

## Athletes nominated

Two Nebraska athletes are among six individuals nominated for the NCAA Today's Top Six awards.

The Cornhusker athletes nominated are Jake Young, a center on the Nebraska football team, and Virginia Stahr, an All-America middle blocker on the Husker volleyball team.

Young, a senior from Midland, Texas, is a three-year starter. He was a semifinalist for the 1989 Lombardi Award, which is annually presented to the nation's best lineman, and is a two-time All-America and All-Big Eight selection.


Stahr is a senior from Waco who was the 1989 Volleyball Player of the Year. She is also a two-time All-America selection.

The other athletes selected are Chris Duplanty, a water polo player from California-Irvine; John Jackson, a wide receiver from USC; and Pat O'Kelly and Kerri Tashiro, soccer players from Seton Hall and Colorado College.

FINAL

MEN'S FLAG FOOTBALL

TOP TEN



BY CRAIG CHRISTENSEN

1. Sweet Hogs 14-1
2. Sig Ep B-2 11-3
3. ATO A-1 12-1
4. Sig Ep A-1 10-2
5. Abel 7 11-1
6. Brew Crew 7-1
7. No Clue 8-2
8. Abel 4 6-1
9. Delt B-2 7-4
10. Bung 5-3

# Texas Tech will try to avenge last season's one-basket defeat

By Cory Golden  
Staff Reporter

December 11, 1988.  
Nebraska forward Beau Reid drives for a layup with 10 seconds left to give the Cornhusker basketball team a 71-69 win over the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock, Texas.

December 9, 1989.  
Tomorrow night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Texas Tech will try to avenge that loss against the Huskers. They will get their chance at 7:35 p.m., and Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the Huskers' chances of success are difficult because things are different this year.

Reid, the Huskers' leading scorer last season, is out with a knee injury, and both teams are filled with new players.

Nebraska's roster is full of players who weren't with the Husker program two years ago, while the Red Raiders will bring three returning starters, three returning lettermen

and nine newcomers to Lincoln.

Nee said Texas Tech has overcome its inexperience this season. He said he is leery of the 3-2 Red Raiders.

Texas Tech has recorded wins against Missouri-St. Louis, Midwestern and Portland this season, and lost a pair of 1-point games to Austin Peay and San Diego State.

"They have some good people back and they have a lot of new faces," Nee said.

One of those new faces is Derex Butts, a 6-foot-5 guard/forward who leads the Red Raiders in scoring with an average of 15.4 points per game.

Butts' backcourt partner, 6-3 Jerry Mason, averages 15 points per game.

At the forward spots for Texas Tech are two juniors -- 6-6, 225-pound James Johnson and 6-8, 210-pound Steve Miles -- who average 3.8 and 7.6 points per game, respectively.

At center is 6-9, 230-pound senior J.D. Sanders, who averages 7 points

and 5.4 rebounds per game.

Nee said he has been impressed by Sanders.

"J.D. Sanders is a really, really good player," he said.

Sanders and the Red Raiders will try to run the Huskers until they're red, Nee said.

"Their coach, Gerald Myers, has been in this business a long time," he said. "He coaches a really aggressive ball club that plays tight man-to-man defense and really forces the pace."

Nee said he's not relieved to be back at home even though it dropped a 65-56 road decision Tuesday to Northern Illinois. The loss extended the Huskers' road losing streak to 13 games.

Nee said the attitude his team has taken is one of getting back down to business.

"Just us being ready to play, that's the key," Nee said. "Players understanding their roles, rebounding, hitting free throws -- those are the things we have to do."

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### WORK from Page 7

are on a 13-game losing streak on the road.

The Huskers better shift gears or imagine what's going to happen when they travel to places like Columbia, Mo., Norman and Stillwater, Okla., and Lawrence and Manhattan, Kan. I rather care not to think about it.

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs, who loves to kick you while you're down, probably already is thinking about it... licking his chops in front of cameras in anticipation of clobbering NU at Lloyd Noble Center.

Heck, even Colorado's unbeaten right now. The Buffaloes even won a

game on the road. It can be said that the Buffaloes haven't played anyone yet, but has Nebraska? OK, Michigan State. Losing to the Spartans is something a lot of teams will do this season. There's no shame in that.

But to Miami of Ohio and Southern... Western... Northern... well one of those Illinois teams? I'm not sure, but I think they're Division I.

Not having Reid, who is recovering from knee surgery last summer, hurts. It's hard to conjecture how much that affects the team. It surely doesn't help, but shouldn't be used as an excuse.

Nor should inexperience, although it could play a part in the Huskers' overall confidence and organization at this point of the season. But there are a lot of teams with young players who aren't saving their best years for later.

Nebraska isn't winning -- or even playing well -- on the road because of a lack of a veteran team. It's because they're out-hustled and outworked, which translates into being out-rebounded, outscored... out-everythinged.

Hopefully, the Huskers aren't going to be burned from three-point

range all season, even in their victories. Players who get hot usually call for a finger to the eye, a knee to the groin, pulling their shorts down... anything to break their rhythm. It even may call for working a little harder on defense, although I'd rather see their shorts pulled down.

Right now, or within the next couple road games, the team needs a guy or two with the mental toughness to rub off on the other players when they start running the floor with their tails between their legs.

Guys with the guts, determination and hustle to play hard every second on the floor. Playing tough "D" takes a little work -- hard work.

The banging it takes to get open on offense or in position for rebounds takes a lot of energy and wears the legs down. It creates fatigue.

Playing on the road is tough. Fans are rude and noisy, but like hard work and fatigue it's also part of the game.

Overcoming the pain from exhaustion takes players who are willing to pay the price.

Notice: that's willing, not wilting.

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

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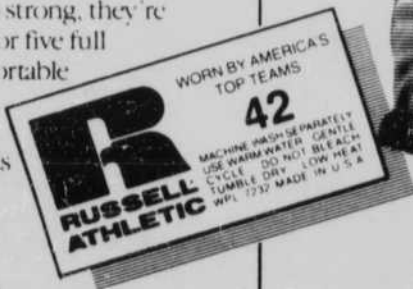
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## NU history to repeat itself in bleak basketball season

Colorado and Nebraska are going at it again.

After battling all season for the Big Eight football crown, it looks like they're going to be going at it during basketball season as well.

The only difference is there is nothing to give the Buffaloes an unfair advantage in the "1989-90 Big Eight battle for the basement."

In fact, the only poll that picked Nebraska or Colorado higher than seventh in the Big Eight predicted Kansas -- the No. 2 team in the nation -- to finish eighth.

### Chris Hopfensperger

It's ironic, isn't it? Of the teams that Nebraska consistently pummels on the football field, the only one the basketball team reasonably can be favored over is the one team the Cornhuskers lost to on the gridiron.

Maybe it's fair. After years of the Cornhuskers dominating Big Eight athletics, placing high in almost every sport, maybe basketball season is payback time.

And how could Nebraska win when the Big Eight is such a veritable plethora of basketball talent?

Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma are rated in the Associated Press Top 25, and Oklahoma State and Kansas State received votes. The only team missing from the poll besides Colorado and Nebraska is Iowa State, which lost only two starters from last

year's team that qualified for the NCAA tournament.

Nebraska has never won a NCAA postseason tournament game, nor has it ever won the Big Eight Tournament, which has been dominated by the conference's "big three" -- Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

This year looks to be more of the same.

Kansas won the preseason National Invitation Tournament by defeating Nevada-Las Vegas and Louisiana State, who were then the nation's No. 1 and 2 teams. That performance rocketed the Jayhawks from the depths of obscurity to the top of the polls.

Missouri, which is led by sophomore sensation Anthony Peeler, is ranked fourth after beating North Carolina to win this year's Maui Classic.

Oklahoma, whose basketball program isn't on probation (surprise, surprise), is once again pummeling the hell out of basketball teams across the country behind a lineup that always looks like an all-star team.

Even lowly Colorado has potential in center Shaun Vandiver, who has led the Buffaloes to a 4-0 record this season.

Nebraska? Well, let's just say the Huskers are a bad joke. They lost to Northern Illinois, which is no easy feat.

They also recruited Kelly Lively. And center Rich King has missed more dunks than he has free throws. Enough said.

Hopfensperger is a freshman news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan sportswriter and columnist.