

# European tour a 'Lively' time for Husker basketball player

By Tim Hartmann  
Senior Editor

A trip to England and Czechoslovakia gave Nebraska basketball player Kelly Lively a change of scenery in more than one way.

Not only did Lively travel to those countries, he played with and against basketball teams other than his Cornhusker teammates for the first time in a year.

"I really enjoyed playing with new people," Lively said. "Since last summer, all I've been doing is playing in scrimmages with Nebraska players."

Lively, a 6-foot-11 center/forward from Torrington, Wyo., redshirted last season and will be a freshman in eligibility next season.

Lively traveled to England and Czechoslovakia May 25 through June 4 with the second annual Big Eight Conference Select team. Last year's team, which included Nebraska sophomore Beau Reid, toured China.

The Big Eight team, which was coached by Oklahoma State's Leonard Hamilton and included at least one player from every Big Eight school, defeated the Great Britain Olympic team twice, 95-76 and 100-98.

After playing Great Britain, the Big Eight team then competed in the Bratislava Tournament in Czechoslovakia. The Big Eight squad defeated Sweden 90-83 and Romania 110-88 before losing two games to the Bratislava Club team.

Czechoslovakia defeated the Big Eight team 126-89, and then 115-111 in an overtime game.

That was not the first Lively had seen of the Bratislava team. Nebraska lost a 69-66 exhibition game to the club last November. Lively said Bratislava had improved greatly since then.

The competition the Big Eight team faced was good, Lively said, but also different than the fast-paced Big Eight style of play he is accustomed to.

"They were very structured and disciplined, and they ran a lot of set plays and picks," he said. "We had only practiced together for three or four days and we liked to run and gun. We played for fun, but they took us real seriously because we were from America."

The opposition was also very physical, Lively said, and the referees ignored a lot of pushing and shoving.

In the six games, Lively played an average of 14 minutes per game,

averaging 1.3 points and 2.6 rebounds. Lively said he expects to benefit from the trip.

"It was a real good experience," he said. "I got a chance to play real physical basketball and I learned how to play coming off the bench."

The player who most impressed Lively on the Big Eight team was senior forward Milt Newton from 1988 NCAA champion Kansas. Newton, who scored 16 points per game, was the only Big Eight player named to the all-tournament team.

Besides Lively and Newton, the team included Dan Becker of Colorado, Kansas State's Steve Henson, Byron Irvin and Doug Smith of Missouri, Thomas Jordan and Johnny Pittman of Oklahoma State, Terrence Mullins of Oklahoma and Iowa State's Terry Woods.

The Big Eight team also got a chance to see and learn about the countries they were playing in.

"We spent most of our time in Czechoslovakia," he said.

"I thought they were real conservative and old-fashioned. But there wasn't much to do there.

We had a chance to tour London and Vienna. We spent a whole day there, which was really nice."

# Softball players finish Husker careers

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senior pitchers Lori Sippel and Donna Deardorff was a key to Nebraska's strong finish.

Sippel finished the season with a 22-11 record, while Deardorff was 17-9. Sippel holds Nebraska records for career victories, most strikeouts, most shutouts, most no-hitters and highest strikeout-per-game ratio.

"Lori Sippel is probably one of the most consistent players I know of," Wolforth said. "She did it all for us."

Wolforth said Deardorff, who won her last seven games, finished the season strong despite struggling earlier in the year.

Deardorff was named the Big Eight Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Wolforth said senior Margie Ogro-

dowicz played well throughout the season, and that he's surprised she wasn't named to the All-America team.

"It was an incredible oversight," Wolforth said. "Margie is the best player in the country and the region, and there isn't a thing she couldn't do. She was amazing during the final stretch and will be missed next year."

Ogrodowicz played three seasons for Nebraska after transferring from Texas Tech. She holds Nebraska career records for most runs scored, most stolen bases and highest batting average.

Leeanna Miles, a senior outfielder and designated player from North Platte, also finished her career at Nebraska during the Series.

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