

# Nee: Chances for postseason bid slight

By Mark Derowitsch  
Senior Reporter

Any chance the Nebraska men's basketball team had of receiving a post-tournament bid vanished when the Cornhuskers ended the regular season by losing nine of their last 10 games.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said at his weekly press conference Monday that it would now take a miracle for Nebraska to make the NCAA or NIT Tournaments. He said the only way the Huskers could receive a post-season bid is if they win three games in the upcoming Big Eight Tournament.

"If that happens, I'll be in heaven," Nee said.

Nebraska, now 13-17 overall and 4-10 in the Big Eight, will face Kansas State in the first round of the conference tournament Friday at 6:10 p.m. at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

In other first round games, Iowa State faces Missouri at 12:10 p.m., Oklahoma plays Colorado at 2:10 p.m., and Kansas faces Oklahoma State at 8:10 p.m.

Last season, Nebraska advanced to the final four of the NIT Tournament and ended the season with a 21-12 record. Nee said a lack of familiarity with the Big Eight prevented the Huskers from finishing with a .500 record this year.

"This year, not just our youth, but our inexperience hurt us," Nee said. But Nee said this season helps build for the future.

"Looking back over the year, the one bright spot is that we got a lot of our young people that first-hand experience you can't teach or coach," Nee said. "The numerical is disappointing because I feel there was a couple of games we could have won."

"If we would have had a .500

record or 16-14, we would have been successful. We just missed it by a couple of games."

Nee said after a quality season last year, the Huskers didn't meet some expectations this season.

"When you're in a situation like we're in where we took two steps forward last year with a new coach and new staff and we took a half a step back this year," Nee said.

Nee said he hopes Nebraska's trip to Australia in May will give the Huskers even more experience next year.

"The Australian trip is pretty important for us," Nee said.

"We have to have a great spring and summer," he said. "One of the keys to get this program to where we want to get it is the Australian trip. We have to go over there with a consistency with our play — we have to know the guys night in and night out."



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Bob Cook, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln alum, protests the officiating at a recent Cornhusker game. Cook's feelings have been shared frequently by Nebraska coach Danny Nee this season.

# UNO, Arkansas top Huskers' list for upcoming play

By Steve Sipple  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders said it is becoming difficult, but the Cornhuskers must continue to focus on one game at a time.

Nebraska, now 10-0 after a weekend sweep against Northern Colorado, faces the University of Nebraska at Omaha today before playing No. 8-ranked Arkansas this weekend in Fayetteville, Ark. For now, Sanders said, the Huskers must worry about the Mavericks.

"Every game is a test," Sanders said. "I know our players are aware Arkansas is a good ballclub. They know they're ranked, they know we're playing them on the road, and it's going to be a good series."

"But we have to keep it all in perspective and

not let me by UNO. We'll be up for it."

Nebraska, which moved up to No. 20 in the latest Collegiate Baseball/ESPN national rankings, will play the Mavericks in a single nine-inning game at 1:30 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field. The game will be UNO's season opener.

Sanders said the Huskers must keep concentrating on their own play and not worry about who their opponent is. If they play well, he said, they don't have to worry about looking past opponents.

"I'm concerned about how we stack up against ourselves," he said. "We just have to keep hammering away and climbing the ladder."

Nebraska has dominated teams during its unbeaten streak. The Huskers have outscored

opponents 132-32 on the season and have compiled a team batting average of .310 while holding their foes to a .206 average.

But Sanders said the Huskers failed to show discipline at the plate when a season-high 10 Husker batters struck out during their 13-1 victory against Northern Colorado. He said what concerned him most about that was the team's swinging at bad pitches and letting good ones go by.

Sanders said he was puzzled by the offensive lapse.

"It beats me," he said. "If you figure it out, let me know. That's a big thing we want to stress for (today)."

UNO coach Bob Gates said the Huskers have been playing strong in the early season. He said that win or lose, the Mavericks' trip to

Lincoln will help his players improve.

"If they want to play professional baseball, they have to see what it takes," Gates said. "Sometimes players come out of high school and they were great players in their neighborhood. They need to see other great players."

Gates said UNO won't enter the game thinking it has everything to gain and nothing to lose.

"I don't think that way," Gates said. "It's nice to win. The thing that is important is for us to get ready for the North Central Conference season."

Husker pitcher John Kohli, a senior left-hander, will start on the mound, Sanders said. Kohli has started two games this year, pitching 4.1 innings and giving up seven runs on 10 hits. He has compiled a 8.31 earned run average.

Gates did not name a starter.

# Cornhuskers learn about themselves, injuries

By Mike Kluck  
Staff Reporter

Although its hopes for an undefeated season were shattered last week, Nebraska's softball team members learned more about themselves while compiling a 5-3 record.

"We found out this weekend that we are not the No. 2 team in the nation, which stings a little bit," Cornhusker coach Ron Wolforth said. "It popped our balloon awfully quick. But with a few minor adjustments, I have no doubt that we are going to be the best team we can."

Nebraska, the currently ranked No. 2 in the nation, defeated Baylor 9-1 and then compiled a 4-3 record in the Roadrunner Classic in Las Cruces, N.M.

Wolforth said Nebraska did what it wanted during its win against Baylor. He said the Huskers used a combination of strong pitching by Donna

Deardorff and a balanced hitting attack to overcome the Bears.

Wolforth said Nebraska's record in the Roadrunner Classic was deceiving because the Huskers were plagued by injuries throughout the lineup.

Nebraska defeated Baylor 3-0 in the first game, but lost leadoff hitter Jill Rishel to an ankle injury for the rest of the four-day tournament. Rishel injured her right ankle sliding into home plate.

"We lost some of our intensity when we lost our leadoff hitter," Wolforth said. "She gets a lot of things to happen, and with her out, it puts added pressure on our (second through fifth) hitters. With her out we lose a dimension of our game, and we're a little less aggressive."

Other injured Husker players included Deardorff, who was hospitalized before the tournament with an undiagnosed pain in her stomach, and

shortstop Jane Kremer, who suffered a deep thigh bruise.

Wolforth said those injuries hurt Nebraska in the tournament's second round as the Huskers led 3-1 to New Mexico. Nebraska lost 1-0 going into the sixth inning before giving up a walk, a base hit and a home run to lose the game.

But Nebraska rebounded from the loss by defeating preseason No. 18-ranked Nichols State 4-2 and Stephen F. Austin 6-1. The Huskers then rallied from a 1-0 loss to Arizona State and beat California State-Fullerton 7-2, but was eliminated later by the Titans 1-0. Cal State-Fullerton was the nation's top-ranked team in the preseason poll.

Wolforth said that although Nebraska needs to work on its intensity and improve its defense, the Huskers will be successful if they continue to hit and pitch as they have been.

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