

# Huskers finish fourth in Big 8 Tournament

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — A season that began with optimism and great expectations concluded Sunday for Nebraska's wrestling team in a more down-to-earth manner.

The Cornhuskers, ranked as high as No. 17 earlier this season, finished fourth in the five-team Big Eight Tournament. Oklahoma State, ranked No. 1 in the nation, won the meet with 86 points, while Iowa State and Oklahoma finished second and third with scores of 74 and 49, respectively. Nebraska scored 32 points. Missouri was fifth.

Before this season began, Ne-

braska coach Tim Neumann said he thought the Huskers could finish among the nation's top five teams.

After Sunday's tournament, he was already hoping for better things next year.

"We started five freshmen at this tournament today," Neumann said. "Three placed (among the top four in each weight class). Couple that with the other guys we've got coming back next season and we'll have two quality guys at each class."

"Things are looking good." Three Huskers — Jeff Coltvet, Terry Cook, Keenan Turner — earned spots in the championship match of their weight classes.

At 118, Cook defeated Missouri's

Bobby Crawford 6-0 to advance to the championship. Turner defeated the Sooners' William "Junior" Taylor 10-4 at 150 and Coltvet, ranked No. 11 at 158, beat Oklahoma's Kenny Fischer to advance to the title match.

But for all three, the title match is where their luck ran out.

Cook faced Oklahoma State's Cory Baze, the Big Eight's defending champion at 118. Baze, ranked fourth, defeated Cook 6-5 after leading 5-1 near the end of the first period. An escape by Baze with 21 seconds left in the third period broke a 5-5 tie and insured the Cowboy junior the title.

At 150, Turner lost to top-ranked Tim Krieger of Iowa State 13-10 and

Coltvet dropped a 4-1 decision to Oklahoma State's Vince Silva, who is ranked No. 2 in the nation. Coltvet's loss came in overtime after a 3-3 draw in regulation.

"Our three finalists wrestled with a lot of heart," Neumann said, "but they lacked the edge to win against top-rated opponents. That edge comes from being in that situation before."

Coltvet, Cook and Turner automatically qualified for the NCCA Tournament in Ames, Iowa, March 17-19. Dave Droegemueller at 134 and Scott Chenoweth at 167 were selected to the tournament as wild card picks. Wallace Dawkins at 126 and Joe Malecek in the heavyweight division may also be selected to the

tournament.

Neumann said he thinks Nebraska's three finalists can place in the NCCA Tournament because Husker coaches "can improve them a lot in the next three weeks, especially with their attitudes."

"As individuals, a lot depends on where they're seeded," Neumann said. "Cook, Coltvet and Turner should all get seeded in the top 10, and (Dave) Droegemueller is certainly capable of placing if he's seeded in the right place."

Neumann said Nebraska's goals for the NCCA Tournament is to earn three All-American individual finishes and for the team to finish in the top 10.

## Kansas State coach flips as women win Big 8 championship

By Richard Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Kansas swimming coach Gary Kempf ended three years of frustration by doing a ceremonial back flip off the 3-meter diving board following the conclusion of the Big Eight swimming and diving championships Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Kempf said he did the flip because he was celebrating the Jayhawks 715.5-584 defeat of Nebraska that ended the Cornhuskers three-year reign as Big Eight champions. Iowa State finished third in the women's competition with 390 points, followed by Missouri with 236.

In the men's competition, Nebraska won its ninth-straight Big Eight championship by defeating Kansas 583-524. Iowa State finished third with 390 points, followed by Missouri with 170.

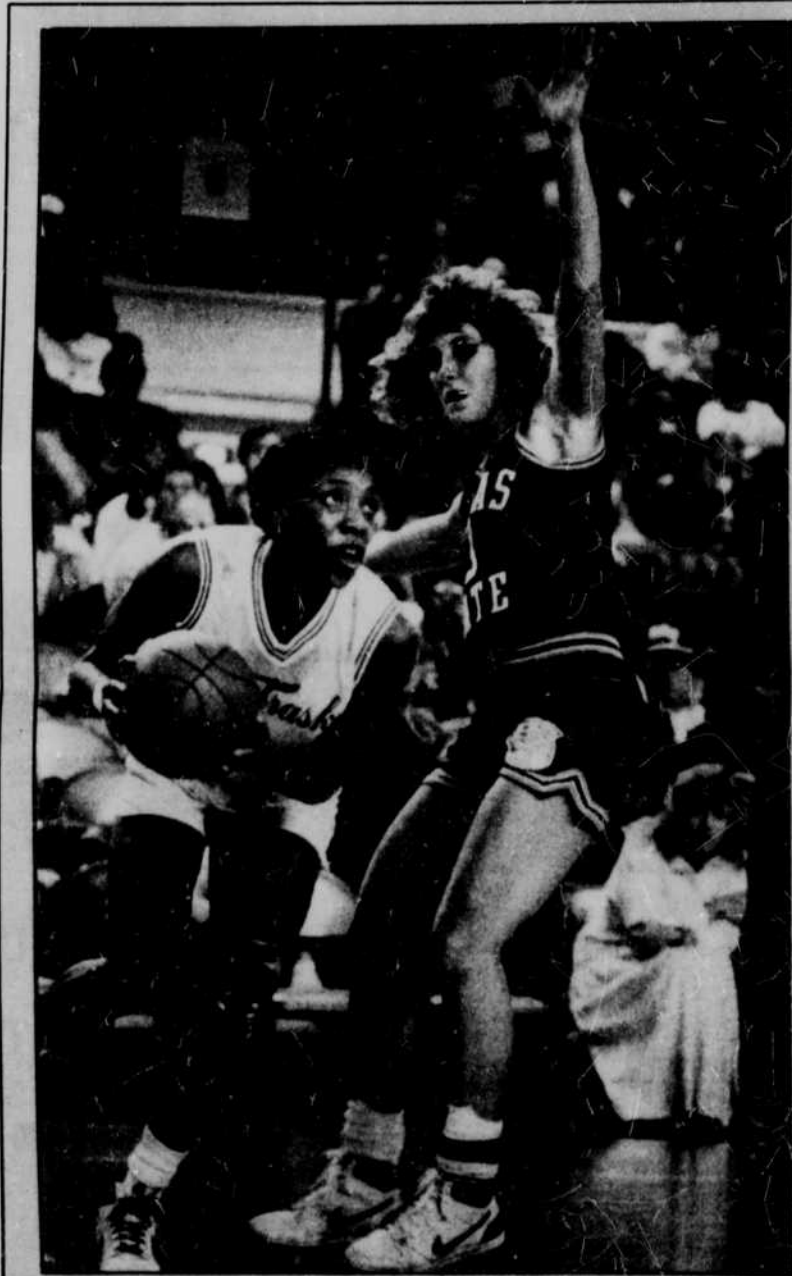
Kempf said the Jayhawks wanted this year's Big Eight championship because they worked hard all season.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said he was also pleased with his team's title. He said the 1988 conference crown was better than last season's because of the way in which the Huskers performed throughout the three-day meet.

Iowa State's Eric Hansen was selected as the men's outstanding performer. Hansen, a senior from Sioux City, Iowa, won the 50- and 100-yard freestyle sprints, the 100-yard backstroke and anchored the Cyclones' winning 400-yard freestyle relay.

The women's outstanding performer was Kansas distance swimmer Barbara Ann Smith. Smith won individual titles in the 400-yard indi-

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J.P. Caruso/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Maurice Ivy drives past Kansas State's Rita Matteucci Saturday in Salina, Kansas.

## KU game 'unconscious'; NU women lose semifinal

By Tim Hartmann  
Senior Reporter  
and  
Nick Hodge  
Staff Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — Kansas forward Sandy Shaw received an elbow to the head, but it was the Nebraska women's basketball team that got the headache.

Shaw, who played most of the game with a large bandage on her head after being knocked to the floor midway through the first half, scored 33 points to help Kansas defeat Nebraska 87-84 Sunday in the semifinals of the Big Eight Tournament at the Bicentennial Center.

"I thought she had an unconscious game," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said. "She played, probably, the game of her life."

Kansas coach Marian Washington said her coaching staff predicted that Shaw, who hit seven of eight three-point attempts, would have a big game.

"She lived up to all that, all the expectations we had," Washington said. "She had an outstanding game — big time."

The Jayhawks used a 21-6 spurt in the first seven minutes of the second half to take a 63-50 lead. Washington said the key to the Jayhawks run was a defensive adjustment made at halftime.

"We took the pressure off full court and just kept one player on the ball," Washington said.

Washington said by getting out of the full court game, Kansas was able to control Nebraska's Maurice Ivy. Ivy, the leading scorer in

the Big Eight this season, didn't score a basket in the first seven minutes of the second half.

Kansas held a 79-69 with 3:51 remaining, but Nebraska went on a 13-4 run that was fueled by seven points from Amy Stephens to cut the Jayhawks lead to 83-82 with :27 remaining.

Kansas' Lisa Braddy then hit two free throws to give the Jayhawks a three-point lead with :22 left. Nebraska's Ann Halsne cut the lead to 85-84 on a layup with :09 left, but Braddy hit two free throws with :05 remaining.

Nebraska had one last chance to tie the game, but Kansas' Lisa Dougherty stole an inbounds pass intended for Halsne as time ran out.

Braddy, who hit six of eight free throws in the game's final 1:08, said that after missing two of the free throws, she told herself she wouldn't miss anymore.

"After missing the early free throws," Braddy said, "I told myself this was practice and they were going down."

Beck said she was pleased with Nebraska's play in the first half, but that the Huskers played poor defense in the second half.

"Basically, we didn't play the first 15 minutes of the second half," Beck said. "That's the story. The last play of the game had nothing to do with the win or loss. It was a joke we were in it — we just didn't have intensity defensively."

Ivy had 29 points and 11 rebounds to pace the Huskers. Stephens scored 20 points and Harris added 16 and seven rebounds. The loss dropped Nebraska

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# 'Python' swallows Huskers in second half

By Kyle Schurman  
Staff Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma's "python" slept through much of the first half Saturday afternoon, but woke up in time to swallow Nebraska 113-93 at the Lloyd Noble Center.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said that although the Cornhuskers played well in the first half, "it was just a matter of time before the python swallowed us."

Nebraska led by as many as five points in the first half and trailed the fourth-ranked Sooners 52-44 at halftime when guard Henry T. Buchanan hit a three-point goal at the buzzer.

But Oklahoma outscored Nebraska 24-6 in the first five minutes of the second half to stretch its lead to 76-50. Oklahoma senior forward Harvey Grant scored 11 of his team-high 26 points during the Sooners' scoring run.

"To play them within 20 points is a decent game for us," Nee said.

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said the Sooners were plagued by poor shooting in the first half. He said the Sooners' 38 percent shooting from the floor in the first half accounted for Nebraska's early lead.

"The first half was close because Nebraska

played pretty well and we weren't getting our shots down," Tubbs said.

But despite the early lead, Tubbs said, he knew the Sooners were ready to blow the game open.

"I felt that way early in the second half because we can sense when we're getting the run that is going to put the game away," Tubbs said.

Grant said Oklahoma was a little tight in the first half because it was the seniors' final home game.

"In the first half, they were running with us and our shots weren't going down," Grant said. "In the second half, we did what we had to do to win. We put the pressure on and hit the boards. (The seniors) wanted to go out in style — I think we did."

With the win, Oklahoma climbs to 27-3 overall and 12-2 in the Big Eight and wins its third undisputed Big Eight regular season title in five years. The loss dropped Nebraska to 13-17 overall and 4-10 in the conference, leaving the Huskers in a sixth-place tie with Oklahoma State.

Nebraska now will face Kansas State in the opening round of the Big Eight tournament

Friday at 6:10 p.m. at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

Nee said Nebraska's performance against Oklahoma gives the Huskers something to build on going into the three-day tournament.

Buchanan agreed.

"Nobody is expecting us to do anything," Buchanan said. "We just have to come out and play and hope to catch Kansas State off-guard."

Tubbs said the title is special because Oklahoma wasn't expected to win this year's conference crown. He said Nebraska helped the Sooners by defeating preseason favorites Kansas and Missouri 70-68 earlier this season.

"We might send them a piece of this," Tubbs said as he held the Big Eight championship trophy. "Without those (wins), we might not have won the title outright."

Nebraska took its final lead, 27-25, with 7:25 remaining in the first half when freshman guard Clifford Scales hit a three-point shot.

Oklahoma took the lead one minute later when senior guard Ricky Grace hit a three-point shot. The Sooners then extended their lead to as many as 32 en route to scoring 100 points for the 17th time this season.

Nee said Nebraska did a great job even

though Oklahoma shot 18 more field goals and grabbed 16 more offensive rebounds. The Sooners also hit eight three-point shots compared to the Huskers' four.

"Their constant offensive pressure on you with three-point plays is tremendous," Nee said.

Nebraska shot 53 percent from the field and made 17 of 19 free throws, including 11 of 11 by junior Pete Manning.

"Our guys played a solid game," Nee said. "That's kind of redundant for a guy who lost by 20 to say that, but it could have been 50."

Buchanan agreed.

"We are pretty proud of how we played," Buchanan said. "But you've got to give Oklahoma their just due. They could be a Final Four team."

Manning, who scored a career- and game-high 27 points, said Oklahoma is a great team. He said the Sooners can advance as far as they want in the 64-team NCAA Tournament.

"It's all up to them," Manning said. Tubbs said he was impressed with Nebraska's young players.

"Nebraska has some young kids who we'll probably see down the road," Tubbs said. "They are going to do some good things."