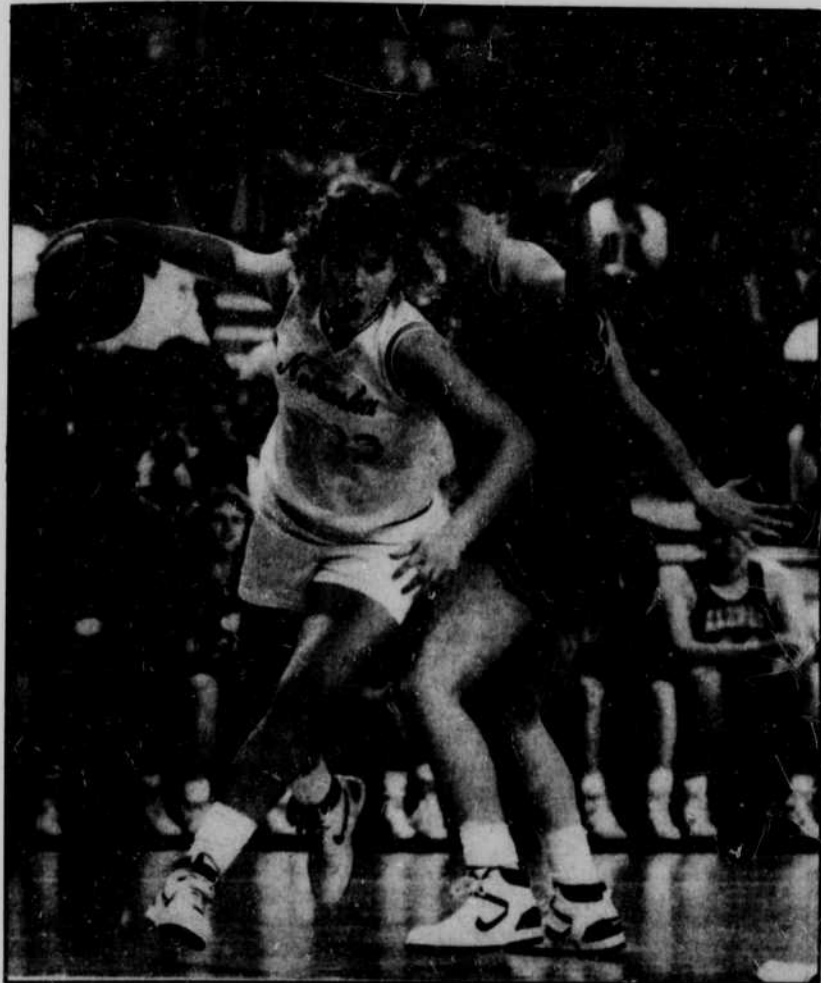


NU women's team goal not yet fulfilled



J.P. Caruso/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Ann Halsne drives around a Kansas defender earlier this season.

Probable Starters:

Nebraska (22-6)
Amy Stephens G
Amy Bullock G
Kim Harris C
Ann Halsne F
Maurtice Ivy F

Southern California (21-7)

Paula Pyers G
Kalen Wright G
Cherie Nelson C
Holly Ford F
Karon Howell F

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Reaching the NCAA Tournament has been a goal of the Nebraska women's basketball team all season, but now that the Cornhuskers have reached that goal, they want to take it one step further.

"I don't want to be just happy to be there — I want to go out there and beat Southern Cal," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said.

Nebraska faces Southern California Saturday at 9 p.m. CST at the California State-Dominguez Hills gym in Carson, Calif. The Huskers are the No. 5 seed in the NCAA West Region, while USC is seeded fourth.

Beck said the game will be a battle between Nebraska's speed and USC's inside play. She said the Huskers will try to keep Cherie Nelson, the Trojans' 6-foot-3 center, and the rest of USC off balance by using

their speed advantage.

"Basically what we plan to do this week is really gear it up," Beck said. "(We want to) try to gear up our man-to-man pressure and really rebound well."

Beck said rebounding will be a key for Nebraska because USC connects on 44 percent of its shots from the field, which means there will be an abundance of offensive-rebound opportunities for the Trojans.

"I think it's very important that we limit their second shots," she said.

Beck said Nebraska is the team of the future.

"We're the team of '88 and they're the team of '86," she said.

Beck said the key to stopping Nelson, who averages 24 points and 11 rebounds per game, will be to deny her the ball on offense and wear her out on defense. She said Nelson will see a wide variety of coverages that will be originated by Nebraska center Kim Harris, forward Ann Halsne and guards Amy Bullock, Pam Fiene, Sabrina Brooks and Amy Stephens.

USC coach Linda Sharp said that although Nelson is one of the best players the Trojans have ever had, she is not the only good player on their team.

"I think we've got good balance," Sharp said. "I don't think we're solely dependent on Cherie Nelson."

Sharp said Nebraska's offense worries her. The Huskers are averaging 82.5 points per game.

"Defensively, I don't want to allow them 82 points," she said. "I think if we give them that many points we're going to have a tough time winning."

USC is the home team in Saturday's game, but the game is being played at Cal State-Dominguez Hills because the Trojans' home gym seats only 850 fans.

But, Sharp said, playing at Cal State-Dominguez will not be a disadvantage because the Trojans played one game there earlier this season.

"We've played a lot of games on the road this year, so I don't think it will be a factor," she said. "And the people that will be in the stands will be our fans."

Beck said USC's tradition concerns her, but she thinks the Huskers can put it out of their minds. The Trojans have made 10 consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament and captured national championships in 1983 and 1984.

"If tradition speaks, it's going to be a very big hump for us to overcome," Beck said. "But I think we really enjoy the underdog effect. We're looking forward to being the underdog because it's been awhile since we have been."

Beck said the Nebraska players are excited to have the opportunity to play against a school with the tradition of USC. She said Brooks and Maurtice Ivy have always dreamed of playing the Trojans.

Baseball team's trip full of games, not fun

By Steve Sipple
Senior Reporter

A 12-game trip to California and Hawaii won't provide a vacation for the Nebraska baseball team.

Nebraska, 13-1, will open the trip Saturday by playing 10 games in seven days while competing in the six-team Rainbow Easter Classic at Honolulu.

The seven-day tournament's field includes Lewis and Clark, Portland State, Washington, Hawaii Pacific and Hawaii.

The Cornhuskers will then travel to Los Angeles to play two nine-inning games against

Loyola-Marymount March 29-30 before opening their Big Eight season April 2-3 against Iowa State at Ames, Iowa.

"This trip poses a real challenge," Nebraska coach John Sanders said. "The tournament has been in existence for at least 12 years, maybe more, and it always has a tough field."

"You're talking about a real tough 12 ball-games."

Sanders said Lewis-Clark, a Division II school that is Nebraska's first-round opponent in the Rainbow Easter Classic, is "perennially tough" and beat about "30 of 40 Division I teams last year."

"It's really a prominent tournament," Sand-

ers said. "It gives us a real mini-peak in the season and it just happens to be played in Hawaii, not Alaska."

Sanders said Nebraska will be the team to beat throughout the tournament because of its No. 14 ranking.

"We have the association of football which is really a prominent association," Sanders said. "They remember football and baseball a lot, and we are doing well in both these areas."

Joe Federico continues to lead the Huskers in hitting entering the trip. Federico, a senior designated hitter from Temple City, Calif., has a .560 batting average. Federico has 14 hits in 25 at-bats, including two home runs and 14 runs

batted in. Freshman second baseman Maté Borgogno is second with an average of .448.

Freshman outfielder Bobby Benjamin leads Nebraska in home runs with six and junior third baseman Ron Crowe has 22 RBIs. Benjamin is second in the RBI category.

Joel Sealer, a senior from Millard South, leads the Nebraska pitchers with a 1.50 earned run average. Sealer has pitched 12 innings, giving up two runs, striking out 12 and walking 15.

Nebraska has outscored opponents 187-49 this year and has hit .313 while giving up a .194 average. Husker pitchers have earned a 3.62 ERA, while opponents have combined for a 15.86 ERA.

NU ready for spring break in San Diego

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

A trip to California during spring break will provide the Nebraska men's and women's tennis teams with some golden opportunities.

Nebraska coach Kerry McDermott said he hopes the Cornhusker men gain some momentum from participating in the San Diego Team Tourney today through Sunday because they open their Big Eight season April 1 against Iowa State. Nebraska will also face U.S. International in San Diego on Monday and will participate in the California-Irvine Marriott Tennis Classic Thursday through Sunday in Irvine, Calif.

McDermott said Nebraska will enter the San Diego tournament as the top seed even though the Huskers finished second to the Toreros in last year's competition. The remaining teams participating in the three-day tournament include Washington, Iowa, Northern Arizona, Dartmouth, Baylor and Yale.

McDermott said San Diego, Dartmouth, Yale and Bradley are the teams to beat in the tournament. He said Nebraska will enter the tournament with revenge on its mind because of the second-place finish to the

Toreros last year.

"It should be a good tournament," McDermott said. "We feel we are the more dominant team there, though."

McDermott said San Diego has an advantage entering the tournament because it is used to playing on its outdoor courts. He said Nebraska will try to overcome that advantage by using the experience it acquired on outdoor courts earlier this season in the San Diego Intercollegiate Tournament and the Corpus Christi Invite.

"We have been playing outdoors, and we are a lot more prepared to play," McDermott said.

McDermott said U.S. International, whom the Huskers will face Monday, is a solid team that excels in dual competition. He said the Soaring Gulls are comparable to Southwest Missouri State, a team which Nebraska defeated 6-3 earlier this season.

"They're a good team and they should provide us with a good dual match," McDermott said. "I feel that they are a strong team, but I also feel we should beat them 6-3. They will provide us with some good matches, and we will have to play well to win."

McDermott said the San Diego Team Tourney will provide Nebraska with good preparation and

momentum entering the match against U.S. International. He said he is not worried about the Huskers being tired after the tournament.

McDermott and California-Irvine coach Greg Patton said the Marriott Classic is one of the premier tournaments this season. The teams participating in the four-day tournament include Duke, Harvard, Mississippi, Washington, Wichita State, Dartmouth, Fresno State, Minnesota, Utah, Weber State, Yale, Division II powerhouses Chapman and California Poly San Luis Obispo, and Claremont McKenna-Harvey Mudd-Scripps, the No. 1-rated team in Division III.

Patton said there are three premier tournaments — the Corpus Christi Invite, the Blue-Gray Tournament in Montgomery, Ala., and the Marriott Classic — throughout the season.

Patton said the Marriott Classic is a tough tournament because several teams which are included among the top three squads in their conferences are competing.

Patton said the No. 6-ranked Antecaters will enter the tournament with pressure because they are the top-ranked team.

But, he said, California-Irvine's team enjoys the pressure.

"There is more pressure on us by playing on our home court, but we like the pressure," Patton said.

McDermott said he hopes Nebraska can gain momentum in San Diego and carry it throughout the Marriott Classic.

"If we have a good San Diego Tournament, it will boost our confidence for the Marriott Classic," McDermott said. "We are hoping to get a good draw in Irvine and have a fairly good first-round match. I feel we have the ability to go pretty far in the tournament, but it depends on where and when we play."

Patton said he hopes his 13-3 Antecaters, who have already beaten eight teams among the nation's top 20, gain momentum in the Marriott Classic and carry it throughout the rest of the season.

"It is the start of the second half of our season for us," Patton said. "We hope we can win the tournament and establish ourselves as one of the top five teams in the nation. We need the momentum for the next three weeks to get us a high seed in the NCAA Tournament."

Patton said the tournament is a chance for fans to watch tennis teams from around the nation. He said he hopes those fans are "turned on to

tennis."

McDermott said the Marriott Classic will give him a chance to see how other teams in the Big Eight compare to the Huskers. California-Irvine beat Kansas 7-2 earlier this year, and Duke beat Oklahoma 5-4.

McDermott said the trip will be a good opportunity for Nebraska to get in a lot of good matches and a chance to prepare for the upcoming Big Eight schedule.

NU basketball recruits honored

Two recruits who were signed by Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee during the early signing period last November have earned postseason honors.

DaPreis Owens, a 6-foot-9 center from Mansfield, Ohio, was named an honorable-mention All-America by USA Today.

Cari Hayes, a 6-7 forward from Chicago, was named to Illinois second-team all-state squad.