

# Clouse

Continued from Page 13 early in the campaign.

Coming into this season, the Huskers returned only Carl Hayes as the single starter from last year's campaign.

Hayes' 12.5 points-per-game average is third behind sophomore-sensation Eric Piatkowski's 15.1 and senior Dapreis Owens' 13.3.

In the off-season, Nee "reloaded," as he called it, with three new players, who have all contributed to Nebraska's unexpected success.

The Huskers' junior-college invasion is led by 6-foot-10, junior center Derrick Chandler. He has averaged 11.9 points, 7.9 rebounds and his 51 blocked shots leads the Big Eight.

Chandler transferred from Alvin (Texas) Community College and he has been an intimidating force on defense and a stalwart in the paint on offense.

The other member of the juco-duo is junior guard Michael Hughes. His speed and 6-foot-7 frame gives him an extra dimension at the point or shooting guard position.

Hughes transferred from Southeastern (Iowa) Community College and has proved to be a good defensive player along with his solid point-guard play.

Hughes has averaged 5.5 points and 3.7 rebounds a game, but he has

just returned to full speed after suffering a back injury earlier in the season. His health will be important in providing a few minutes of quality guard play behind Nebraska's third new talent.

Jamar Johnson, a 5-foot-11 sophomore, continues to develop into a tremendous player. His improvement and health are vital to Nebraska's hope of success in the Big Eight.

Johnson, who sat out last season because of Proposition 48, leads the Huskers with 23 steals, 73 assists and 83 percent shooting from the free throw line.

The sophomore guard, who has averaged 10.6 points per game, combines speed and good ball management. Johnson's passing has been complemented by his 46 percent three-point shooting.

Nee said Nebraska would have to win at least half of its Big Eight matchups to return to the NCAA tournament.

To do this, the Huskers will have to rely on its three-point shooting to kill zone defenses.

If Nebraska three-point shooting goes cold, or any of its players fall to injury, the Huskers will be humbled in conference play.

But with healthy and improved players, the ghost of the Big Eight will continue to make believers out of conference foes.

Clouse is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan assistant sports editor.

# Player regains lost confidence

By John Adkisson  
Senior Editor

Somewhere in the middle of a Nebraska men's basketball win over Eastern Washington earlier this season, Dapreis Owens realized he was back.

"It felt like I was almost back in high school again, the way I was scoring and stuff," Owens said. "That told me that I was starting to play well again."

Well isn't the word. Owens' career-high 30-point performance in the final game of the Ameritas Classic pretty much told this season's story for the 6-foot-9 forward: After three years of playing on the fringes of greatness, Owens is a star in his last season. He's helped the Cornhuskers to a surprising 12-1 record.

Through the first 13 games, Owens averaged 13 points and 7 rebounds per contest. He ranks among Big Eight leaders in field goal percentage (57 percent), free throws (53) and free-throw attempts (79).

All of this comes after last season, when Owens' lost both his confidence and his starting position midway through the season. He got neither back.

"Once I lost it, it was like a big letdown for myself," Owens said. "It was just hard for me to gain it all back."

As a sophomore, Owens started 11 games, averaging 8 points and 4 rebounds. But he said that being benched during the late part of last season taught him how to come off the bench and contribute.

"I never felt as confident as I did when I was starting," Owens said. "But since we were winning, I just wanted to help contribute any way I could."

Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said Owens used camps last summer and fall to regain what he had lost at the end of last season.

"We'd had some talks, and I told him that we needed him to play well," Nee said. "But Dapreis just did some things like improving on his schoolwork, things in his life and started to get that confidence back."

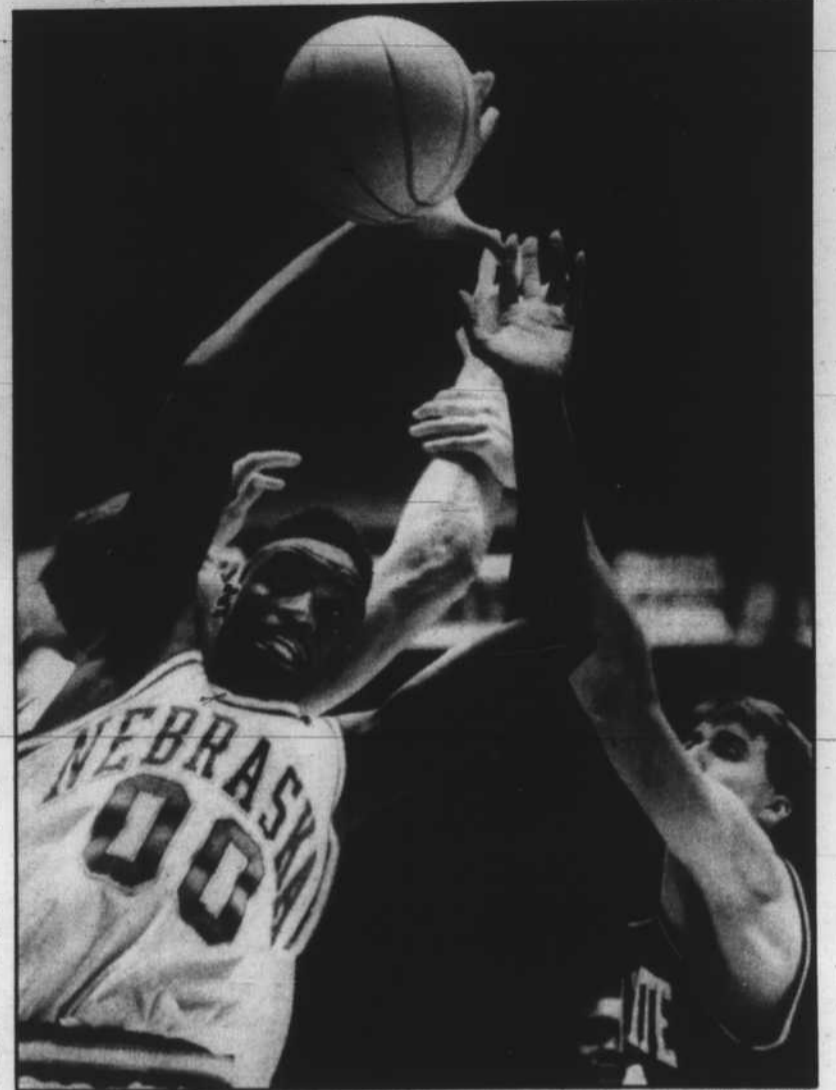
## Victory

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But Kim Yancey fouled Sheetz on the next trip downcourt. After two free throws, Nebraska led 71-69. The Huskers answered with Sue Hesch's wide open shot from under the basket.

Following a Colorado turnover, Yedsena was fouled, but missed the free throw.

Colorado center Jamillah Lang's errant three-pointer fell to Jennings.



DN file photo

Nebraska forward Dapreis Owens fights for a rebound in action with Iowa State last season. The senior from Mansfield, Ohio, is the Cornhuskers' second-leading scorer at this point in the season, averaging 13.3 points a game.

Would Owens say he has matured?

"A ton," he said. "As you go through the four years, you can't help but go through some things that make you grow up."

Owens also has matured in his role as a floor leader. Along with fellow seniors Chris Cresswell and Carl Hayes, Owens is now looked to for stability in a relatively young starting lineup.

"I think the icing on the cake is, I saw Sue (Hesch) out of the corner of my eye and just threw it to her," Jennings said. "That set them back."

Hesch collected the ball at mid-court and drove for the layup. Time ran out after two more missed three-pointers by the 6-foot Lang.

Colorado . . . 33 36 — 69  
At Nebraska . . . 38 37 — 75  
Colorado — Mathern 2-5 0-0 4, King 3-8 4-6 10, Wirfs 4-5 1-3 9, Sheetz 6-15 9-10 25, Henry 3-6 1-2 7, Lang 0-6 5-6 5, Krair 2-3 0-0 5, Brinkman 0-1 0-0 0, Mack 1-1 2-2 4.

Nee said.

"Dapreis has come along in that area," Nee said.

Owens said he enjoyed being known as a leader, and said he had accepted the job with enthusiasm.

"I've been here so long, you pick up leadership skills," he said. "And hopefully other players can look up to me and say 'He's doing well, so I want to do well, too.'"

Totals 21-50 22-29 69.  
Nebraska — Jennings 12-16 4-5 29, Hesch 4-7 0-0 8, Taylor 3-3 5-8 11, Yancey 3-9 0-0 6, Yedsena 3-6 1-4 7, Russell 2-6 0-1 4, Collains 3-4 0-0 6, Offringa 1-2 2-2 4, Witherspoon 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-53 12-20 75.

Three-point goals — Colorado 5-13 (Sheetz 4-10, Lang 0-2, Krair 1-1), Nebraska 1-3 (Jennings 1-1, Yedsena 0-2). Rebounds — Colorado 33 (Wirfs 6), Nebraska 30 (Jennings 11). Assists — Colorado 14 (Henry 6), Nebraska 21 (Yancey 6). Turnovers — Colorado 22 (Sheetz 6), Nebraska 22 (Yedsena 6). Total fouls — Colorado 19, Nebraska 21. A — 2,324.

## Hesch

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points, three assists, and two offensive rebounds.

Hesch, a 6-foot-1 senior from Wahpeton, N.D., has raised her play to another level since Nafeesah Brown was lost for the season with a knee injury.

"I started playing better during the trip to California," Hesch said. "Karen and Meggan are the leaders on the floor. I know I'm just a role player, and I know I have to shoot more since Nafeesah went down."

The recent success is a welcome change for Hesch, who played well in the non-conference schedule last season, but faded down the stretch.

She also began this season slowly. Hesch was happy with the win and her improved second-half performance, and realizes that she is a key to Nebraska's quest to capture the Big Eight title.

Hesch says she needs to continue to improve to help the Huskers.

"I need to rebound more and stay tough on defense," she said. "I also need to score more to help the team."

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