

Tigers threaten Husker winning streak

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

Just when you thought it was safe to celebrate a winning streak, in comes Missouri.

The Tigers will try to end the Nebraska men's basketball team's 13-game home winning string Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The game will be televised by Raycom at 3:10 p.m.

The current streak is the second longest for the Cornhuskers in their 16-year history at the Devaney Center, but streaks haven't bothered Missouri in the past. The Tigers broke Nebraska's previous record of 16-straight wins in 1983, and they've handed the Huskers a loss three of the five times Nebraska has managed a double-figure winning streak at the

Devaney Center. Nebraska Coach Danny Nee doesn't expect anything different from this year's Tigers. "They're always well prepared and play hard, and they're a very good basketball team, period," Nee said. "They've got great athleticism, and they've got a great player, and a great player on a given night can do whatever he wants."

That "great player" is guard Anthony Peeler, who is second in the Big Eight Conference in scoring, averaging 22.8 points per game.

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Missouri enters the game ranked 13th in the nation to accompany its 11-2 record. The Tigers are 0-1 in Big Eight play after Monday's 92-80 loss to No. 6 Kansas in overtime.

Although the Jayhawks beat the Tigers earlier in the week, Nee said Nebraska can't afford to play a physical game with Missouri the way Kansas did, as the Jayhawks were in foul trouble much of the game.

"Missouri takes the ball to the basket, so we can't tend up fouling and having people foul out, because it will just kill us," Nee said.

What the 12-1 Huskers can afford to do is shoot the three-point shot. In its conference opener last weekend at Colorado, Nebraska hit 53.3 percent of its three-pointers to beat the Buffa-

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NU men's probable starters

NU vs. Missouri Sat. Jan. 18, 3:10 p.m. at Deaney Sports Center



Nebraska (12-1)		PPG	RPG
F 52	Eric Piatkowski	6-6	So. 15.1 7.2
F 00	Daprels Owens	6-8	Sr. 13.3 7.1
C 34	Derrick Chandler	6-10	Jr. 11.9 7.9
G 12	Jamar Johnson	5-11	So. 10.6 3.5
G 24	Chris Cresswell	6-4	Sr. 7.9 2.6
or 23	Michael Hughes	6-7	Jr. 5.5 3.7

Missouri (12-1)		PPG	RPG
F 0	Jevon Crudup	6-9	So. 14.9 8.0
F 45	Jeff Warren	6-8	Jr. 12.5 8.4
or 32	Jamal Coleman	6-5	Sr. 7.4 3.8
C 4	Reggie Smith	6-2	So. 3.9 3.5
G 15	Melvin Booker	6-1	So. 12.5 4.4
G 44	Anthony Peeler	6-4	Sr. 22.8 6.7

Brian Shellito/DN

Missouri learns from losing season

Huskers facing more seasoned basketball team

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Editor

Winning only three conference games last season was a good omen for this year's Missouri women's basketball team.

Last season the Tigers finished the season 10-18 overall and 3-11, dead last in the Big Eight, with a team composed mostly of freshmen, Missouri Coach Joann Rutherford said.

That team is back this year, she said, with a year of experience under its belt.

"We just had a tough year," Rutherford said. "But we're a whole different team, a whole different chemistry."

On Saturday, the Nebraska women's basketball team will travel to Columbia, Mo., to meet the Tigers at 1:30 p.m. in the Hearnes Center.

The Cornhuskers are 11-3 overall and 1-0 in the Big Eight.

The Tigers are off to a 10-4 start, including a 57-56 win over No. 24 Kansas in their Big Eight opener Wednesday night. The game, played at Missouri, was the Jayhawks' third loss in four games.

"It was a great game," Rutherford said. "It was a great game for both teams."

It was just as good for Nebraska, Coach Angela Beck said.

The Huskers could gain an advantage on Kansas, the coaches' preseason pick to win the Big Eight, by winning at Missouri. The Tigers' win was added incentive for the Huskers, Beck said, because Oklahoma State and Missouri "are two beatable teams on the road."

On the road, she said, the Huskers want "to be bandits, to go in and steal a few."

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Wrestlers facing dual in Georgia

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Tim Neumann will be holding his breath in Atlanta this weekend.

It's there that his eighth-ranked Cornhusker wrestling team will face Clemson and Tennessee-Chatanooga in duals Saturday at Stone Mountain High School in an exhibition to promote college wrestling.

Last year, during a similar exhibition in Norfolk, the Huskers met Clemson and lost two starters to injuries in the dual. That marked the beginning of a long string of injuries that ravaged the Husker roster, leaving only three original starters healthy a month later.

Neumann is hoping this year's exhibition doesn't set off the same downward spiral of bad luck for Nebraska's young team.

"Right now, we're 100 percent healthy," he said. "But it was a year ago right now that all the bad stuff started happening to us. I'm keeping my fingers crossed."

So far this season, good things have been happening to the Huskers, who are 3-1 in duals.

Going into this weekend's competition, Neumann said, he is expecting the good things to continue.

"Success breeds success," he said. "Success makes people work harder, and we've had guys who were in slumps over Christmas break start to come out of them."

"It's easy to keep guys motivated when they're doing well."

But, Neumann said, Clemson and Tennessee-Chatanooga will be motivated to face the Huskers and Missouri, which will also wrestle in the meet.

The Huskers will not face Missouri in the meet.

Neumann said Clemson "is one of the teams the polls forgot."

The Tigers beat No. 14 Pittsburgh 24-11 last week, winning seven of the 10 weight classes. But the Tigers have a distinct advantage this season against Nebraska: Gil Sanchez.

Sanchez, a former Husker wrestler who was the NCAA runner-up at 134 in 1987, is now an assistant coach at Clemson after coaching at Nebraska last season.

Neumann expects the Tigers to be ready for almost anything the Huskers will do.

"I'm sure Gil has them ready for us," he said.

Tennessee-Chatanooga, Neumann said, is also a good team. The Moccasins lost to Clemson in a dual earlier this season, but the teams were tied going into the final match of the night.

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Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Sauna Witherspoon fights for a rebound with two players from Athletes in Action earlier this season. The Cornhuskers will be going for their first road win in conference play this season when they travel to Columbia, Mo., to face Missouri.

Teams to sneak a peek at conference track

By John Gardner
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams will get a sneak preview of the conference track when they travel to Lawrence, Kan., this weekend.

The Cornhuskers will compete in the Kansas Invitational at Anschutz Sports Pavilion, the annual site for the Big Eight Indoor Conference Championships.

Because the conference championships are held at Anschutz every year, the team refers to it as the conference track.

Coach Gary Pepin said he was excited about getting started.

"This meet is important from the standpoint that most of the athletes are anxious to get into some competition," he said.

Nebraska will run in Lawrence on an oversized track of 252 meters, which is 52 meters longer than the

standard track.

Men's sprints coach Dave Harris said he liked the idea of getting away from Lincoln and running on a different track.

"We felt it would be a good idea this year to get the feel of the conference track," Harris said. "It's more or less going to be a training meet."

Harris said he would send several sprinters to the meet to help him determine which events each of them should run in regularly.

"We'll have everyone run in several events to give them a good training session," he said. "Right now, we're having a problem in deciding who will run the 400 and the 600."

Distance coach Jay Dirksen said he would keep most of his runners home. The distance runners must train for three different seasons, he said, and they typically aren't ready this early.

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