

Husker men fail at home, women on road

Nee says comments from coach were taken as personal affront

Beck says team's youthfulness will be beneficial next season

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said Monday that he took comments made by Missouri coach Norm Stewart following the Tigers' win Saturday personally.

"Any time you get attacked like that, you take it personally," said Nee, whose team dropped an 89-72 decision to the Tigers at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. "There's no other way I could take it."

Moments after Saturday's game, Stewart said Nee was "bush league" and criticized his coaching.

"We were playing a ballclub that had a lot of people back, and for some reason, they're not winning," Stewart said. "You worry about a club that's got a lot of people back and they're not winning."

Nee said he was surprised by Stewart's verbal barrage.

"He must be under a lot of pressure, being 5th-ranked, the Sports Illustrated article... it could be a lot of things," he said.

The latest issue of Sports Illustrated carried an article about Stewart's problems with a St. Louis Post-Dispatch reporter. The reporter, Jim Thomas, said Stewart made threatening remarks to him because of that paper's articles on the recruiting methods of a Missouri assistant coach.

Thomas said Stewart told him: "I know

some people who can take care of your 1-year-old (son)."

Nee, who spoke at his weekly press conference, was asked if he expects the problems with Stewart to escalate when Nebraska plays Missouri Feb. 28 in Columbia, Mo.

"I don't think it could get worse," Nee said.

In addition, Stewart was critical of the positioning of Nebraska's band at the sports center. The band is stationed perpendicular to the visitors' bench, at the end of the court. Stewart had his players move their chairs onto the playing floor during each time out so his players could hear better.

Nee said the actions of the Nebraska band weren't so bad when compared to the antics of The Antlers, a group of Missouri fans noted for their unruly behavior and verbal assaults on players, coaches and fans.

Stewart's complaints about the band were unwarranted, Nee said.

"Obviously there's a contradiction there," Nee said.

Despite Saturday's loss, Nee said he was confident going into tonight's game against Iowa State in Ames, Iowa.

Tipoff is set for 7:08 p.m. at the James H. Hilton Coliseum.



Nee

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck isn't ready to give up this season, but she's already looking to next season.

Beck said the Cornhuskers should be an improved team next year. She said Nebraska is experiencing a youth movement, which should pay off next year.

"I see a light at the end of the tunnel," Beck said during her weekly press conference.

But, Beck said, Nebraska's near future doesn't look that bad, either.

"We have a bright future," she said. "Our February looks great. The problem we're facing this year is that Colorado has four or five kids who have been there for a long time. The time is ripe for them to win the Big Eight championship."

Beck said the Huskers, who are now 11-8 overall and 2-4 in the Big Eight, have five home games during the next month, and they should have a chance to win three road games.

"We can still win 18 games," she said, "but we think we're playing at a medium level

on the road. You have to perform at a high level in order to win on the road."

Beck said the Huskers haven't performed well on the road this season. She said Nebraska must cut down on mental errors.

"We're not executing at the end of the game," Beck said. "We have the ability to execute, but we are not putting the ball down."

Beck said poor execution is a big factor for the Huskers.

"The will to win is greatly overrated," she said. "Having a will isn't enough. The will to execute and perform is greater than that."

"We've not had the ability to execute and perform at the end of the game."

Nebraska has been hit hard with injuries this season, which has hindered its performance at the end of the games, Beck said.

Post players Wendy Kriebel, Kristi Anderson and Sarah Muller have each suffered stress fractures.

Beck said the injuries have forced her to cancel planned changes for the starting lineup.

"My job as a coach is to find winning combinations," she said. "I just haven't been able to find it yet this year."

"I wanted to move Amy Stephens to the point guard, but we had two injuries and I had to re-juggle it and she's back to playing the No. 2 guard position."

Stephens, a senior from Alliance, is averaging 20.3 points per game this year, while connecting on 46.4 percent of her shots from the field.

Nee says Cornhuskers can defeat Iowa State in Ames

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

A win on the road is a rare occurrence in the Big Eight, but Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said he thinks the Cornhuskers have a chance for one Tuesday night.

Nee said the Huskers, who are now 12-8 overall and 0-4 in the Big Eight, could defeat Iowa State at the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa. Tip-off for the game, which will be televised by KPTM (channel 42, Cablevision channel 9), is set for 7:08 p.m.

"At this point in time, this is a

game where we have a chance," Nee said. "It would be an upset if we win -- I'd call it an upset if we won. But we've been upset before."

Nee said Nebraska and Iowa State are similar teams. He said both teams are rebuilding.

"It's a good matchup for both teams," Nee said. "We're both in the same shoe box in talent, depth -- everything."

The Cyclones, who enter the game with a 10-7 record overall and a 1-4 mark in the Big Eight, are led by center Victor Alexander. Alexander is averaging 19 points and 8.4 re-

bounds per game.

"Alexander has the ability to score," Nee said. "He really does a good job for them."

But Nebraska forward Beau Reid said the Huskers can't concern themselves about what its opponents are doing.

"I think we need to quit worrying so much about what other teams do and start worrying more about what we do," Reid said. "I think that sometimes we start focusing on what other teams do and their offenses and how many great shooters they have."

"I think we start focusing on the

wrong things instead of focusing on ourselves."

Iowa State has a 6-2 record at home this season, and Nee said that could be a factor in the game.

"The thing about Iowa State is that in the Hilton Coliseum, they're really, really tough," he said. "They're very explosive offensively, and they put numbers on the boards quickly."

Nee said Iowa State has played very well this season, but can play very poor.

The Cyclones lost to Kansas 127-82 at Lawrence, Kan., prior to drop-

ping a 109-100 overtime decision to No. 1-ranked Oklahoma in Ames.

"They can lose by 45 points one night, and then come within a cat's whisker of beating Oklahoma," Nee said.

Reid said the game is important because Nebraska is starting to wonder what it takes to win a conference game.

"We're both frustrated and confused," he said. "When you look at the good teams, and what they have, we have the physical talent to do well in this league. We have all the tools. We just don't have that edge."

Lady Huskers need to work on execution, Beck says

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck breathed a sigh of relief after seeing a frustrating January come to a close.

The Cornhuskers' frustration with January ended when they dropped an 84-75 overtime decision to Missouri Sunday in Columbia, Mo. The loss, Nebraska's third-consecutive Big Eight road setback, dropped the Huskers to 11-8 overall and 2-4 in the conference.

As February begins, Beck said she won't be looking at the disappointments of the past month. But she said she will be looking ahead to the possibilities of a new month.

"We are going to put the past behind us and have a great February," Beck said. "We have the opportunity to turn the whole conference race around. It will be a little tough to win the regular-season conference race with Colorado at 6-0 in the conference. But we are looking to finish second or third in the conference and regain a little credibility. We want to be in a position for a Big Eight championship and have an 18-win season."

Beck's optimism with February stems from Nebraska's schedule. Five of the Huskers remaining eight games are at the Bob Devaney Sports

Center, where Nebraska has a 29-game winning streak. She said the Huskers goal is to finish with a 9-5 conference mark and receive a bid to the NCAA tournament.

Beck said she is not totally disappointed by Nebraska's three road losses because the Huskers were in a position to win all of them. In addition to the loss at Missouri, Nebraska also dropped a 83-80 road decision to Kansas State and a 68-65 decision to Oklahoma.

"I feel sorry because we had the ability and we were in a position to win," Beck said. "I don't think we executed to our full potential. In the Missouri game we had two shots at

the end that didn't connect."

Beck said she is surprised by Nebraska's 2-4 record in the Big Eight. She said the worst she expected the Huskers to be was 3-3, but didn't foresee Nebraska losing all four road games.

Beck said she was disappointed with the 25 turnovers the Huskers committed against Missouri. She said the Huskers would have won if they would have converted one of their turnovers into a shot.

Beck said she was pleased with the performance of guard Sabrina Brooks. The senior transfer from Moberly (Mo.) Junior College led the Huskers with 26 points.

"I hope it wasn't a fluke," Beck said. "I knew she would be motivated to be playing against two kids she went to junior college with. Her junior college coach was also there. She just needs to have that inner motivation every night."

Beck said Nebraska planned to reset its goals for the rest of the season on Monday night. She said the Huskers are going to work on executing better and being more consistent.

"The will to win is really overplayed," Beck said. "The ability to execute has much greater importance. I blame a lot of our losses on the inconsistency of some of our players."

Daily Nebraskan wins first game

Craig Wagner scored a game-high 14 points to lead the Daily Nebraskan past Rat Patrol II 34-29 in Class 'C' intramural action at the NU Coliseum Sunday.

Wagner, the brother of DN Editor Curt Wagner, came off the bench to tally eight points in the first half. He added six points in the second half as the DN overcame a four-point deficit.

DN player-coach Mike Kluck said he was pleased with his team's effort. He said the only weakness the team displayed was in its starting guard tandem of Mike Reilley and Jeff Apel. Reilley and Apel connected on only one of eight shots from the field while committing five turnovers.

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