

Huskers threaten Mizzou's chance for title

Probable starters:
Nebraska (18-3, 8-1)
 Amy Stephens
 Amy Bullock
 Kim Harris
 Maurice Ivy
 Ann Halsne

G
G
C
F
F

Missouri (14-8, 6-3)
 Sandy Prophete
 Tonja Jorgenson
 Tracy Ellis
 Lisa Sandbothe
 Lisa Ellis

G
G
C
F
F

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

With only five games left in the Big Eight season, every victory is important.

But Saturday's game against Nebraska is even more important for the Missouri women's basketball team, coach Joann Rutherford said. The game begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Hearnes Center in Columbia, Mo.

The Tigers, who are 6-3 in the conference, trail league-leading

Nebraska by two games. Rutherford said a win against the Cornhuskers will determine Missouri's chances of winning the Big Eight.

"With only five games left and since the race is so close, I think this game is definitely big," Rutherford said. "A big factor for us is that the game's at home. We've got to win it to have a good chance."

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the game puts no pressure on the Huskers, who are 18-3 overall and 8-1 in the Big Eight.

"A win will help for sure because we'd have to win one out of our last four games (to win a share of the conference)," Beck said. "But there's no pressure on us — it's on them."

Rutherford said the Huskers are a hard team to stop because they do so many things well.

"They have great shooters," Rutherford said. "They have a great team and are well-balanced. I think they have a good overall game."

Beck said Nebraska needs to play well to win.

"They're a very good team," Beck said. "It's going to take one of our better efforts of the year to win. It will be a very big challenge, but we're coming off a great win against Oklahoma, so we have some momentum."

The Tigers are led by center Tracy Ellis and guard Sandy Prophete. Ellis averages 17.9 points and 9.1 rebounds per game, and Prophete averages 15.9 points.

But Beck said Nebraska's main concern will be stopping forward Lisa Ellis, who's averaging 12.8 points per game.

"Lisa Ellis is a good basketball player," Beck said. "She's the one I'm the most scared about. She can just turn it around with a transition lay-up or a three-point shot."

Beck said the Huskers also will try to slow Missouri down with a full-court press.

"I don't think they have as deep a bench as we do," Beck said. "We want to pressure them right away and keep them down. We have to wear them down and get their big guns unloaded in order to win the game."

Meet lures top teams

SEVIGNE from Page 8

in the world, and Kansas State's Felicia Curry is ranked 10th. Seventh-ranked Wendy Brown of USC, last year's Husker Invite champion with a sports center record jump of 43-6, also returns this year.

Nebraska's Renita Robinson rounds out the women's field. She broke Brown's sports center record two weeks ago with a jump of 44-2, the top American collegiate jump in 1988.

Kostek said the Husker Invite gives Nebraska an idea of how it will compete at the Big Eight Conference meet, which will be Feb. 26 and 27 at the sports center. He said six of the eight conference teams will be at the Husker Invite.

"We can get a good feel for what's happening in the conference as well as nationally," Kostek said. "It'll really give us a chance to evaluate our team and how we stack up conference-wise."

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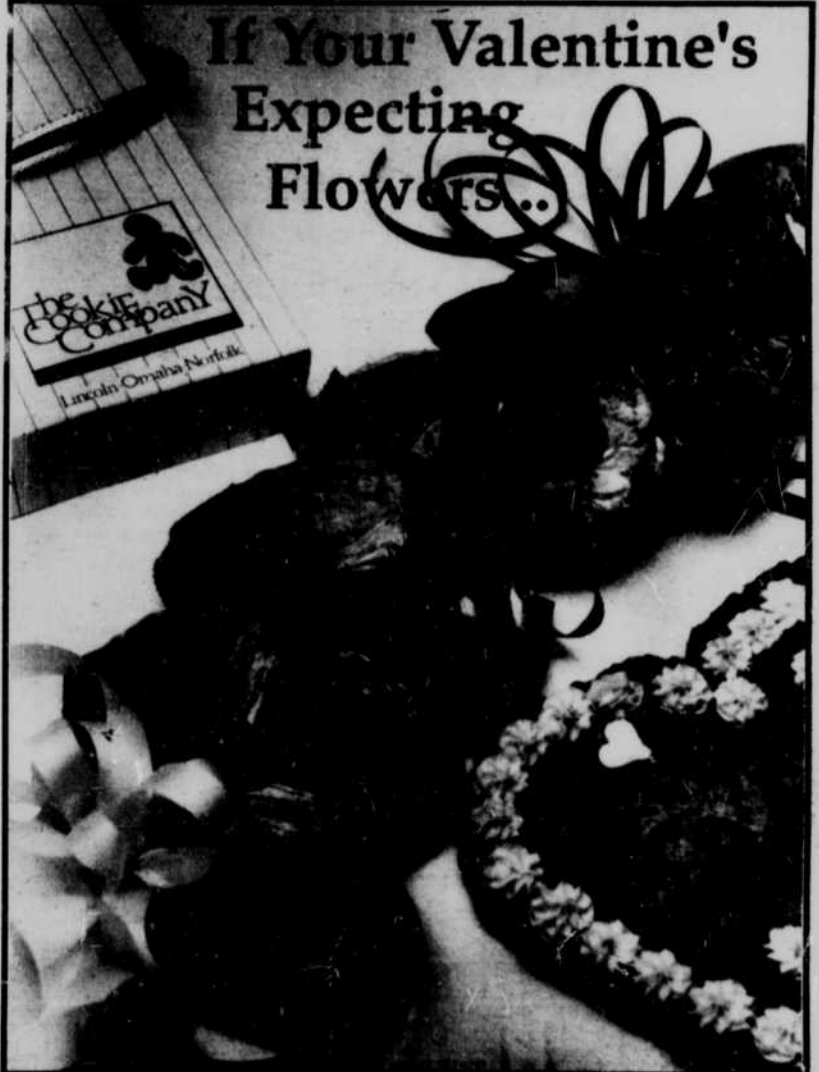
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