

## Huskies defeat Arkansas State in last seconds; season continues

By Nick Hodge  
Senior Reporter

One of the season's smallest Bob Devaney Sports Center crowds provided the Nebraska men's basketball team with its decisive 'sixth man' Thursday night.

Cornhusker coach Danny Nee said the 8,862 fans that attended Nebraska's 81-79 win against Arkansas State in the first round of the National Invitation Tournament played a critical role in the Husker victory.

"I really thought our crowd was the sixth man," Nee said. "The sixth man was the difference in the game."

Husker guard Eric Johnson was whistled for a foul with no time remaining on the game clock to send Warrior freshman guard Chris Dillard to the free throw line with Nebraska leading 81-79. In the midst of a deafening frenzy by the Sports Center crowd, Dillard missed the front end of the one-and-one attempt to give Nebraska the win.

The miss left Dillard sobbing and the Huskers celebrating.

With the win, Nebraska, now 17-15 and assured a winning season, advances to the NIT's second round next Monday or Tuesday against an undetermined opponent.

Nebraska center Rich King said the vocal Husker fans had a definite affect on Dillard's missed free throw.

"It made all the difference in the world," King said. "I'm sure he'd say that the crowd didn't bother him and that he just didn't concentrate because no player likes to say the crowd got to him. But as much noise as they were making the sound waves were bouncing around in there. I know it had to have had some effect."

But Johnson said he doesn't think he fouled Dillard.

"I thought that I had gotten all ball," Johnson said. "I felt that I'd gotten all ball because it kind of got away from him and was in front of him, so I just reached out and knocked it down. But the ref made the call."

With Arkansas State leading 79-76 with 48 seconds remaining in the game, Johnson hit a jumper from the free throw line and then made two free throws with 14 seconds left to give the Huskers an 80-79 advantage.

Johnson, Nebraska's team captain, said he was determined to make both free throws.

"I felt they were pretty tough because we were down," said Johnson, a 6-foot-2 native of Brooklyn, N.Y. "I was just concentrating on making them and putting them in a situation where they had the pressure on them to come down and score."

"I thought that if I made these two free throws things would go our way."

And go Nebraska's way they did.

The Warriors were called for a turnover which led to Husker forward Ray Richardson's free throw with five seconds left to give Nebraska a 81-79 lead.

Arkansas State coach Nelson Catalina said he was proud of the Warriors' comeback.

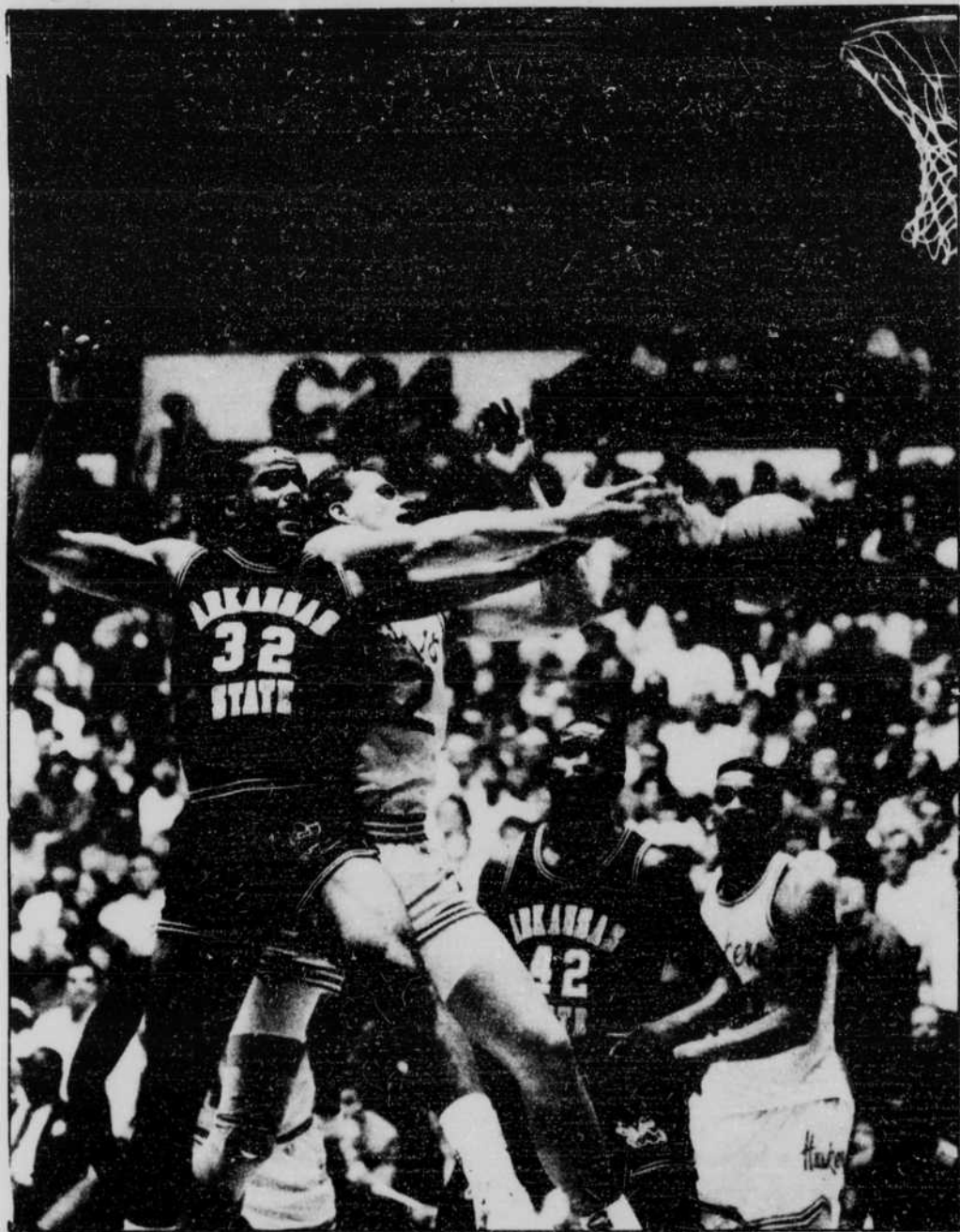
"You have to give our team a lot of credit," Catalina said. "We were down by 17 at one point and came back and made a game of it."

Nebraska led the Warriors by 17 points twice in the second half. However, Arkansas State battled back behind the performance of forwards John Tate and Ed Loudon. Tate scored 11 of his game-high 23 points in the second half and Loudon contributed 17 of his 22 points in the Warriors' comeback attempt.

Catalina said the Warriors, who ended their season 20-10, are used to heartbreaking losses. Arkansas State lost six games this season by a total of nine points.

"We didn't make our free throws," Catalina said. "But you have to give them credit. Johnson made a big-time play at the end."

Nee said the Huskers played their best half of the season in the first half. Nebraska committed just four turnovers, made half of its field goal attempts and connected on 12 of 14 free throws in the first half. Johnson made two baskets in the final minute of the first half as Nebraska scored the half's final six points to give the Huskers a 42-33 lead at halftime.



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

NU's Richard van Poelgeest battles Arkansas State's Bobby Collins in Thursday night's NIT tournament at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

## Huskies to face new breed at tournament

By Darran Fowler  
Staff Reporter

Softball is one game, but it's played in different ways.

The Nebraska softball team will be introduced to a different brand of softball when it travels to Tallahassee, Fla., for a three-day invitational tournament this weekend.

Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said the trip will be a new experience for the coaches and players because the Cornhuskers are used to the style of play that they see while facing Midwest and West Coast teams.

"We have never in the past played Southern and East Coast teams," Wolforth said. "This is the first opportunity as a team and as a staff to play those teams. Personally, I've never been to Florida before so I'm really looking forward to it. We're

going to see a lot of different teams that we haven't seen before."

Nebraska will open the 'B' portion of the 19-team tournament by facing Connecticut and Eastern Illinois today, and will square off against Florida A & M and Furman on Saturday.

In addition to Nebraska, Connecticut, Eastern Illinois, Florida A & M and Furman, the teams that will participate in the tournament include; Missouri, Iowa State, Georgia State, Illinois State, Bradley and North Carolina, Ohio State, Northern Illinois, South Florida, Miami of Ohio, Southern Illinois, Southwest Missouri State, Stetson University of Deland, Fla., and Florida State.

The tournament's bracket competition will begin on Saturday, with the semifinals and championship game slated for Sunday.

Wolforth said the tournament will

feature offense against defense. He said the Midwest and West Coast teams will employ strong pitching and defense, while the Southern teams will rely on strong offenses.

"They play a different brand of ball because their pitching is not quite as strong," he said. "They tend to be more offensive oriented compared to that of the Midwest and West Coast teams where pitchers are so dominate."

"In the South, they have a lot bigger girls, so they go more for the long ball. In the West, we rely much more on being speed oriented and base hitting for runs and leading off with bunts."

Nebraska, 6-10, is coming off a 1-6 campaign at the Roadrunner Invitational in Las Cruces, N. M. That performance dropped the Huskers out of the national ratings.

Wolforth said one bright spot for Nebraska has been its speed. The Huskers have stolen 23 bases this season, which Wolforth said is three times as many as their opponents.

"If we can put the other aspects of our game together with our running game we'll really become a factor," he said.

Wolforth said he is not concerned about the attitude of his players.

"We just don't panic," he said. "Over the last three, four years we've had plenty of chances to panic, but it's just not our nature. We still think we can win the Big Eight championship and we're not going to change from that."

"Everyone has to go through adversity and see how they respond to it and we have another chance to see how we respond this week."

Wolforth said his players always set high goals at the start of each season. He said that is why he is confident about the rest of the season.

"Right now, it's such a shock because we're not right where we want to be, but that's not all that bad because we want people that expect excellence and expect to win," he said.

With injuries and personal problems out of the way, Wolforth said this weekend's tournament is the best position he has been in this season.

"One aspect I now have is that I will have everyone this weekend," he said. "This allows me to change the line-up... it allows me variability. If someone was having a bad tourney the past two tournaments I had to stay with them. I can do more coaching this time. That makes me feel very well."

## Tyreese for the Heisman wins intramural

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Tyreese Knox did not let a good friend down during the Class 'C' intramural basketball championships Thursday at the Military and Naval Science Building.

Knox said he was glad he kept a promise while helping Tyreese for the Heisman win the title with a 63-53 victory against the Savage Dogs. He said the victory capped off a pre-season challenge made by teammate Bob Cook.

Knox said the challenge involved winning the Heisman Trophy. He said Cook touted him as a Heisman candidate when he arrived at Nebraska as a highly publicized running back, but was disappointed when he spent his entire Cornhusker career as a reserve.

Knox said he was determined not to let Cook down a second time.

"He said, 'Tyreese, you've already lost one Heisman, don't lose

another,'" Knox said. "I said I wouldn't."

The Legal Gunners were also not determined to let anyone down, as they used a last-second shot to defeat the Fiji's 42-40 and win the lightweight title.

In other intramural action, Schramm 6-A won the residence hall 'A' title by defeating Burr-2 West A 72-64, Abel 7-B captured the 'B' title by defeating Harper 9-B 67-50 and Cather 4 captured the 'C' title by defeating Cather 10-47-40. Delta Tau Delta won the fraternity 'C' title by defeating Beta C-2 50-51 and Karl's Running Rebels captured the independent 'B' title by defeating the Stones 64-57.

Knox said the key to Tyreese for the Heisman's victory was balanced scoring and pressure defense. Tyreese for the Heisman forced the Savage Dogs to commit 24 turnovers, and also benefitted from a scoring attack in which five players scored five points or more.

Eric Wagner, a 6-foot-1 forward, led Tyreese for the Heisman with 21 points. Cartier Walker, a former Nebraska defensive back, added 15, while Steve Sandman had nine.

Knox said he wasn't surprised by Wagner's performance. He said Wagner has been Tyreese for the Heisman's big scorer all season.

"That's pretty much his game," Knox said. "He's a good shooter."

Wagner said he was confident that he could hit his shots. He collected 12 of his points on 3-point shots, and added the rest from either short jump shots, driving layups or free throws.

"If I'm open, I can usually hit them," Wagner said.

Savage Dogs forward Kevin Miller, who led his team with 13 points, said he was impressed with Wagner.

"(Wagner) was real good," Miller said. "He hit the 3-pointers and he made his free throws down the line."

Miller said the Savage Dogs

switched from a zone to a man-to-man defense early in the second half in an effort to contain Wagner's 3-point shooting. That strategy paid off, as the Savage Dogs cut Tyreese for the Heisman's advantage to 50-48 with 2:01 remaining.

But in the game's closing minutes, Tyreese for the Heisman used four points from Walker and Sandman, three from Dan Ziegler and two from Knox to post the victory. The win raised Tyreese for the Heisman's record to 10-0, while the Savage Dogs fell to 10-2.

"In the second half we did a real good job early," Miller said. "But we got out of our game plan and missed some shots at the end."

Knox said Tyreese for the Heisman cherished the victory. He said the win was especially satisfying because this was the team's first year together.

"We've got a celebration all planned," he said. "Believe it or not, we take this seriously."



By Craig Christensen  
OCR Relations Director

### The Top Ten

1. Hosers (8-0)
2. ATO (8-0)
3. D
4. H
5. D
6. (8-2)
- 7.
8. (9)
9. P/B-2 (1)
10. Stones (9-1)

KEY GAME OF THE WEEK  
All-University Playoff Championship will be held Thursday, 6:00 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.