

Beck: Loss to OU helped

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's loss to Oklahoma in the last game of the women's regular season may have helped the Cornhuskers get closer to the final of this weekend's Big Eight Women's Bas-

ketball Tournament in Salina, Kan. The loss cost the team sole possession of second place in the final standings, but Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the 75-72 loss to the Sooners has helped. "We have probably got a better work ethic," Beck said. "I've seen

pretty good intensity in practice." The Huskers have gone to work, she said, to prepare for their first-round game against Kansas Saturday night at 8 in the Bicentennial Center. "We're concentrating on execution versus 2-3 (zone) matchups, trying to handle it a little better," Beck said. "We've had a little trouble against them in the last couple of games."

At 17-10 overall and 8-6 in the Big Eight, Nebraska finished the Big Eight season in a three-way tie for second place, with Colorado and Kansas State.

After league tie-breaking procedures, the Huskers were awarded the No. 3 seed, ahead of the Wildcats and behind the Lady Buffs. The Jayhawks, who finished 16-11 overall and 7-7 in the conference, are the No. 6 seed.

Beck said Nebraska matches up well against Kansas.

"They're not a very good shooting team, but they've shot well against us," Beck said. "They're not a very big team, but they're scrappy."

The Huskers split their regular season games with the Jayhawks, winning at home, 69-68, and losing on the road, 83-63.

One of the most important keys to the game, Beck said, will be shooting percentage. Nebraska led the conference in field goal percentage while Kansas was seventh.

Shooting poorly, however, may help the Jayhawks.

"They're used to missing shots and hitting the boards and getting the second shots," she said. "We don't get as many second opportunities because we just think, 'Well, (Karen) Jennings is going to make it.'"

Jennings leads Nebraska and the Big Eight in scoring, averaging 20.3 points per game. The sophomore from Persia, Iowa, is the team's leading rebounder as well, grabbing 8.7 rpg.

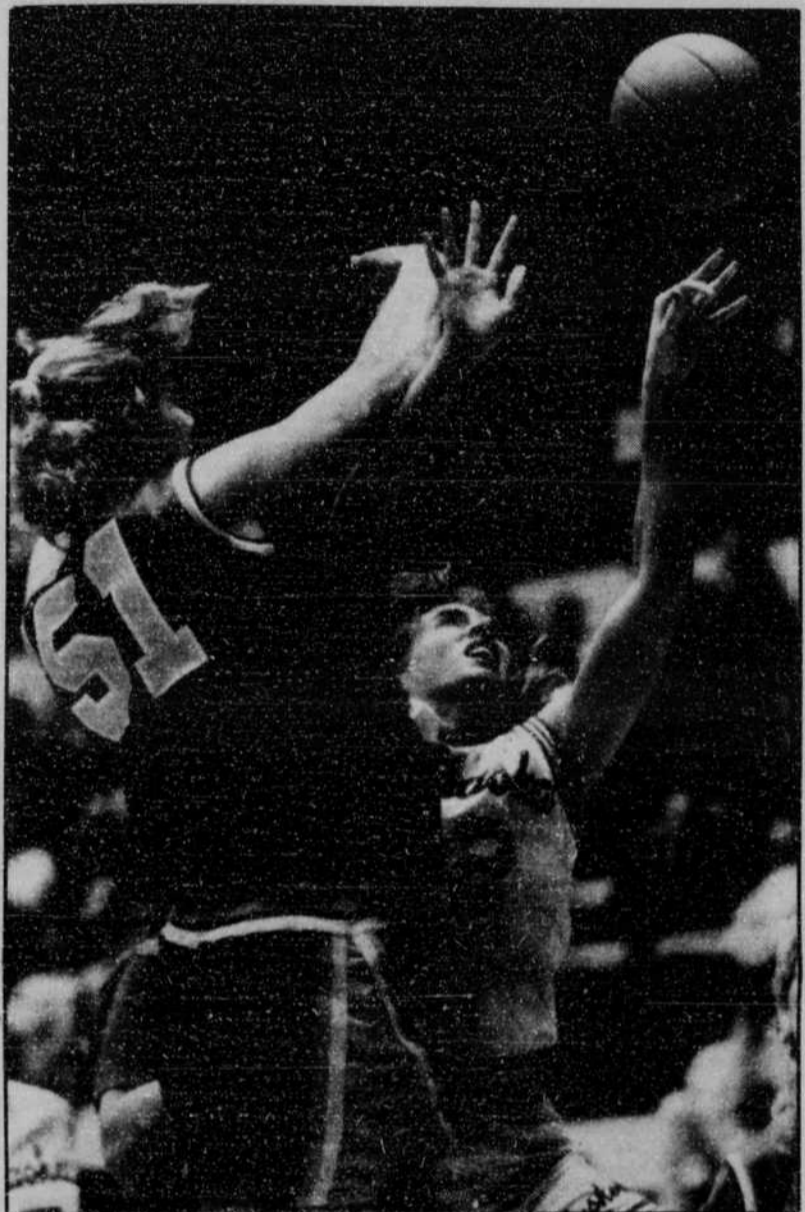
Beck said Nebraska can't rely on Jennings.

"I'm juggling some things and some people," she said. "It's important that we have a couple of people who haven't been playing well for us lately play well."

"We can't just have Jennings score 27 points."

Senior Kristi Dahn must shoot consistently, Beck said, and Sue Hesch must come out of her slump.

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Staci McKee/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Sue Hesch gets the shot past Lynne Lorenzen of Iowa State.

Wrestlers struggle to recover respect

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Throughout the season, Nebraska's wrestling team lost respect to injuries and subsequently lost respect from other teams.

The seventh-ranked Cornhuskers have regained all but one of their starters. On Sunday at the Big Eight championships in Columbia, Mo., they'll try to regain respect.

Nebraska coach Tim Neumann said he not only thinks it can happen, he expects it.

"As a coach, you have to expect more out of the guys than they expect out of themselves," Neumann said. "They're a little pissed off about the lack of respect they've been getting. A lot of people have written Nebraska wrestling off because of the injuries."

At one point of the season, the Huskers had only four of 10 original starters in the lineup. Now, the only missing Nebraska starter is 177-pounder Corey Olson, out with a serious knee injury.

But, Neumann said, Olson's absence shouldn't be overestimated. "Other than Corey Olson, we're just as good as we were last fall

with everybody out there," he said. "There is a lot of character and leadership on this team and we are fortunate to have a good group of seniors who know what it takes to get ready for a meet like this."

The Huskers, who were picked to finish among the top three teams in the country when the season began, are picked to finish third at the Big Eight championships. Defending NCAA champion and second-ranked Oklahoma State is tabbed to capture the title, while third-ranked Iowa State is picked second.

Nebraska has lost to both teams earlier this season, dropping a 20-15 dual to Oklahoma State, and losing 17-16 to the Cyclones.

But that won't matter Sunday, Neumann said.

"The scores of those meets give an indication of how close the Big Eights are going to be, and I expect us to be right there with everyone else," he said. "But Oklahoma State is Oklahoma State. They're always going to be strong, and Iowa State has improved more than anybody else in the country from last sea-

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Men's Basketball

Probable Starters

Nebraska (23-6, 8-5)

			PPG	RPG	APG	
F	Beau Reid	Sr.	6-8	10.0	4.5	4.0
F	Kelly Lively	Sr.	7-0	1.9	1.6	0.3
C	Rich King	Sr.	7-2	15.1	7.9	2.6
G	Clifford Scales	Sr.	6-2	9.5	2.9	2.9
G	Keith Moody	Sr.	5-11	4.4	2.2	3.3

Kansas (21-5, 10-3)

F	Alonzo Jamison	Jr.	6-6	10.3	6.4	3.8
F	Mike Maddox	Sr.	6-7	7.3	3.3	2.8
C	Mark Randall	Sr.	6-9	15.8	5.7	1.9
G	Terry Brown	Sr.	6-2	17.1	3.7	0.6
G	Adonis Jordan	So.	5-11	12.1	2.9	4.8

Husker confidence low

By Todd Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's 80-69 loss to Oklahoma State Wednesday night ended the Huskers' goals of a Big Eight championship.

That hurt, but the loss didn't end their season, guard Keith Moody said.

"I've really been taking this loss so hard," said Moody, who made his first start of the season Wednesday. "The more I think about it the madder I get."

"I'm so hungry even though I know the regular season championship is out of our hand. Just being able to defeat Kansas is going to give us a big round of confidence going into the Big Eight tournament."

That chance for the Cornhuskers to regain their confidence comes Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center against the 10th-ranked, 21-5 Jayhawks. The Huskers lost their first meeting with Kansas, 85-77, in Lawrence.

"We played really well down there. I think we just had a couple of mix-ups on defense," Moody said. "That was one of our better games of the year even though we lost. And now that we know what they're going to

be doing when they come here, I don't think those mistakes are going to occur."

Forward Beau Reid said the Huskers can't let the mistakes occur against the surging Jayhawks. Kansas has won nine of its last 10 games.

"They lost to Colorado and then just stepped up their performance against Oklahoma and Iowa State," Reid said. "They're just a good basketball team — when they lose, they bounce back. Hopefully we can take care of our home court advantage against them."

And Sunday will be the last time the Husker seniors (Moody, Reid, center Rich King, guard Clifford Scales and center Kelly Lively) protect the Sports Center floor.

"A lot of things will be going through my mind," Reid said. "It's the culmination of everything . . . We've turned a 10-18 team into a 23-6 team. I'm going to be real pumped up to play — I want to get victory No. 24."

Moody said it will be hard to come out on the floor for the last time.

"I hate to think about it," he said. But it may be even harder for Kansas, he said.

Diver serves as role model

By Benji Greenberg
Staff Reporter

Before the season even started for the Nebraska women's swimming and diving team, freshman Katie Savage gave senior Amy Aarsen the nickname "Grandma."

Savage is one of three freshmen on the women's diving squad. The only other woman diver is Aarsen. Hence the nickname of respect. Right?

"I hate the name 'Grandma,'" Aarsen said, complaining that the name makes her feel old, "so I like to refer to myself as a big sister and my teammates as 'The Kids.'"

Aarsen is participating in the final Big Eight meet of her career through Saturday in Lawrence, Kan.

Being a leader this year for the three new divers was nothing new for the Wichita, Kan., native.

"Throughout my entire diving career, I've always been a leader and a team captain," Aarsen said. "So when Coach (Jim) Hocking told me I was going to be counted on to lead this season, it was not going to be new experience for me."

The skills she has taught this year's batch of newcomers should help them to be as successful as their Husker careers go on.

"Amy's been an inspiration to me, someone who I can look up to with envy," Savage said. "She dives with us, coaches us and contributes to our team in any way possible."

NU women drown competition, take first-day lead at Big 8 meet

From Staff Reports

Led by victories in the 500 freestyle and the 200 freestyle relay, the Nebraska women's swimming and diving team took the first-day lead Thursday in the three-day Big Eight championships.

The defending-champion Cornhuskers have 203 points, followed by Kansas with 186, Iowa State with 122 and Missouri with 66.

"I'm really happy," Nebraska coach Ray Huppert said. "We didn't expect to be in the lead after the first day, but we'll take it."

Aarsen says this season is different because she's never had so many people look up to her as both a leader and a person.

"I honestly feel like people can count on me and that's a great feeling."

Being the only diver with college experience hasn't hindered Aarsen's performance so far this season.

Aarsen has won 14 of the 17 diving duels. Along with the 14 wins, Aarsen has broken several school records on both the 1-meter and 3-meter boards.

The Huskers took the lead despite somewhat of an upset in the 1-meter diving competition. Nebraska senior Amy Aarsen, the defending champion, scored 439.25 points but lost to Kelley Kauzlarich of Kansas, who had 445.10 points. Aarsen was 61 points ahead of the third-place competitor.

Michelle Butcher won the 500 freestyle. The Nebraska 200 freestyle team had the best performance of the day, winning in 1:33.83, a Big Eight and pool record and an NCAA qualifying mark.

Aarsen's performance seems to have helped Savage and Heidi Buchholz. All three have qualified for NCAA zone diving competition in three weeks in Fayetteville, Ark.

The successful season for Aarsen, Buchholz, Savage and Missy Allen came from a good work ethic in both practices and meets, Aarsen said.

"We're serious about our sport, but we go about it in a fun way," Aarsen said. "We know when there's a time

See AARSEN on 8