

Fiery freshmen lead rejuvenated Sooners



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska's Rissa Taylor (left) fights for the ball with Kansas' Terrilyn Johnson in Saturday's 54-51 Jayhawk win. The Cornhuskers will try to get back on the winning track today when they face Oklahoma at 7 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Editor

A blue-chip recruiting class has helped the Oklahoma women's basketball team bounce back from last season's dismal 10-18 performance.

Freshmen Angi Guffy, Sheri Black and Mandy Wade were members of the group that was named the 13th best in the nation by Blue Star Report.

Already this year, the Sooners have one more win than last. With another win in the Big Eight, Oklahoma will equal the number of league wins from last season.

Tonight, Nebraska meets the Sooners, 11-4 overall and 3-1 in the Big Eight, at 7 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The two teams, as well as Kansas and Oklahoma State, are tied for the conference lead.

The Huskers, 13-4 and 3-1, are coming off Saturday's three-point loss to No. 20 Kansas at home.

Guffy, who is averaging 14.6 points per game, and Black, 13.1 ppg, are second and third on the team in scoring. A total of four Sooners average in double digits, and Wade is posting

9.9 points a game.

That even scoring has pushed

Oklahoma to the top of the charts in offensive production. The Sooners are scoring 88.9 points a game, well ahead of Nebraska's second-place 74.2 point average.

The Sooners, the only Big Eight team to break the century mark, have scored more than 100 points four times this season.

Oklahoma is led, however, by senior Carin Stites. The Big Eight's fourth-leading scorer, with a 16 ppg average, Stites leads the conference in three-point field goal average.

The Sooners and Huskers have two common opponents. Oklahoma's only Big Eight loss came to Kansas State at home. Nebraska beat the Wildcats, 87-82. Missouri, a team the Huskers beat by 10 on the road, lost, 74-72, at Oklahoma.

Nebraska is led by Karen Jennings, whose 25.9 ppg is first in the Big Eight. The 6-foot-2 junior forward also leads the league in shooting, by converting 62.1 percent from the floor, and is fifth in free throw percentage, hitting 81.4 percent from the line.

Men's volleyball seeks varsity status

By Thomas Clouse
Senior Editor

When someone mentions Nebraska volleyball, names such as Stephanie Thater and Janet Kruse come to mind.

However, another group of Nebraska volleyball players is trying to make a name for itself nationwide.

The Nebraska men's volleyball club has started its first-ever collegiate schedule and plans to compete against teams in the Big Eight, the team representative said.

Jack Macy, a biology graduate student, said he hoped the team would improve on last year's 29th-place finish in the National Collegiate Club Volleyball Championships.

"This is probably one of the strongest teams we have ever had," Macy said.

He said the volleyball club had been strong through most of the 1980s.

"But in the last couple of years, the team has developed a step further," Macy said.

The team worked with the Office of Campus Recreation to contact other sports club directors at different universities to arrange matches, he said.

Before this year, the team only played in United States Volleyball Association matches in or around the state, Macy said.

"Setting up matches is really on our own because we have no set coordinator or Big Eight division," he

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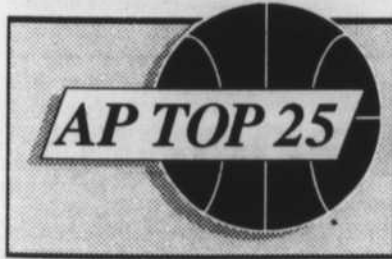
NU Women's Basketball Starters

Nebraska 13-4 (3-1)		PPG	RPG
G 24	Meggan Yedsena 5-8 So.	10.5	3.4
F 42	Sue Hesch 6-1 Sr.	6.5	4.1
C 51	Karen Jennings 6-2 Jr.	25.9	9.3
F 22	Rissa Taylor 6-1 Jr.	9.5	4.8
G 20	Kim Yancey 5-6 Sr.	4.4	2.0

Oklahoma 11-4 (3-1)		PPG	RPG
F 44	Angi Guffy 6-2 Fr.	14.6	7.8
F 43	Sheri Black 6-0 Fr.	13.1	5.5
F 40	Kelli Epps 5-11 Sr.	9.1	4.3
G 23	Carin Stites 5-9 Sr.	16.0	2.1
G 22	Angie Alexander 5-11 Sr.	10.3	3.9



Scott Maurer/DN



Rank	School (First place votes)	Record	Pts.	Pvs.
1	Duke (64)	14-0	1,600	1
2	UCLA	14-0	1,525	2
3	Oklahoma St.	18-0	1,475	3
4	Indiana	14-2	1,397	4
5	Kansas	14-1	1,323	5
6	Connecticut	15-1	1,270	7
7	Arkansas	17-3	1,229	9
8	Missouri	14-2	1,045	12
9	Arizona	13-3	1,024	11
10	Ohio St.	12-3	1,021	6
11	North Carolina	14-3	843	10
12	Syracuse	14-2	828	13
13	Michigan St.	13-2	795	14
14	Kentucky	14-4	723	8
15	Michigan	11-4	587	16
16	Tulane	15-1	536	21
17	N.C. Charlotte	13-2	487	19
18	Oklahoma	12-3	469	17
19	Texas-El Paso	16-1	464	23
20	Georgia Tech	14-5	385	18
21	UNLV	17-2	381	25
22	Alabama	15-4	370	15
23	Florida St.	12-4	162	—
24	Louisville	11-4	157	20
25	Southern Cal.	13-3	91	—

Football, basketball teams alike in bad ways

In case nobody's noticed, the Nebraska men's basketball team is doing exactly what its big brother — the football team — has been doing for the past decade: losing the big games.

Last season was too surprising to critique, as the previously lackluster, basement-dwelling Cornhuskers excelled to win 26 games and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. But if the Huskers want to be known as a power like their counterparts in football, they're going to have to accept criticism just like the football team.



Jeff Singer

After Monday's 79-76 loss to Oklahoma, the Huskers are 1-3 in conference play and 0-4 against ranked teams, showing that the basketball team needs the Heimlich maneuver as much as or more often than the football team.

But according to Nebraska Coach Danny Nee, starting the Big Eight at 1-3 isn't so bad, considering it still allows the team to reach its season goal of going .500 in conference play.

Wouldn't it be great if all Husker coaches had the same "break-even" philosophy as Nee?

Take Nebraska men's gymnastics Coach Francis Allen. Instead of guaranteeing national championships, he could make things more exciting and say he wants to finish among the top half of the Big Eight schools (remember, currently three conference schools compete in men's gymnastics).

And then there's Tom Osborne, our legendary football coach, who, if he said wanted to go .500 in the Big Eight, would've been back in Hastings 15 years ago teaching the fundamentals of quarterbacking at Hastings College, far removed from the now-titled Tom Osborne Expressway.

Speaking of Osborne, he is the only aspect that is totally different between Husker football and basketball.

Osborne is the type of coach, with his pleasant demeanor and sportsmanlike attitude, that you have to like whether you're a Husker fan or not.

On the other end of the spectrum is Nee, who is as flamboyant as his flashy ties, and whose aggressive behavior is only outplayed by his arrogance on and off the court. Here is a coach you don't have to like, but must respect, in the same way one might respect Jimmy Johnson, Al Davis, Howard Cosell, Benito Mussolini, etc.

Yet a blatant similarity between Nee and Osborne is their respective tactics in scheduling.

Both schedule one difficult team in the non-conference, and then fill the rest of the schedule with Jerry's

Kids-type teams and attempt to call it respectable.

Football has its Washington and Michigan State, but after that it's a joke. When Osborne is signing up the Fighting Aggies from Utah State, Nee is on the phone setting up an exciting home-and-home series with mighty Toledo. Wow.

One needs to attend just one game to realize some of the other faults of Nebraska basketball. First of all, the breakdown of the fans is easily distinguishable by section, just like at Memorial Stadium.

In the A section of the Bob Devaney Sports Center are the fickle students. In the B section are the elderly season-ticket-holders who are afraid to cheer because of the possible cardiac problems that might follow. And in the C section are people too high up to see anything, and therefore care more about whether they're going to win the Valentino's pizza give-away than what actually happens on the court.

But back to the students, who can be amusing as well as offensive, depending on how the Huskers are playing. This phenomenon was clearly evident during the Oklahoma game. When Nebraska was winning, students could be heard yelling such humorous things to Oklahoma Coach Billy Tubbs as, "Billy, weren't your parents cousins?" But on the other hand, when Nebraska eventually lost the game, such distasteful remarks

came from the student section as, "God hates you," to Oklahoma forward Jeff Webster after he fouled out of the game.

What class. One Husker tradition that can be eliminated instantly to improve the quality of the games is the gymnastics demonstrations at halftime. Once in a while they're cute, but when done continually, they're as entertaining as an insurance seminar.

One consolation, though, is Coach Allen, who tends to be humorous when doing the play-by-play of these gymnastics spectacles. For example, at halftime of the Missouri game, after another thrilling gymnastics performance, Allen welcomed the Huskers back onto the court by saying over the public address system, "When the Huskers come out of the closet, let's give them a big round of applause."

No real fine line exists between our "big-game tanking" football team and our "overachieving, wonderful" basketball team. The question is, will the basketball team fans' optimism cross over to the gridiron? Or will the realization that the basketball squad can blow a big game as well as anyone finally shed some light upon the fact that Memorial Stadium and the Devaney Sports Center aren't as far apart from each other as they might seem?

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