

Kansas State guard tandem concerns Nee

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Oklahoma State men's basketball coach Leonard Hamilton considered using kryptonite Wednesday to stop Kansas State guard Jean Derouillere.

This Saturday, that piece of fluorescent-green rock could be the best asset for the Nebraska men's basketball team when it faces Kansas State.

Nebraska will find out just how good Derouillere and his teammates are when it faces Kansas State at 3:07 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The game, which will be preceded by a Cornhusker-Wildcat women's matchup at 12:30 p.m., will be televised by Raycom (channels 10-11).

Before his team's win against Kansas State, Hamilton said he almost resorted to kryptonite -- Superman's lone nemesis -- to stop Derouillere. Hamilton compared the Kansas State guard to former Wildcat forward Mitch Richmond, who now plays for the National Basketball Association's Golden State Warriors.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said

he is concerned because the Wildcats possess a strong guard tandem in Derouillere and Steve Henson.

The Huskers tuned up for their game against Kansas State by dropping a 105-64 decision to the Sooners on Wednesday. Nee said Nebraska will have a tough time preparing for the game, because the Wildcats are a sharp contrast to Oklahoma.

"Their strength lies in their guards," Nee said. "They've got a one-two punch."

The first half of that punch consists of Derouillere, a 6-foot-5 junior from Miami who averages 14.7 points and 3.4 rebounds per game. The second punch is Henson, Derouillere's backcourt teammate. Henson is a 6-1 senior who ranks first on Kansas State's career steals and assists lists, and ranks fourth on the Wildcats' all-time scoring list.

Henson has connected on 93 percent of his free throws this season, a feat which causes problems for opponents.

"You can't foul him," Kansas coach Roy Williams said. "Every

time you foul him, it's like, 'Here, Steve, here's a layup.'"

Henson said he takes pride in his free-throw shooting.

"There are a lot of things in basketball where you can't really say how well you're playing," Henson said. "But with free throws, it's in the numbers, and you can see it."

Henson has been a thorn in Nebraska's side throughout his career, averaging 14.1 points and 2.1 rebounds against the Huskers.

Nee said he is impressed with Henson.

"Steve Henson is one of the premier players in the country," Nee said.

Kansas State coach Lon Kruger agreed. He said Henson plays a big role for the Wildcats, who are now 12-9 overall and 2-3 in the Big Eight.

"He has certainly meant a lot to this program," Kruger said. "In three years, he has been asked to do a lot of different things, and he has always adjusted his game for the benefit of the team. As I said last year, I don't

know one player that has done more for this team than Steve Henson."

Kruger said Henson is a natural leader.

"Leadership is an intangible thing, and it's really not something that's easy to teach," he said. "Steve is an excellent leader, both by example and by urging guys on. He knows when to get after guys, and he knows when to pump them up. He just has a good feel for people and for basketball."

Nee said Kansas State also is bolstered by Tony Massop, a 6-8 center who averages 9.7 points and 6.5 rebounds per contest. He said the 230-pound Massop is a rugged performer.

"Tony Massop is having a great year inside," Nee said. "The guy is just a steady player."

Kruger said Massop's performance is critical because Kansas State lacks height. The Wildcats tallest player is 6-10 forward John Rettiger, which could cause problems because Nebraska is the tallest team in the Big Eight.

The Huskers will counter Rettiger's and Massop's height with 7-foot centers Rich King and Kelly Lively, 6-9 forward Richard van Poelgeest, 6-7 forward/guard Ray Richardson and 6-8 forwards Carl Hayes and Dapreis Owens.

Kruger said Kansas State will battle Nebraska's height with fundamentals.

"We'll continue to stress the fundamentals inside to make up for any deficiencies we may have," he said.

Kansas State does not have any deficiencies in terms of athletic ability, as Kruger said this year's group of Wildcats is more athletic than the team he possessed last year.

The 1988-89 Wildcats finished with a 19-11 record and lost to Minnesota in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

"One of the things we look forward to is the opportunity to do more things on the court," Kruger said. "We would like to get into a position where we could create some things with our defense, then take advantage on the offensive end."

NU win brightens outlook, raises fans' expectations

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Cornhusker watchers already are expecting more from the Nebraska women's basketball team after two Big Eight victories, according to Coach Angela Beck.

"You get a couple of wins, and you wonder why you can't win by more than seven," she said.

Well, expectations of a big win are understandable after the Huskers took a 19-point halftime lead on their way to a 88-81 victory over Oklahoma on Wednesday.

After the magnificent first period, Nebraska relaxed and let the Sooners make two runs. At the end, free throws helped the Huskers, 10-10 and 2-5 in the conference, win their second straight game, after a six-game losing streak.

That inconsistency and flash of greatness sounds a lot like Nebraska's opponent this Saturday, Colorado. The Huskers and Lady Buffs start at 12:30 p.m. (moved up a half hour from the original schedule) at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We've been struggling," Colorado coach Ceal Barry said. "Some-

times we look good; sometimes we look pretty awful."

Barry said the Lady Buffs, 11-9 and 4-3, looked good in the second half of their 78-61 win over Kansas on Wednesday. Colorado took over fourth place in the conference with the victory.

"We're young, so we can't put 40 minutes together," Barry said.

Last season Colorado went undefeated in the league and reached a No. 9 ranking, enough to give high expectations to any team.

But the Lady Buffs lost their four top scorers -- one has even made the Harlem Globetrotters -- so Barry has had to rely on lone returning starter Annan "Spud" Wilson and junior college transfer Debbie Johnson.

Wilson, a 5-foot-4 point guard, keys the Colorado offense and full-court press. Johnson, a 6-5 center, is the team's leading scorer and put in 28 points against Kansas.

Beck said Wilson caused the Huskers the most trouble in Colorado's 81-57 win over Nebraska on January 17, so the Huskers worked on breaking the press Thursday.

See BECK on 8

NU track team set to face Arkansas, Drake Saturday

By Sara Bauder
Staff Reporter

Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin isn't shying away from the tough competition that awaits his teams on Saturday.

In fact, he welcomes it.

Pepin said he is looking forward to Nebraska's triangular meet against Arkansas and Drake because both teams will provide the Cornhuskers with tough competition. He will find out just how tough when the meet begins at 11 a.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who show their student I.D. cards will be admitted free.

Pepin said he is pleased to have Arkansas coming to Lincoln because the Razorbacks are a high-powered team. The Arkansas men have won six consecutive NCAA indoor track titles, and also have claimed the last nine Southwest Conference championships.

"It's not often that you can get a team like that to come all the way up here for a meet," Pepin said.

"Their men's team will give us all the competition we'll want. They are traditionally strong in distance events."

At the Arkansas Invitational two weeks ago, Razorback Reuben Reina ran the mile in 3:59.35 minutes, with teammate Eric Henry finishing second in 4:00.03.

Pepin said Arkansas is weaker in the sprints, but has a good athlete in every field event except the shot put.

Pepin said the Drake men are led by Kevin Little, who earned All-America honors last season. He said Little, who is the three-time defending champion in the Husker Invitational 200-meter dash, is one of the best sprinters in the nation.

On the women's side, Pepin said Arkansas has some good individual athletes, but doesn't have as much depth as it needs.

Drake will provide a good challenge for the Nebraska women, Pepin said. He said the Huskers expect a stronger challenge from Drake than they received last weekend against Wichita State and Colorado State.

See TOUGH on 8



Daily Nebraskan file photo
Nebraska's Karla Cash flies high in the air while competing in the floor exercise.

Senior gymnasts to play key role in competition

By Mike O'Malley
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's gymnastics coach Rick Walton admits he is having nightmares.

Walton said he often wakes up in the middle of the night scared about losing the four seniors on this year's team to graduation. He said he calms down by reminding himself that the four upperclassmen still have their final year of eligibility remaining.

That senior experience will play a key role on Sunday, when the Cornhuskers compete in the Masters Classic. The meet, which Walton described as a preliminary competition for the NCAA championships, begins at 2 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student I.D. cards will be admitted free to the second-annual meet, which will pit No. 4 Nebraska against second-ranked UCLA, sixth-ranked Cal-State Fullerton and 13th-ranked Washington.

Walton said Nebraska will need strong performances from its seniors in order to win the Masters Classic. The Huskers senior connection includes All-America selections Tami Bair and Michele Bryant, Jane Clemons, the defending Big Eight champion in the uneven bars, and Lisa McCrady.

"We are a veteran team with four outstanding seniors," he said. "We look to be in good shape for the meet."

He said he expects a strong challenge from UCLA, which Nebraska defeated once in three attempts last season. The Bruins' top gymnasts are Jill Andrews, Kim Hamelton, Renae Kelly, Cara Alrich, and freshman Rhonda Thane.

"UCLA always has talented teams," he said. "They always have the biggest wealth of talent. If they're physically healthy they should do well."

Walton said he also expects Cal-State Fullerton to do well. He said the Titans are similar to Nebraska because they have a veteran squad which performs a

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