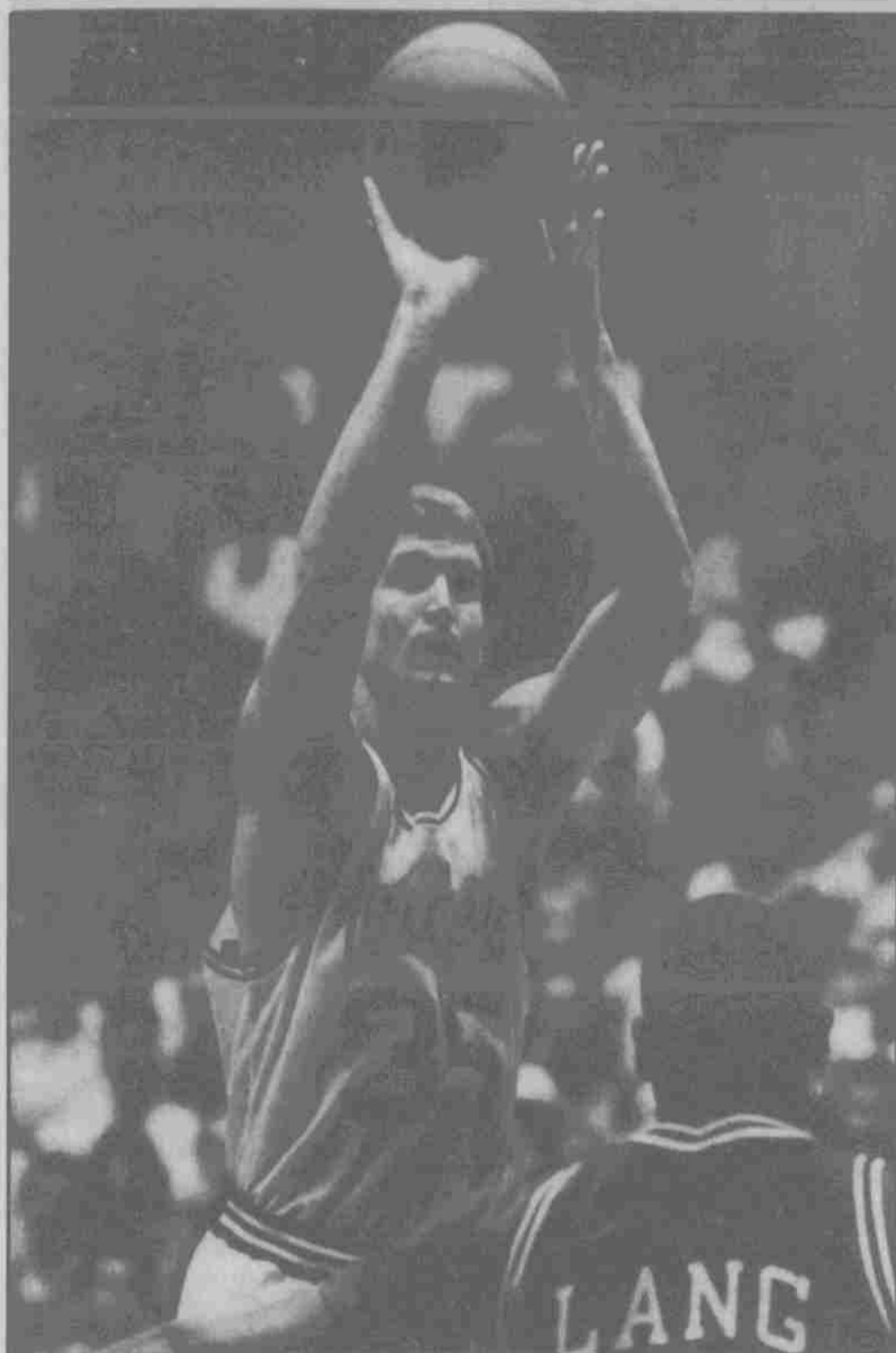
Arkansas' Tim Scott started on a hot streak in the second half by hitting a three-point shot, cutting the Husker lead to 48-35. But once again it was Vick who answered for Nebraska, this time with a dunk to put Nebraska back up by 15.

Scott hit two more three-point shots within a minute to pull the Razorbacks to within three, 53-50, with 7:12 left to play. But that was the closest the Razorbacks would come as the Huskers advanced to the third round of the NIT Tournament.

"I told our team in the dressing room (during halftime) to forget about all the things that happened during the first half," Richardson said. "I think the second half we just came out and played extremely hard. We thought we saw them hit the panic button with four or five minutes to go. We had a couple of chances that didn't happen."

### The numbers

<b>Arkansas</b>	<b>71</b>
Ratliff	7
Moore	2
Credit	4
Wilson	3
Huery	10
Freeman	9
Lang	4
Hutchinson	2
McKellar	9
Whitby	2
Scott	17
Baker	2
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>78</b>
Vick	18
Day	19
Jackman	2
Buchanan	11
Carr	6
Bailous	20
Neubert	2



Andrea Hoy/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Bill Jackman pulls up for a jump shot as Andrew Lang of Arkansas looks on. Nebraska won 78-71.

## Trip could pair NU with 10 ranked teams

By Rich Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska softball coach Ron Wolforth said the Cornhuskers' annual spring break trip to Texas and California should indicate how good the squad is.

The Huskers, ranked No. 4 nationally, will play in the Houston Classic Thursday through Sunday. Nebraska will face No. 3 Texas A&M in a doubleheader on Monday and then travel to California to play Cal-Berkeley in a double header next Wednesday. The Huskers will finish the road trip with the San Jose Invitational March 27 through 29.

Wolforth said it's going to be a "tough" road trip in which the Huskers will see 10 of the top 20 teams in the nation.

"The good thing about this road trip is that by the time the Big Eight Conference schedule rolls around, the players have been in just about every pressure situation that a player could encounter in a big game," Wolforth said. "The team is either going to learn how to win or real quickly learn how to lose."

At the Houston Classic, four top-10 teams will compete. The top-ranked team at the tournament will be No. 3 Texas A&M. The Aggies were 17-1 in the fall. Their only loss came to Nebraska.

Wolforth said Texas A&M will be looking to beat the Huskers since the teams have a "very big" rivalry.

"I will have no problem getting our team up to play Texas A&M because in the fall we were the only team to beat them," Wolforth said. "Their coach said we won the game because they made some errors, but when I looked in our stat book, it showed that Texas A&M didn't have any errors."

"A&M though is a solid team, but what their coach said had an effect on some of the players on this team. We have some Texas girls on this team, and they have a lot of pride."

The other teams that will play in the Houston Classic are No. 5 Loui-

siana Tech, No. 7 Arizona, No. 9 Arizona State and No. 19 Kansas.

The Huskers finished third last year at the Houston Classic. Wolforth said the key to Nebraska's success will be consistent hitting from the bottom part of the batting order.

In the second part of the road trip, Nebraska will first play No. 11 California. Wolforth said the Golden Bears are a solid team and could give the Huskers some problems.

"California can really hit the ball," he said. "We would have played them at the Roadrunner Classic March 5 through 8, but they lost to Fresno State in the quarterfinals of that tournament. I think against Fresno State, California might have been looking ahead to playing us. They will be ready this time."

At the San Jose Invitational, Nebraska will be the second-ranked team in the tournament. UCLA, ranked No. 2, will be the team to beat, Wolforth said. But, as with Texas A&M, Wolforth said, he will have no problem getting his team up for a game with the Bruins.

"Just the name UCLA should get our team up. They have traditionally always had a good team," Wolforth said. "The girls on the team are really looking forward to this trip. They've worked hard in the off-season and I think the excitement of these games will carry us through this long trip."

Five ranked teams will be playing at San Jose. They are Arizona State, California, Kansas, No. 12 Northwestern, and No. 14 Central Michigan, one of the only teams to defeat the Huskers this season. The Huskers lost to Central Michigan 2-1 in 10 innings at the Roadrunner Invitational.

Wolforth said the only thing he is worried about is his pitchers' health. If one of the pitchers happens to get hurt, he said, the Huskers could be in trouble.

Nebraska's pitching staff had an ERA of .29 last fall and only gave up four earned runs in 14 games.



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Bill Jackman puts up a second half shot as Arkansas' Keith Wilson goes for the block.