

# Softball team may be weekend's 'sleeper'

By Darran Fowler  
Staff Reporter

Not yet having played a game could be an advantage for the Nebraska softball team this weekend.

The Cornhuskers open their spring season today with a doubleheader in College Station, Texas, against 5-2 and 15th-ranked Texas A&M. Game time is 5 p.m. at the Lady Aggie Softball Field.

Friday through Sunday the Huskers will compete in the 10-team Aggie

Invitational I at Bee Creek, Texas.

Because the Huskers are getting off to a later start than their competitors, Nebraska coach Ron Wolforth said he thinks they could be the "sleeper" of the tournament.

Tournament competitors include Texas A&M, 14th-ranked Louisiana Tech, eighth-ranked Long Beach State, fourth-ranked Oklahoma State, McNeese State, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin State and Texas-Arlington.

"I don't think it's out of the realm of possibility that we could win the whole thing," he said.

With the opposition not knowing what to expect, he said, Nebraska could surprise other teams with its team speed and improved pitching.

Nebraska boasts a team average 5.4 seconds in the 40-yard dash. Wolforth has called this year's team the fastest Husker softball squad ever.

"(The other teams) will have no idea of the quality of our speed,"

Wolforth said.

Going by last year's records, he said, other coaches will underestimate Nebraska pitchers Marie Bowie and Stephanie Skegas.

Bowie went 14-12 as a freshman last season, while Skegas finished 18-16 as a sophomore.

Both pitchers have "improved 30 to 40 percent" since the fall season ended, Wolforth said. Bowie posted a 7-2 mark during the fall. Skegas went 3-2.

"I think our pitching is really solid now," Wolforth said.

Nebraska's chances in the tournament could rest on the Huskers' performance in Thursday's doubleheader, Wolforth said.

He predicts Texas A&M will reach the College World Series this season. He said the Aggies are the best defensive team in the country.

Beating the Aggies, he said, could build the Husker's momentum going into the tournament.



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Colorado's Shaun Vandiver, 35, and Nebraska's Kelly Lively, 34, get tangled up fighting for a rebound during Wednesday's game.

# Nebraska stampedes Buffaloes, loses battle for Big Eight cellar

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Colorado won the Battle for the Big Eight Cellar Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Six Cornhuskers scored in double figures to lead the Nebraska men's basketball team past the Buffaloes 96-82 before 11,087 fans. The win, Nebraska's 10th of the season, knocked Colorado into eighth place in the conference standings.

It was an "honor" Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee was happy to not get.

"Our guys did everything right that they had to do to win," Nee said. "Tonight was a team performance, and I'm proud of our guys."

Colorado, now 10-17 overall and 2-12 in the Big Eight this season, has lost 52-consecutive, regular season, Big Eight road games. The last conference road win for the Buffs was in 1983, when Colorado beat Kansas 75-74 in Lawrence, Kan.

The last 11-win season for Colorado was 1984-85, when the Buffs posted an 11-17 mark.

Nebraska led 37-27 at halftime, and the Huskers coasted to a 17-point lead midway through the second half. The Buffaloes cut Nebraska's lead to eight, 69-61, on an eight-foot jump shot and free throw by Colorado center Shaun Vandiver with 8:08 left in the game.

But that was as close as the Buffs would come.

Colorado was led by Vandiver, who led all scorers with 26 points. Guard Reggie Morton added 23 points, hitting seven of 13 three-point shots.

Nee said the Huskers played intense, but "they've lost their emotion."

"The kids aren't tired -- they want to play -- but I'd like them to play up to a higher level," Nee said.

The game was the last at the Sports Center

for Husker seniors Ray Richardson and Richard van Poelgeest, who scored 16 and 12 points, respectively.

Richardson, who transferred to Nebraska last season from Hiwassee (Tenn.) Junior College, said he was excited for his final home game at Nebraska.

"I wish I had been here for four years instead of two," he said. "The game was extra special, because if we would have lost, it would have felt real bad."

Van Poelgeest agreed.

"If we would have lost this game," he said, "the media would have been all over this program."

Van Poelgeest said the team's losing record has taken most of the pressure out of the game. As a result, he said, the team has been playing a lot "looser."

"We've been playing with more of a team concept," van Poelgeest said. "It was our last home game of the year, and we were out to have fun."

"I just hope we can keep this going for a little while longer."

Nebraska, 10-16 and 3-10, will travel to Manhattan, Kan., to face Kansas State on Saturday for the last regular-season game. Colorado has completed its regular season.

Note:

Nebraska's seventh-place standing in the Big Eight will likely give the Huskers another game against second-place Oklahoma in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament in Kansas City, Mo., March 9-11.

Richardson said that even though the Sooners will be heavily favored, the Huskers won't be intimidated.

"Without 50 or 100 turnovers, I think we can play with them," he said. "We just have to go down there with that in our minds."

# Colorado's 52-road game losing streak continues despite even start with NU

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

The streak.

Those were the last two words Colorado center Shaun Vandiver wanted to hear after the Buffaloes' 96-82 loss to Nebraska.

"There's nothing we can do," said Vandiver, referring to Colorado's 52-game Big Eight road losing streak which has stretched over seven seasons.

And the Buffaloes never threatened to break it on Wednesday night.

After playing even with Nebraska for twelve minutes of the first half, Colorado suddenly went cold from the field and found themselves down by 10 points at intermission.

Colorado coach Tom Miller said the Buffaloes' cold spurt was the turning point of the game.

"We stopped going inside and missed our shots," Miller said.

Vandiver agreed.

"We got off our game plan for about four minutes in the first half," Vandiver said. "You can't do that on the road in the Big Eight."

Another key difference in the contest was rebounding. Nebraska hauled down 42 boards, to Colorado's 29.

Miller praised the Huskers for their rebounding effort.

"They did a good job on the boards and in the middle," Miller said.

Nebraska beat Colorado 91-82 three weeks ago in Boulder, and Miller said the Huskers didn't change their game plan on Wednesday night.

"They didn't do anything differ-

— 66 —

**No team has come in here and dominated them all year. We were prepared for them (Nebraska).**

Vandiver  
Colorado center

— 99 —

ent than they did in the first game," Miller said.

Vandiver said the Buffaloes knew they would be in for an uphill climb against Nebraska.

"No team has come in here and dominated them all year. We were prepared for them," Vandiver said.

Colorado finished the Big Eight regular season with a 2-12 record, and finished in the basement of the

Big Eight for the fourth consecutive season.

Miller said even though the Buffs have suffered this season, the team has been ready to play every contest, including Nebraska.

"I thought the team's mood coming in was excellent," said Miller.

Vandiver said one of the main problems with Colorado basketball is a lack of fan support.

"When the number one team in the nation came to play us, we got 6,000 people. You guys (Nebraska) get 11,000 people to watch a game between last place teams. It tells you something," Vandiver said.

Miller has been under fire in the press recently because of the Buffaloes' dismal season. It is speculated that a decision on Miller's fate could come as early as this Friday.

But after the game on Wednesday night, Miller maintained that he knew nothing.

"I have not been given any indication on what it would be," Miller said when asked on his future as head coach.

But Miller said that he's not conceding his fate just yet. "I've never quit on anything. I'm not going to start now," Miller said.

## TOP TEN

### BASKETBALL

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

### ★ THE BEST OF THE REST

Law I 5-0  
Buddy Bunch 5-0  
SAE B 5-0  
The Loveshacklers 4-0  
LUP 5-0

## VOLLEYBALL

<p><b>FINAL</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bubble Snarfs 7-1</li> <li>2. FYI 7-1</li> <li>3. Keeblers 5-2</li> <li>4. S.A. Spikers 7-2</li> <li>5. Killer Vee's 6-1</li> <li>6. Fire &amp; Ice 5-3</li> <li>7. Chi Phi #3 6-1</li> <li>8. 6 Pack Attackers 5-2</li> <li>9. ΦΔΒ &amp; ΑΦ 4-2</li> <li>10. ΑΟ &amp; ΑΤΩ 4-3</li> </ol>	<p><b>FINAL</b></p>
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### GAME OF THE WEEK

BUBBLE SNARFS (1)

VS

S.A. SPIKERS (4)

Tonight at 10 p.m.  
on channel 5

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan