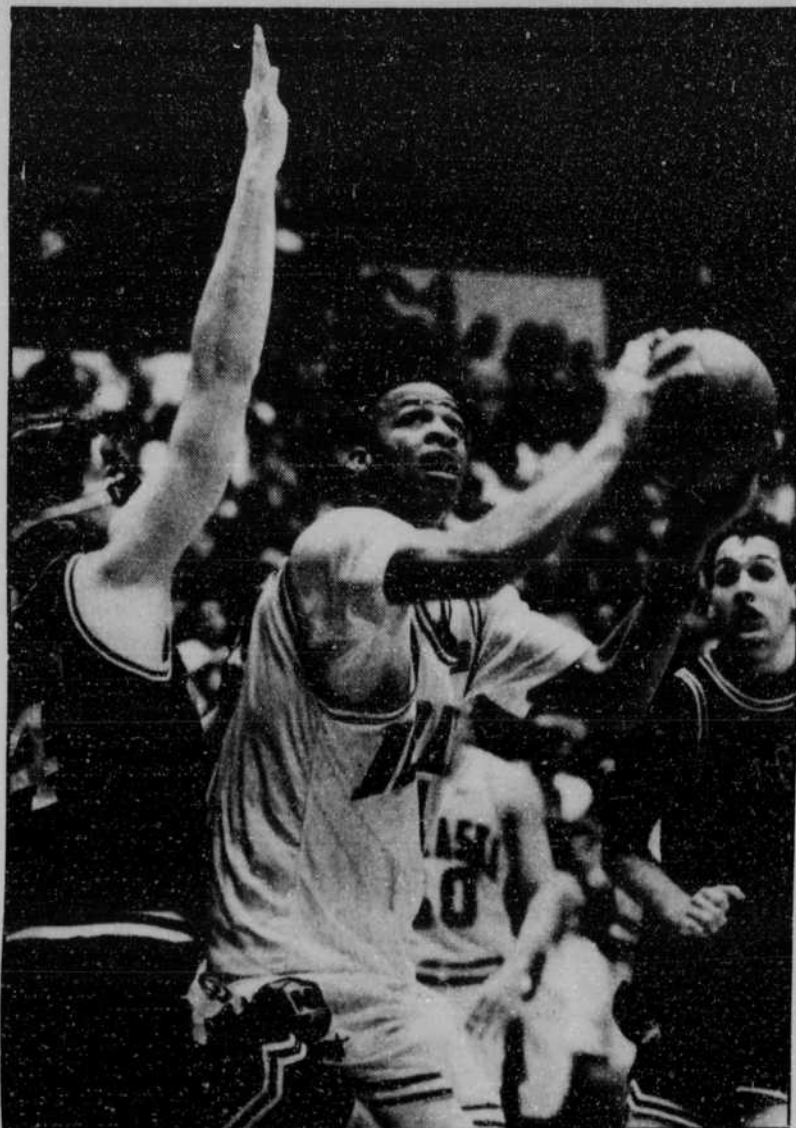


Nee says OU tough despite poor record



Robin Trimarchi/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Tony Farmer (center) fakes a shot against Colorado's Bill Markham (left) as Cody Walters drops down to help.

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Beware, Huskers. Oklahoma's recent losses — six in the Sooners' last seven games — are a little bit scary, Nebraska coach Danny Nee said.

"I know it's going to turn around," Nee said. "They're going to put it back together quick-like."

Nee just hopes his 17th-ranked Cornhuskers, 20-4 overall and 6-3 in the Big Eight, prevent the Sooners from recouping Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Tip-off is at 8:05.

The Sooners' losing streak began with a 103-101 loss to Southwest Louisiana Jan. 23. Three days later, Nebraska beat Oklahoma 111-99. After the game, Sooner coach Billy Tubbs said Nebraska's victory was one of the most dominating he'd seen at Norman, Okla.

Four losses and one victory later, Oklahoma finds itself out of the Top 25 and in the bottom half of the Big Eight. Nevertheless, Nee said the Sooners will be ready Saturday night.

"The Oklahoma-Nebraska game will be a serious game, it will be a serious, hard-fought game," Nee said. "The score down in Norman is no indication of what happens when we play here. The thing that the fans have to remember is that Oklahoma can score 150 points on a given night."

Senior Clifford Scales said that production may depend on the play of Oklahoma's guards — Brent Price, Terry Evans and Terrence Mullins.

"Their guards are a big key and, right now, they're down," Scales said. "Evidently, Price and Evans, who've been hampered by injuries, haven't been as successful as they were in the

Men's Basketball

Probable Starters

Nebraska (20-4, 6-3)

				PPG	RPG	APG
F	Carl Hayes	Jr.	6-8	14.8	5.8	2.3
F	Tony Farmer	Jr.	6-8	11.8	6.8	1.5
C	Rich King	Sr.	7-2	14.0	7.8	2.5
G	Beau Reid	Sr.	6-8	10.1	4.9	4.1
G	Clifford Scales	Sr.	6-2	9.8	3.1	3.0

Oklahoma (15-9, 4-5)

F	Terrence Mullins	Sr.	6-3	10.0	4.5	3.1
F	Jeff Webster	Fr.	6-8	18.5	5.5	0.3
C	Bryan Sallier	So.	6-8	8.9	4.8	1.0
G	Brent Price	Jr.	6-1	17.3	3.9	5.4
G	Terry Evans	So.	6-1	12.3	3.2	6.7

beginning of the season, and that's hampered them."

The Sooner guards may be further hindered by Nebraska's defense. The Husker guards held Iowa State's Doug Collins and Rustus Thigpen, who were averaging double-figure scoring, to a combined nine points Wednesday.

But Scales said Nebraska would concern themselves with more than Oklahoma's guards.

"I think one of their best players is (Jeff) Webster," he said.

And the statistics prove it. Webster's averaging 19 points and six rebounds per game, both team highs. But Oklahoma's been having a

hard time getting him the ball lately, Scales said.

"If the outside game's not clicking, the other team can concentrate on the inside game," he said. "I think they only have one scorer (inside) so it's difficult for them to get in some type of rhythm."

And Scales said Oklahoma would like nothing better than to find that unity in Lincoln — where they haven't lost since 1986.

"They've been struggling and they're trying somehow, some way to turn it around," Scales said. "What better way to do it than to come here and get a victory on the road."

'Oklahoma' Huskers face Sooner gymnasts Sunday

By Erik Unger
Staff Reporter

Nebraska won the recruiting battle to steal freshmen gymnasts Shelly Pendley and Lori Phillips out of Oklahoma. On Sunday, Pendley and possibly Phillips will help the Cornhuskers fight the battle between the teams.

Pendley and Phillips competed at the same high school in Oklahoma City, Okla., and the Sooners tried to recruit both women. Both chose Nebraska over Oklahoma.

"I chose Nebraska because I just liked the program and the girls better," Phillips said.

Pendley, who signed before Phillips, said Oklahoma just didn't impress her as much as Nebraska.

But, both said, competing against their in-state school doesn't place any extra pressure on them.

However, the injury situation for the Cornhuskers does.

Senior Nita Lichtenstein didn't practice yesterday because of a sore shoulder and freshman Debbie Bryan

was tested positive for mononucleosis, said coach Rick Walton. Both are probable for Sunday's meet at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Bryan is one of Nebraska's three all-around competitors, and her loss changes the structure of the team, Walton said.

The lack of depth could force Phillips to compete for the first time this season. Phillips, who separated her elbow at the beginning of the season, has only competed in exhibitions since her return two weeks ago.

Despite a lack of consistency last Monday night in Minnesota, a meet Nebraska won by .25 point, Walton said some gymnasts are upgrading the difficulty in their routines.

Pendley said she will add a more difficult dismount to her uneven bar routine, her weakest event, and might change a tumbling pass on her floor routine.

But she said that installing more difficulty is not as important as just staying consistent.

NU men challenge Salukis, seek NCAA qualifying times

By Vicki Burge
Staff Reporter

Tonight's dual against Southern Illinois is the last chance before the Big Eight championships for members of the Nebraska men's swimming and diving team to make NCAA qualifying times.

Assistant coach Rick Paine said the Cornhuskers will lean on seniors Ryan Bell, Nate Kinney and Richard Johansson to beat the Salukis and make NCAA times. When the 6 p.m. meet begins at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, co-captain and two-time All-

American Bell will be competing in his final home dual.

"I wish we could have another year out of him," Paine said.

Paine said the dual should be exciting and a good test for the Huskers.

"SIU is more a challenge to us than any of the Big Eight schools," Paine said.

Divers Curt Croes, John Arcaroli and Matt Eastin have qualified for the NCAA qualifying meet. Diving coach Jim Hocking said he would like freshman Curtis Marti to make it as well.

Hocking said the team is in better shape with ear infections gone and everyone in the water again.



Basketball standings:

Oklahoma State	9-2	20-4
Kansas State	7-4	14-8
Nebraska	6-5	15-9
Colorado	6-5	15-9
Iowa State	6-5	11-12
Kansas	5-6	14-9
Oklahoma	3-8	9-16
Missouri	2-9	9-15



Basketball standings:

Kansas	7-2	18-4
Nebraskan	6-3	20-4
Oklahoma State	6-3	17-5
Missouri	5-4	13-8
Oklahoma	4-5	15-9
Colorado	3-6	13-9
Iowa State	3-6	9-16
Kansas State	2-7	13-9

Seven seniors to swim their final laps

By Benji Greenberg
Staff Reporter

Seven seniors on the Nebraska women's swimming and diving team will compete in their final home dual meet tonight against Southern Illinois at 6 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool.

Lynne Braddock, Chris Gmeiner, Mindy Matheny, Melanie Wirtner and tri-captains Amy Aarsen, Jenell Garcia and Kristin Neuenfeldt are the seven.

"We'll replace the people some day, but we'll never replace their personalities," Nebraska coach Ray Huppert said.

Wirtner, a two-year Husker after transferring from Alabama and the only senior who hasn't spent four years at Nebraska, said she feels like she's losing part of her family.

"It's both exciting and a relief because 13 years of swimming is coming to a close," Neuenfeldt said. "But it's also kind of sad because

reality will eventually hit me that my career in swimming is all finished."

And Neuenfeldt also talked about winning.

"Our careers won't be complete unless we win our final dual meet," Neuenfeldt said.

The Huskers, 6-3 in duals, will have more depth than Southern Illinois.

"But we still must swim well in order to walk away victorious," Huppert said.

NU women to play KSU

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck hates to lose. And she hates a good loser.

Tuesday night, Iowa State battled back from a 10-point halftime deficit to knock off the Cornhuskers, 77-75.

"We've got to put that one behind us. But I don't want it to be easy to stomach," Beck said.

That's why she hopes her team is feeling a little sick Saturday when it plays Kansas State. The Cornhuskers will meet the Lady Cats in a 7 p.m. game at Bramlage Coliseum in Manhattan, Kan.

Kansas State defeated Nebraska 76-71 in the Huskers' home opener. Beck said she isn't stressing that game, but she doesn't want her team to forget it either.

"Coaches don't like to focus on that," Beck said. "I'm looking at what we need. And we need a quality victory."

Nebraska's loss Tuesday night dropped the Huskers to 15-9 and into a three-way tie for third (at 6-5) in the Big Eight.

That took Nebraska out of the race for the conference title, but, Beck said, the season is not over.

"Oklahoma State is in the driver's seat," Beck said. "Right now, we have to play for seeding (in the Big Eight

tournament)."

The Cowgirls lead the league with a 20-4 and 9-2 mark. Kansas State, which lost to Colorado 71-68 at home Wednesday night, is second with a 14-8 and 7-4 record.

Beck said Saturday's game will hinge on whichever team bounces back from a loss better.

"I think that loss was a major blow to them," she said. "It comes down to how we perceive that loss. We've got to show a little resilience."

The coaches are emphasizing more than fundamentals for this weekend's game, Beck said.

"It's not just defense," she said. "It's more stressing will, desire and the heart of the individual. It's very much a mental approach that we're taking."

The Lady Cats are led by senior Nadiya Hazim. The 5-foot-7-inch guard is averaging 18.8 points and 5.8 rebounds per game, but, Beck said, the Huskers can't afford to key on her alone.

"They're talented enough to beat you (at any spot)," Beck said. "I'm just looking at going to a fundamental man-to-man defense and respecting your person."

Since Big Eight play started, Hazim has averaged a league-leading 22.7 points per game. Teammate Diana Miller is third in the conference, behind Nebraska's Karen Jennings, scoring 17.7 ppg.