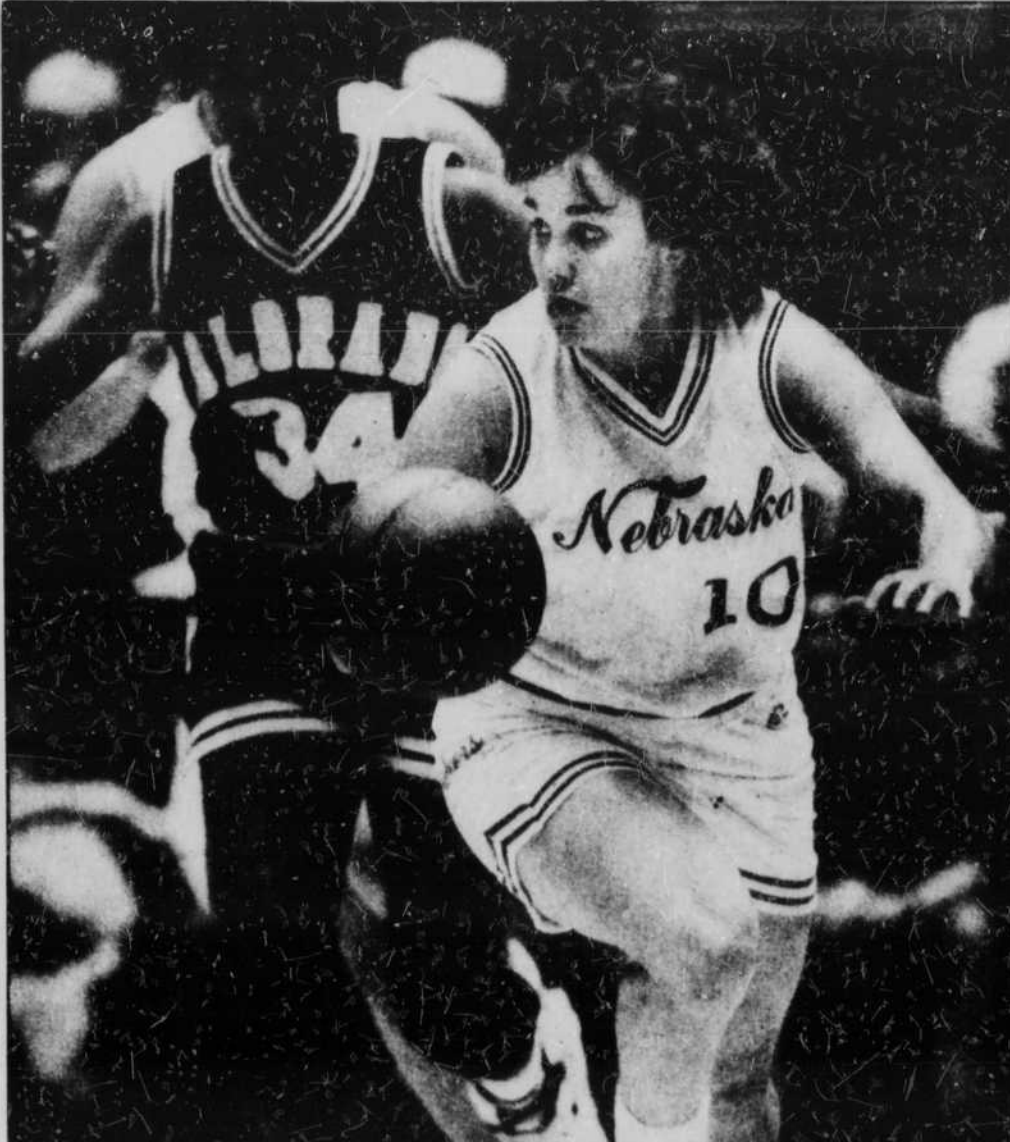




David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska guard Eric Johnson applies defensive pressure to Colorado's Steve Wise.



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska guard Amy Bullock drives towards the basket as Colorado's Crystal Ford pursues.

Explosion leads NU Hot shooting leads the Huskers to a 38-point rout of Colorado

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter
and Mark Antonietti
Staff Reporter

A first-half explosion Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center led the Nebraska men's basketball team to a 97-59 victory against Colorado and carried the Cornhuskers out of the Big Eight cellar.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the Huskers were fortunate that Colorado had an off night. The Buffaloes connected on 31.8 percent of their field goals in the first half, compared to 73.1 percent for Nebraska. Colorado also finished the first half with 16 turnovers, compared to 11 for the Huskers.

Those figures helped Nebraska score the final 14 points of the first half to take a 50-20 lead at halftime.

"In all aspects of the game, it was obvious that we caught a cold Colorado team," Nee said. "I really have to give credit to the kids who came out and played good defense. They were aggressive on the boards -- took the game at Colorado."

Buffalo coach Tom Miller agreed. "The key in the first half was the 16 turnovers and being outrebounded 17-7," Miller said.

Nee said he wanted Nebraska to establish its transition game in the first half. He said he

See NEE on 17

History in the making Colorado uses balance, maturity to keep Big Eight record perfect

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

There was at least one person who was impressed by the Colorado women's basketball team following its 71-63 victory against Nebraska Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck said she was impressed by Colorado, which kept its hopes alive of becoming the first women's team in Big Eight history to go undefeated during the conference's regular season. The win raised the No. 10-ranked Buffaloes record to 23-3 overall and 13-0 in the Big Eight.

"They deserve to be where they are," Beck

said. "We got beat by a team that's undefeated and you know why. I see a lot of maturity in them. I see great balance."

Beck said Nebraska lacked that same type of maturity down the stretch, as the Cornhuskers were outscored by Colorado 13-7 during the game's final 4:14. She said the Buffaloes exploited Nebraska's weaknesses en route to dropping the Huskers' record to 14-12 overall and 5-7 in the Big Eight.

"I thought we had great effort but effort doesn't win ball games," Beck said. "I think we're a good basketball team but we just lack some leadership to get the job done down the stretch."

See BECK on 17

Oklahoma Big 8's best bet for NCAA title

There won't be another "Cinderella" national champion from the Big Eight this season.

If a Big Eight team wins the NCAA title, it won't be an upset like last year, unless a team like Nebraska or Colorado wins it. Then it wouldn't be just an upset -- it would be a phenomenon.

Mark
Derowitsch



Needless to say, the Big Eight is a much improved conference from top to bottom. And the top two teams in the conference can compete with anybody in the nation.

This season could produce a repeat of last year's NCAA championship game, only substitute Missouri for Kansas. Kansas won last year's NCAA title by defeating Oklahoma 83-79 in Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

But don't count out Kansas State

or Oklahoma State. The Wildcats are having a season much like Kansas did last year.

The only thing the Wildcats are missing is a center/forward like Danny Manning, who led the Jayhawks to the title and was the National Basketball Association's No. 1 pick in the amateur draft in June.

Some say last season's dream game, which pitted two Big Eight teams against each other, was a fluke. Those people won't be talking much in March.

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs has said he's expecting the Sooners to make another Final Four appearance. He also said he won't be satisfied with anything less than a national championship.

And don't be surprised if he's very content at the end of the 64-team tournament. With seniors Stacey King and Mookie Blaylock leading the way, it will be an upset if the Sooners don't return to the Final Four.

Tubbs is already preparing for the tournament. Last week, the No. 1-ranked Sooners defeated No. 3 Missouri, then No. 1-ranked Arizona and defending national champion Kan-

sas, which is ineligible for this year's tournament.

"This isn't a cupcake schedule," Tubbs said. "This is a champagne schedule."

Since the Sooners came away with a 3-0 record that week and regained the No. 1 spot in the country, Oklahoma fans will have something to think about besides a crippled football program.

And how about Missouri? The coach Norm Stewart-less Tigers (he will miss the rest of the season because of cancer and stomach surgery) have enough balance and depth to play with anybody.

If they can concentrate with all the things surrounding the program right now, they'll be very much in the hunt.

But the Tigers must get by the first round of the tournament, something they have failed to do each of the past seven seasons.

When Missouri handed the Cornhuskers an 89-72 loss in Lincoln earlier this season, (remember -- after the game Stewart called Nebraska coach Danny Nee a bush-league coach), some Tiger fans were holding signs that said "Nebraska chokes in bowl games," referring to the Hus-

kers football team.

Well, Tiger fans, that may be true, but you don't have much room to talk.

Losses to Rhode Island and Xavier in the first round of the NCAA Tournament aren't something to boast about. It seems that maybe the Husker football team lets Missouri use their noose during basketball season.

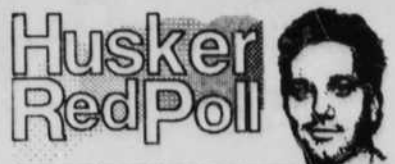
Oklahoma State could also be making a run, provided the Cowboys play all their tournament games on neutral floors.

The Cowboys have had their problems playing on the road this season. A prime example of that would be Tuesday night's 89-87 loss to Nebraska.

Regardless, it's highly unlikely that the Big Eight will place three teams in the "Great Eight" or two in the Final Four.

But one is likely, and the Big Eight's high hopes for a repeat national champion rests in the hands of Oklahoma.

Derowitsch is a junior news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and sports columnist.



By Craig Christensen
OCR Relations Director

The Top Ten

1. HOSERS (5-0)
2. RUNNING REBELS (4-0)
3. SPANISH FLYERS (4-0)
4. SIG EP B-2 (5-0)
5. ATO B-2 (5-0)
6. DELTA TAU DELTA B-2 (5-0)
7. FIJI A (3-1)
8. ATO A (3-1)
9. UNL TCOB (5-1)
10. BETA'S (3-1)

GAME OF THE WEEK

CHI PHI vs. FIJI A'S

6 P.M., FEB. 23

Military & Naval Science Building