

Turnovers continue to plague Nebraska

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team has four games to get a grip on itself because in recent games players have had problems keeping a grip on the ball.

The Cornhuskers, 10-13 and 2-8 in the conference, are averaging 25.5 turnovers per game. In five different contests, the team has had more than 30 turnovers.

Quick guards, like Colorado's Annan Wilson, have been especially troublesome, and the Huskers will

face another feisty veteran tonight when they take a three-game losing streak to Stillwater, Okla., to play the Oklahoma State Cowgirls.

Liz Brown, 5-foot-5 point guard for the Cowgirls, made the difference in the last game between the two teams; a 65-61 Oklahoma State victory Jan. 20 in Lincoln. Playing the entire game, Brown had 11 points, eight assists and four steals.

Sophomore Carol Russell has moved into Nebraska's starting lineup as point guard since the first game against the Cowgirls, who are 14-8 and 7-3 in the conference. She will

bear much of the burden to get the ball to the Huskers' superior inside players.

Playing the point is new to the 5-10 Russell.

"I like it because I'd rather set up people to score," she said. "I've been trying to contribute to the team."

In four games as a starter, Russell had 17 assists and made 19 points. Her effort in Nebraska's 64-60 loss to Missouri on Saturday has been typical of the entire team this season.

Husker coach Angela Beck described Russell's performance after the game.

"Carol Russell played the last four minutes like she's capable of playing," Beck said. "The first 36 minutes it looked like she had never dribbled before."

Russell said the coach mentioned this to her.

"The whole team is like that," Russell said. "If we could do that (play well) for 40 minutes, we could show some teams."

The Huskers have 160 minutes left in the regular season, then play begins for the Big Eight tournament. Russell said she and her teammates are looking forward to the tourna-

ment but are thinking about momentum, too.

"We're not giving up on these next four games," she said. "It would be nice to win one so we can get on a roll."

Last season the Huskers lost, 98-67, in Stillwater. Russell said that game was Nebraska's worst outing of the season.

Inexperience has been another factor in the losses, she said.

"I don't like to say it," Russell said, "but we just haven't played together very long."

Cornhuskers prepare to attack 'complete' OSU team

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

The Byron Houston fan club keeps growing.

"I'm really impressed with Byron Houston," Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said. "I really think he's a quality player who's vastly underrated."

"From what I heard about Byron Houston, I expected him to be 7 feet tall," said UNLV forward Larry Johnson, who watched earlier this season as the 6-foot-7 sophomore tallied 27 points against the Running Rebels. "He ain't tall, but (he) plays like he's 7-foot."

Nee said Nebraska must keep Houston's fan club from gaining any

additional members when the Cornhuskers face Oklahoma State tonight. The game, which will be broadcast by KRNU (90.3 FM), begins at 7:35 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nee said Nebraska must contain Houston, fellow forward "Rolls" Royce Jeffries and center Mattias Sahlstrom in order to defeat the Cowboys. He said the Cornhuskers did not do a good job of playing low-post defense during their 107-85 loss to Missouri on Saturday, as Tiger forward Doug Smith tallied 44 points.

Nee said Nebraska, now 9-12 overall and 2-6 in the Big Eight, cannot afford to see a repeat of Smith's performance. He said two keys will prevent a relapse from occurring.

"One is pressure on the basket-

ball," Nee said during his weekly press conference. "The other is not allowing the ball to go in the low post."

"I don't think we could have stopped Smith from doing what he was doing, but I do think we could have made it more difficult for him to catch the ball."

Nee said Nebraska needs to attack Oklahoma State's post game because Sahlstrom is ailing. The 6-10 junior from Stockholm, Sweden, wore a brace on his left knee during the Cowboys' 100-84 loss to UNLV on Saturday, and Nee said it has affected his mobility.

"He's not running as well," Nee said. "It looks like he's dragging a little bit."

Nee said Sahlstrom's injury is the

only question mark for Oklahoma State, which enters tonight's game with 13-9 and 4-5 marks. He said the Cowboys are a complete team.

"They got the outside shooting, the penetration," Nee said. "They got the game in the box."

"I think they're a very physical, hard-nosed basketball team."

Nee said he isn't sure what starting lineup he will use against Oklahoma State because he doesn't know who will start at center. Rich King, a 7-2 junior, and Richard van Poelgeest, a 6-9 senior, have spent the year alternating that position.

Van Poelgeest has started the last four games in place of King, who is Nebraska's leading scorer with an average of 16.7 points per game. Nee

said if he does make a change, it will be for a good reason.

"I'm not going to change for change sake," he said. "I'm going to look and see what's best for our basketball team."

Nee said it would definitely be in the best interest of Nebraska to get forward Carl Hayes back in his scoring groove. The 6-8 sophomore is averaging 14 points per Big Eight contest, but tallied only six points against Missouri.

Nee said Hayes needs to learn to adjust.

"He has to mature and understand that," Nee said. "You have to adjust your game. I don't think he completely understands it."

Ratings, recruiting depend on meet; coach not worried

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's wrestling meet against Minnesota on Thursday night in Minneapolis will affect the national rankings as well as recruiting.

Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann hopes those effects will be positive ones for his team.

"We have a lot of kids from Minnesota on our team," he said. "Because of that, we're one of Minnesota's biggest meets every year."

"A win can establish some kind of superiority over them."

Neumann said he hopes that the superiority, if it comes, will help Nebraska's recruiting efforts in Minnesota.

Intensity, Neumann said, isn't a major concern.

"All year long, our kids have gotten themselves ready for their competition, no matter who that's been," he said. "I'm not worried."

One aspect Neumann is worried about is fatigue -- especially after Nebraska's 26-10 win against Northern Iowa Saturday night.

Against the Panthers, the Huskers showed signs of fatigue, Neumann said, "which is an easy way out for a wrestler."

"But we had a talk about it with our guys, and everything's fine," he said. "Our goal in this meet is to be more technically sound."

Minnesota's wrestling style, Neumann said, resembles Northern Iowa's style.

"They're really physical," he said. "They'll be real intense. But since we know it, we'll be able to prepare for it."

Nebraska will face sixth-ranked Oklahoma on Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Neumann said that facing two top-10 teams less than a month before the Big Eight championships won't affect his team negatively.

"Actually, it's just the opposite," he said. "Having two quality duals like this trains our guys to concentrate. Lots of coaches schedule good teams around conference championship time."

Take me out to the negotiation game

What the sides are proposing in the baseball labor negotiations:

OWNERS

Revenue sharing

Players would be guaranteed, in salary and benefits, 48% of the money from ticket sales and broadcast contracts

Pay for performance

Players with less than six years of major-league service would be paid on one-year, non-guaranteed contracts according to statistical formulas. Each team would pay 1/26th of the total for these players. Multi-year contracts for these players would not be allowed. Twenty percent limit on salary cuts would be eliminated.

Participation level

Teams going above determined payroll levels could not sign free agents from other clubs.

Source: Omaha World-Herald

PLAYERS

Salary arbitration

Eligibility restored to players with between two and three years of service. The union gave this up in the 1985 settlement.

Rosters

Restored to 25 players. In the 1985 settlement, the union agreed to lower limit to 24 minimum.

Minimum salary

A raise from \$68,000 to between \$100,000 and \$125,000.

Free agency

Players removed from 40-man roster and sent to minors on outright assignments would become free agents. Five-year restriction on repeat free agents would be eliminated. Draft pick compensation for free agents would be eliminated.

Collusion

Automatic penalties for collusion and language that would protect union against future collusion.

Benefits

A rise tied to the new television contracts, keeping the formula of about 33%.

Coach: Strike acceptable if it leads to compromise

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Major League baseball owners and players should proceed with a planned strike if it leads to a quick compromise, Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders said.

Sanders said he is in favor of the strike if both sides could resolve their issues in a fair, orderly manner. Owners have vowed not to start spring training Thursday and subsequently delay the start of the season unless the two sides can agree on nine proposals.

Those proposals include revenue sharing, performance pay, participation level and salary arbitration. They also include roster limits, minimum salary requirements, free agency rules, benefits and collusion or rules prohibiting secret agreements.

The two sides appeared to be anything but close to settling their differences Tuesday, as no progress was reported. Owners and players even left their meeting in New York, doubting that a strike could be avoided.

Sanders said he is in favor of the strike if a quick, long-term agreement can be reached.

"I don't like strikes. They affect everyone involved," Sanders said. "But if something positive could be resolved from it, it would serve a purpose."

Sanders said his main concern about the planned strike is its future impact. He said it could be financially devastating to young players who are trying to make major league rosters, and also could prompt owners or players to seek retaliation in future negotiations.

The strike would not affect players on minor league rosters, who will report for spring training. But it would have an impact on all major league players, who would be barred from using their respective team's training sites until an agreement is reached.

Sanders said he hopes every-

thing works out.

"I want to see everything resolved positively," Sanders said. "We don't want to see it resolved with a backlash effect, where someone says, 'You got your way this time, and we're going to get ours the next.'"

"We don't want any paybacks," Sanders said he does not agree with the owners' salary proposal even though several potential free agents signed contracts earlier this year that paid them annual salaries of at least \$3 million. Those players included Minnesota Twins outfielder Kirby Puckett, Oakland Athletics pitcher Dave Stewart and Kansas City Royals pitcher Mark Davis.

The owners want to try and curb future multimillion-dollar contracts by awarding players with less than six years of major league service one-year, non-guaranteed contracts that are based on statistical formulas. Twenty percent limits on salary cuts also would be eliminated.

Sanders said the players are not to blame for baseball's escalating salary structure. He said television, which annually pays millions of dollars for broadcast rights, has pushed salaries up.

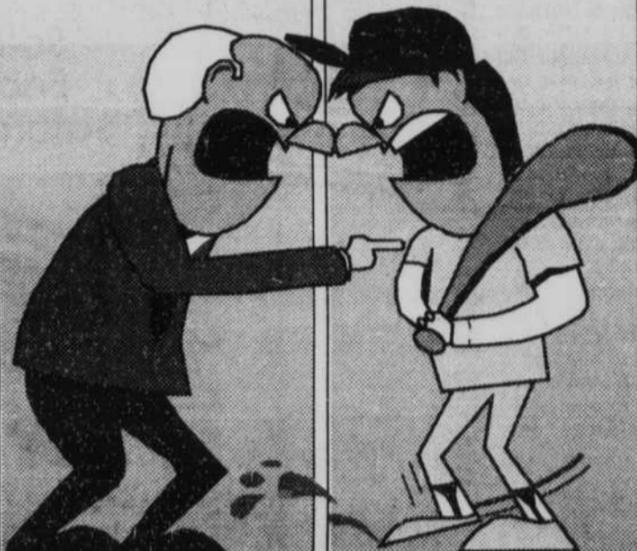
Sanders, a former player with the Athletics, said he doesn't downgrade the players because of their high salaries.

"It's not what comes through the gates that pays for it," he said. "It's media money."

Sanders said it is unfair to criticize baseball players because they make more money than individuals in other more important positions.

"I don't think it's fair to compare a baseball salary versus a neurosurgeon," he said, "because neurosurgeons don't do it in front of 10 million people."

"That's not a knock on neurosurgeons or the medical profession. It's just they don't have the audience baseball does."



John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan