

Beck's season won't end when NU's does

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Coaching basketball doesn't end with the final game of the season for Nebraska women's coach Angela Beck.

At least it won't this year. Beck was named as an assistant coach for the South team at this summer's U.S. Olympic Festival in Minneapolis. She said she cherishes the honor.

"You always hope to have an opportunity to coach for your country," she said.

Beck will assist Northwestern's Don Perrelli in coaching the team.

She said she is looking forward to working with Perrelli, who has won 250 games in his career.

"He's a very good coach," Beck said. "It will be good experience for me to work with him. It will definitely enhance my coaching and the program. I'll get to learn from some great coaches."

Beck has amassed a 62-35 record at Nebraska, winning more games than any Nebraska women's basketball coach. In 1988, she coached Nebraska to its first Big Eight title.

Beck said she is looking forward to temporarily giving up her coaching responsibilities and becoming an assistant.

Beck began her coaching career at Southeast Missouri State in 1980, where she compiled a 54-34 record with the Indians before becoming the coach at Bradley University in Illinois. She became Nebraska's coach in 1986.

"It's going to be fun for me not to be in the driver's seat for once," she said. "I can really be there for the players."

The Olympic Festival coaches are selected after submitting applications. A committee makes the final decision on who the coaches and assistants will be.

"Almost every coach in the Mid-

west would want this job," Beck said.

The Olympic Festival position could be the first of many national coaching jobs for Beck. All U.S. Olympic coaches must have Olympic Festival coaching experience.

"I look for this to be the beginning of years and years of coaching at the national level," Beck said. "My summers will be pretty well manipulated."

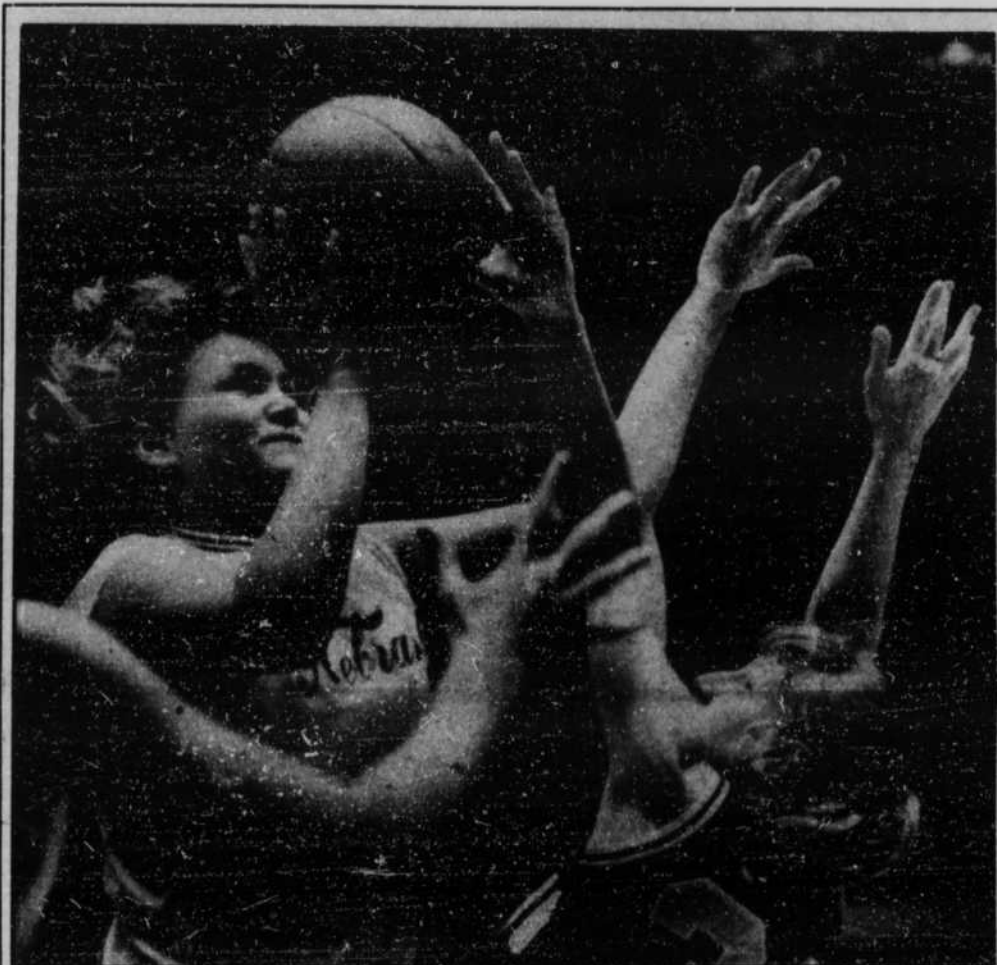
Beck said coaching stability could be a key to making more competitive women's national teams. She said she also is in favor of having players play together for several years.

"Our national teams are running

into other countries whose players have played together for five or six years," Beck said. "We need more stability."

Players for the Olympic Festival teams are chosen during tryout camps, which take place in the spring. Last year, there were more than 280 players competing for 12 positions on the North team.

Several Nebraska players will try out for the Olympic Festival. Ann Halsne and Karen Jennings played for the North squad last year, and Beck said as many as eight Cornhuskers will compete for positions this year.



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Ann Halsne shoots over Colorado's Kamala Sherman.

NU women plan Kansas raid

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team will make the first of two raids on the state of Kansas tonight when it faces Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan.

The second raid will target Salina, Kan., on March 3-5 for the Big Eight tournament, and the Cornhuskers are starting to think about the conference championships.

Their focus isn't split. They aren't ignoring the six games until the tournament, but the best bet for success for the Huskers, 10-11 overall and 2-5 in the Big Eight, just happens to be in Salina.

Hopes of a regular-season title were dampened Saturday when Colorado defeated Nebraska, 75-74, at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The defeat was Nebraska's third conference home loss of the season, which means the Huskers now have more league-losses in Lincoln than in Beck's first three seasons combined.

Nebraska almost rescued the win from a rout. The Huskers came one point short of overcoming an 18-point deficit in the last seven minutes.

That charge was led by Ann Halsne, who tallied 16 points during the run.

In one five-minute burst Saturday, Nebraska scored 21 points -- a 170-point pace.

"We're doing more and more good things every day," Halsne said. "We're just not putting two good halves together."

Beck said Halsne is a prime example of the team's potential and frustrations.

"To do what she did in the last game was phenomenal, but she could be a factor for the first 20 minutes, too," Beck said.

The junior from Spencer, Iowa, had one

point in the first half against the Lady Buffs.

Beck said she will need a consistent effort from her veterans on the trip to Salina.

"In order for us to be a factor at the championships, we're going to have to have Ann Halsne and Kelly Hubert come alive," she said.

Hubert, the other three-year veteran of Beck's squad, scored 8 points on 4 of 5 shooting against Colorado.

Talking about the bright future for next season and the Huskers' need for the Big Eight tournament, Beck didn't put any pressure on her young squad to win the road game against the conference-leading Lady Cats.

Kansas State defeated Nebraska in Lincoln, 67-60, Jan. 24. The Lady Cats, 15-6 and 7-1, lost for the first time in the Big Eight on Sunday at Missouri, 79-64.

The senior-dominated Lady Cats win because of their experience and balance, Beck said.

She compared Kansas State to Michigan's men's team of last season, which rode the emotion of a late-season coaching change to the NCAA title. Matilda Mossman resigned as Kansas State's coach in mid-season and has been replaced by interim head coach Gaye Griffin.

Beck said the Lady Cats' loss Sunday may indicate they are coming off the high from the coaching change.

"They're either going to be like major-league animals, or they might be suspect," she said.

And if they are suspect, and Nebraska plays its best from the start, Beck said the Huskers could steal a win on their first Kansas raid.

"It's all going to be in our frame of mind," she said. "It just depends on who is going to play -- when and where."

CNN spurs vision of NU entering strong conference

Last Saturday night I stopped off at a nearby McDonalds and brought home my dinner to watch some television.

While I flipped through the channels, I stopped at a Cable News Network report about the new McDonalds in Moscow. The report stated that the Soviet people waited in line for up to four hours for a taste of the American food.

As I stuffed my face with my Big Mac, I got



McGraw
Milhaven

to thinking how lucky we are and how the Soviet Union must change to fit in the world that has passed them by.

It is sort of like the Nebraska basketball team and the Big Eight, with the conference being the strong and free United States economy and the patchwork Cornhuskers being the struggling Soviet economy.

As we watch in the coming months to see if and how the Soviet economy moves to become more like the U.S. economy, the Huskers will inevitably change and become a powerhouse of the Big Eight.

This is not the season that Coach Danny Nee wants. The players are not happy losing, and needless to say, the fans have given their views on the season.

But with a win over Kansas State this past weekend, it gives the true basketball fans a ray of light for the future and saves this season from obscurity.

The light at the end of the tunnel comes from the Big Eight conference. Al McGuire, the NBC color commentator, said, without a doubt,

the best conference in the country is not the Big East or the Big Ten.

That's right -- he said it's the Big Eight. Lets take a history lesson into other conferences that at one time were the best in the land.

The Atlantic Coast Conference is considered the best conference in the history of college basketball, and 10 years ago, Georgia Tech wasn't a rambling wreck, they were a car wreck.

But today, they are in the top 20 and recruited freshman guard Kenny Anderson is the most highly touted guard in the country since Lamar Mondane.

How did they sway Anderson away from the rest of the country and get to be so good? They sold the conference.

In the early '80s, the Big East was considered the best in the land, and Seton Hall and Connecticut were on the outside looking in on the monsters of their conference. But this year Connecticut beat Georgetown and is tied with Georgetown for the top spot in the league.

Last year, in the championship game, Seton Hall came within a foul of being the crowned prince of all college basketball. The two schools gained exposure because of the conference and took advantage of it.

This year the Big Eight is finally getting the national exposure it deserves, and the Nebraska basketball program will reap the benefits.

In years to come, the top players around the country will come to the conference. If they cannot play for the best, they will want to beat the best.

If they can't play for Kansas, Oklahoma or Missouri, then they will want to beat them and will come to Lincoln to showcase their talents.

For all this to happen, the team will need a coach who has character and class. This coach must go into the homes of the players and tell the parents the way it is.

See NEE on 6

Cornhuskers hope flame burns Buffaloes in conference battle

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

A smoldering flicker could turn into a bonfire when the Nebraska men's basketball team faces Colorado tonight in Boulder, Colo.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he is concerned about the Colorado contest because the Cornhuskers have not performed well on the road. He said Nebraska, which has lost 17-straight road games, has burned itself by getting off to poor starts.

A poor start could ignite Colorado, which has lost its last five games despite possessing two of the Big Eight's top-three scorers. The Buffaloes are led by center Shaun Vandiver and guard Steve Wise, who rank first and third respectively in conference scoring with averages of 21.8 and 20.7 points per game.

Nee said Nebraska must stop Wise and Vandiver in order to beat the Buffaloes. The Huskers, who are 8-11 overall and 1-5 in the Big Eight, will get a chance to do just that when they face Colorado at 8:35 p.m. in the Events/Conference Center.

Nee said Vandiver's and Wise's numbers speak for themselves.

"Wise and Vandiver are putting the numbers on the board," Nee said. "Stat-wise, that's

significant."

Nee said Wise compliments Vandiver's rugged inside game by launching an abundance of shots from the outside. He said Wise, a 6-foot-3 junior from Detroit, has matured since he arrived on the Buffaloes' campus.

"He's just growing up," Nee said. "He has the green light (to shoot)."

"When he's on a roll he's really tough."

Nee said the rest of Colorado's lineup consists of steady players who know their roles. Those players are guard Reggie Morton and forwards Asad Ali and Rodell "House" Guest.

The 6-1 Morton leads the trio with an average of 12.3 points and 3.5 rebounds per contest. Ali averages 7 points and 4.9 rebounds per game, while Guest averages 6.9 and 5.7.

Nee said he is impressed by Colorado's starting lineup.

"They got a bunch of hard-nosed kids," he said.

Nee said he will use the same starting lineup against Colorado that he employed against Kansas State on Saturday. That lineup includes guards Ray Richardson and Clifford Scales, forwards Carl Hayes and Dapreis Owens, and center Richard van Poelgeest.

See IGNITE on 8