

# NU tennis team to gamble in three duals

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team will gamble on improvement this weekend in Las Vegas.

Cornhusker coach Gregg Calvin said he wants his players to continue working toward the Big Eight season during the team's three duals. Nebraska will play UNLV on Friday, New Mexico State on Saturday and Weber State on Sunday.

"The main thing is feeling good when we compete, not worrying about winning so much," Calvin said. "We want to focus on one or two things a match."

The Huskers dominated three duals in Lincoln on Saturday and Sunday, compiling a 25-2 record. Calvin said the three opponents this weekend are a notch above the opponents of last weekend, which creates part of the gamble Nebraska will take.

Calvin said the matches also will

be risky because the Huskers will be on the road and will be playing outdoors for the first time in months.

"It's supposed to be 65 degrees all weekend," Calvin said, "which probably will feel like 85 to us."

The rest of the year's duals, Calvin said, also are scheduled to be played outside. He said his squad will get two outdoor practices in before the UNLV match.

Calvin said he hasn't done much scouting in preparation for this week-

end because the Big Eight season is only 10 matches away.

"We don't know a lot about any of the teams except Weber State -- and they're really good," he said.

The Huskers saw, and lost some matches to, the Wildcats at the team's regional indoor tournament last fall.

Calvin said he is working on the assumption that UNLV and New Mexico State are similar to Nebraska, with Weber State a level above the three. But he said he isn't conceding

the victory to the Wildcats.

"We've got a shot at them, because we're playing better than in the fall," he said.

The improved Huskers can do well in the conference, he said, and the fight for the top needs to start in Las Vegas.

"Once we get into the conference it's going to be really close," he said. "If our players take a good attitude and prepare for each team match we'll really be prepared for the Big Eight."

# Sooners race past Cornhuskers in season's twentieth victory

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Before Wednesday night's game against Oklahoma, the Nebraska men's basketball team owned a 1-4 home record against Big Eight teams this season.

Make it 1-5.

The No. 10-ranked Sooners used a tenacious full-court defense and four scorers in double figures to blast the Cornhuskers 88-66 before 12,170 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The 22-point loss was Nebraska's worst to Oklahoma at the Sports Center.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the Sooners' success was "slow and steady."

"They slowly beat our brains out, and with their athletic ability and quickness, it was too much for us to handle," he said.

The Huskers played the Sooners close throughout the first half and even led by five points with 8:42 left in the half.

But the Sooners outscored Nebraska 17-9 the rest of the way to hold a 42-37 halftime lead.

Nee said he was happy with his team's first-half aggressiveness.

"We had a flow during the first half," he said. "But then we missed a couple of shots which made us lose our confidence."

"Oklahoma's quickness and their jumping ability was too much for us to handle."

Nee said he wasn't worried at the start of the second half.

"I thought our shots were pretty good, but they just weren't falling," he said. "We were taking good shots and were still in the game."

But not for long. The Sooners started the second half with a 14-2 scoring run. Oklahoma glided to a 25-point lead toward the end of the game.

The win ensured the ninth consecutive 20-win season for Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs, raising the Sooners' record to 20-4 overall and 8-3 in the conference.

Tubbs said his team was inspired by negative press earlier in the week. An article that appeared in an Oklahoma newspaper said the

Sooners' intensity tends to fade toward the end of the season, and that Oklahoma isn't as good.

"That really got us going," he said. "Tonight was a good win for us. Any time you get a win on the road in our league, I think it's a good win."

Tubbs couldn't help but praise the Huskers. "I thought Nebraska really played well," he said. "It didn't surprise me. I know at one time they hit 14 of 24 (shots) from the floor. We had our defense strung out. We closed it down a little bit with a zone, but then they hit some stuff from outside."

Sooner forward Damon Patterson, who led all scorers with 23 points, wasn't as cordial.

"We were just waiting to explode," he said. "The 14-0 run (to start the second half) hurt them. They couldn't keep up with the tempo after that."

Nebraska shot 43.9 percent from the field, connecting on 29 of 66 shots from the field. The Sooners hit 46.5 percent.

Skeeter Henry scored 22 -- 16 of which came in the first half -- and Tony Martin scored 19. Jackie Jones added 12 for the Sooners.

Nebraska, now 9-15 overall and 2-9 in the Big Eight, was led by center Rich King, who scored 15. Carl Hayes added 14 and Richard van Poelgeest scored 10.

King said he has no idea what is wrong with Nebraska's team.

"I've been trying to figure it out all year," he said.

Nebraska guard Clifford Scales, who was held to just 6 points, said Oklahoma's pressure was the key to the game.

"As soon as we broke it (midway through the first half), I thought they'd get out of it," he said. "But it didn't."

But, Scales said, Nebraska's offensive strategy of spreading Oklahoma's defense "worked for a half."

"Sometimes things just don't work out the way you want them to," he said.

Tubbs said he wasn't concerned about the Huskers' first-half success against the Sooner press.

See SOONERS on 14



Joe Heinze/Daily Nebraskan

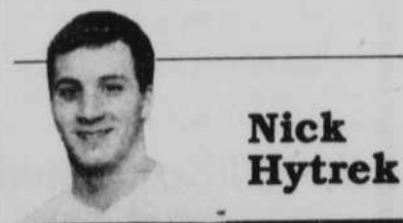
Nebraska's Rich King battles Sooner Jackie Jones (21) for a rebound Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Arena.

# Look out, Cornhuskers; the Lancers are here

There is a fever burning throughout Omaha.

It has spread across the Missouri River into Council Bluffs, Iowa. It is creeping west along Interstate 80 to Lincoln.

In fact, some people in Lincoln



Nick Hytrek

even suffer from this fever. I am one of those people.

I'm talking about Omaha Lancer Fever. Don't feel bad if you don't know about it -- many people don't even know the Lancers exist.

The Omaha Lancers are a hockey team. Yes, hockey does exist in Nebraska and people in Omaha are nuts about it.

The Lancers belong to the United States Hockey League. Contrary to popular belief, they are not a minor league team for any team in the National Hockey League. They aren't

even professional hockey players.

The teams in the USHL consist of players just out of high school. The main purpose of the league is to give these young players experience and time to develop their game so that they might get a college hockey scholarship.

The Lancers gained national recognition in their first season by losing every game. Since then, they have steadily improved and now are at the top of the USHL standings.

It is probably safe to say that the Lancers have gained much of their support because they now are one of the top teams in the league. But that's not the main reason for their popularity.

What is? Enthusiasm.

Upon arrival at the Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum, the site of Lancer home games, fans are bombarded by some of the most enthusiastic and loyal fans they have ever encountered.

Most of the fans have been going to Lancer games since the team came to Omaha. They sat through most of those losses that first year and now love the team more than Nebraska football.

The best example of fan support is

a group that calls itself the "Red Ice Rooters." They come to games wearing orange, black and white (the Lancer colors) and hardhats with hockey pucks stuck on top of them.

They even wave a clothed, inflatable woman on a stick after every Lancer goal.

While all of this is going on, both teams are skating in a rapid frenzy on the ice. They're giving their all because they need to play well to receive attention from college recruiters.

One must realize how much these players love hockey. Most of them are only 18 or 19 and have moved miles from home just to play for a shot at a scholarship.

Another appealing aspect of the game is that there are very few rules, and what rules there are can be learned in the first few minutes of the game. First-time hockey watchers can figure out what is going on and not be confused by complex penalties.

The players can slam each other against the walls as hard as they can and get away with it. They can knock another player halfway across the ice and not worry about getting penalized for it.

The players do not have to worry about nit-picky calls. Only the most flagrant violence will result in a player getting called for a penalty.

The crowd support the Lancers receive is impressive. Only about 6,000 people can fit into the stands, but they make more noise than the 76,000 "fans" who fill Memorial Stadium on fall Saturdays.

Lancer fans do not cheer against their team. And suggestions from want-to-be or armchair coaches almost are non-existent.

The fans do cheer against the other team, however. As the game wears on and the beer-guzzling fans get drunker, the opposing players are showered with insults. Every opposing player "sucks," and certain players join the referees in an elite group that is singled out and given a harder time than the others.

Everyone should take in a Lancer game. It's good to see players playing hard not only because they want to move up the ladder, but because they love their sport.

Hytrek is a sophomore news-editorial major, a Daily Nebraskan sports writer and sports columnist.

**TOP TEN BASKETBALL**

Craig Christenson

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| 1. ATO-A1        | 4-0 |
| 2. A TEAM        | 5-1 |
| 3. Establishment | 6-0 |
| 4. Beta Sig A    | 4-0 |
| 5. Sig Ep A-3    | 3-0 |
| 6. The Edge      | 4-2 |
| 7. Beta A        | 3-0 |
| 8. DUA           | 3-0 |
| 9. Bruisers      | 5-2 |
| 10. Figi A       | 3-0 |

**BEST OF THE REST**

Law I 50  
Brady Bunch 50  
SAE B 50  
The Loveshacklers 1-0  
LUP 50

**TV FEATURE**  
The Premiums  
Tonight at 10 p.m.  
on channel 5