

# Huskers needed slap; Colorado supplied it

## NU's season can go two ways

**Smack!**

Nebraska coach Danny Nee should have walked up to Colorado coach Joe Harrington, shook his hand and said, "Thanks, we needed that."

The Colorado Buffaloes slapped the Nebraska men's basketball team Tuesday — slapped them hard, slapped them silly, slapped them around, slapped them down.

Whether Colorado slapped the Huskers awake remains to be seen.

The Huskers had better wake up, or they'll spend March through November saying, "A lot of teams would be happy with a 23-10 record, especially teams that are coming off 10-18 seasons!"

Whatever. A lot of teams don't have the talent that Nebraska has. A lot of teams aren't 16-2.

A 23-10 season is terrible if you have the potential to go 28-8.

Nebraska has that potential. From a longer perspective, the 1990-91 Huskers aren't the surprise team, the 1989-90 Huskers are the surprise team. How could they have been so bad last year?

How could they be so bad Tuesday? The Huskers went out and acted like they had ESPN camera cords wrapped tightly around their necks.

This wasn't a case of choking, though. This wasn't a case of Nebraska being overrated, either. From the last six minutes of the Michigan State game through the first half of the Toledo contest, they were a top-10 team.



**Paul Domeier**

Nebraska simply hasn't played well in a month and a half. When the Huskers jumped out to a great start, no one but the people who went to their games knew how good they were playing. When the Huskers screwed around through a dozen more wins, no one but the people who went to their games knew how poorly they were playing.

The nine-day break preceding Tuesday's game was supposed to take care of the slump. The idea was to take a few days off, not play for more than a week and start fresh in sort of a new season.

Well, in that new season, they're 0-1. The entire country sees how poorly the Huskers are playing.

Now Nee has some leverage. Instead of spending practices and film sessions saying, "This is why you didn't beat them by more points," he can say, "This is why you got crushed."

The Huskers aren't good in their half-court offense. They don't force many turnovers with pressure defense. The team is short on shooters.

Nebraska's only threats in the half-

See **DOMIER** on 18



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Tony Farmer (right) battles Ed Colbert of Bowling Green State for the ball.

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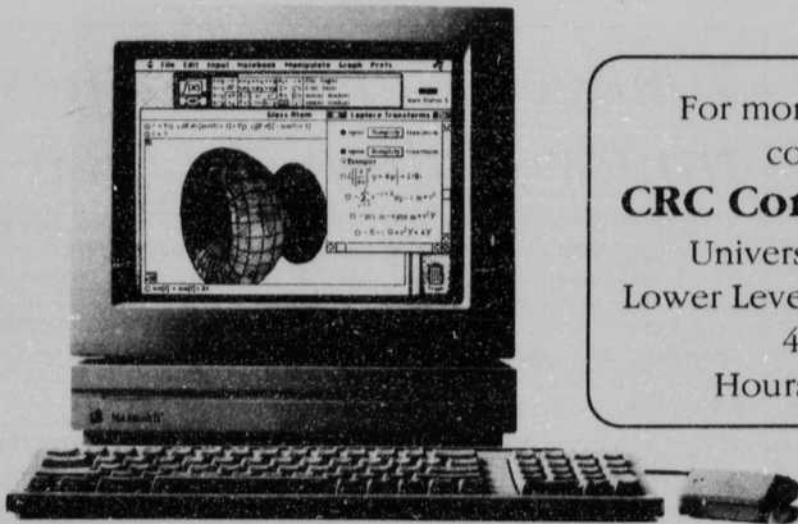
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The Macintosh LC

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## PRACTICE roundup

**Women's swimming and diving:** Coach Ray Huppert said his team is working lighter at practice and is emphasizing more rest after meets . . . The 20th-ranked Cornhuskers will face Missouri Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool. The dual will begin at 1:30 p.m. . . . Huppert said the Tigers, who have finished last in the four-team Big Eight swimming competition, are improved. "I don't expect them as a team to cause us damage, but they have some individuals who could challenge our swimmers," he said. . . . Jenny Melrose, a freshman freestyler and backstroker from Seffner, Fla., is out for the rest of the season, Huppert said. A blood clot was detected Monday in her lung, and she will be out of training for at least four weeks. She will redshirt, Huppert said.

Wrestling: Assistant Coach Gil

Sanchez said the injury situation is getting better. Scott Chenoweth, the starter at 167, and 190-pounder Corey Olson probably will wrestle against Wyoming Friday night at the Sports Center arena. The dual starts at 7:30.

**Men's gymnastics:** The Husker gymnasts also are fighting back from the injury trail . . . Coach Francis Allen said his main concern this weekend at the Big Eight Triangular — which includes Oklahoma, Iowa State and the Huskers — is staying close to Oklahoma. "Right now, I think they're the best team in the country," he said. "We're not in physical condition to go out there and beat them. We might be when we're healthy, though." . . . Allen said at least three of his best performers — Che Bowers, Ted Dimas and Dennis Harrison — might not compete in the triangular.

— Chuck Green

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