



Staci McKee/DN

Nebraska's Karen Jennings attempts a shot over Kansas guard Angela Aycocock earlier this season. Nebraska will play Iowa State tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Skidding Cyclones plan to apply brakes to Husker women

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Editor

Things are building up on the Iowa State women's basketball team's record — things like losses.

The Cyclones, 2-16 overall and 0-6 in the Big Eight, have not won a game since Dec. 14.

"Things are just snowballing out of hand," Iowa State coach Pam Wettig said. "I have felt, every game we have played we had a chance to win. Then all of a sudden the bottom falls out."

Iowa State plays Nebraska tonight at 7 in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Huskers, 14-5 and 4-2, are tied for second in the league standings.

Iowa State is the only team without a conference win.

But, the Cyclones' record is deceiving, Nebraska coach Angela Beck said.

"These guys are much better than their record," she said. "I'm in total

shock."

Right now, Wettig said, the coaches are teaching the fundamentals and downplaying the team's record as the Cyclones try for their third win of the season.

"Most teams would look at our record and go, 'Whew, a night off,'" Wettig said. "We could pop out of this at any time."

The Huskers are aware of that, Beck said.

"I feel for them," she said. "I know how it feels. But I don't want to make their season with this game."

Iowa State has beaten the Huskers in Lincoln three years in a row.

Nebraska, who trails only Kansas in the Big Eight, is concentrating on the mental aspect of the game after losing to Oklahoma State, 69-57, on Saturday, Beck said.

"We need to wake up and make sure we respect them (Iowa State)," she said. "We had a mental practice on Sunday."

NU Women's Basketball Starters

Nebraska 14-5 (4-2)		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.	25.7 9.4
F 23	Shawn Collains 6-0	Jr.	1.5 2.8
G 41	Carol Russell 5-11	Sr.	3.9 2.4

Iowa St. 2-16 (0-6)		PPG	RPG
F 23	Melanie Young 5-11	So.	2.8 3.1
F 21	Shanda Fitzgerald 5-11	Jr.	5.0 4.2
C 50	Barb Gordon 6-1	So.	5.3 4.7
G 5	Tynnetta Rasheed 5-10	Sr.	11.3 4.1
G 4	Leslie Maple 5-7	Sr.	9.7 3.5

Scott Maurer/DN

New style 'puts' Husker athlete on higher level

By Jason Dyer
Staff Reporter

It's probably safe to say one Nebraska track standout has some learning to do about putting the shot.

Kevin Coleman, a junior member of the Cornhusker track team, changed his technique two years ago and the results still are being seen.

The two different techniques in shot putting include the glide and the spin. It is the spin technique that has helped Coleman to a personal-best throw of 62-2 1/2 — a throw that qualified him for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Coleman said he thinks his improvement is only the beginning.

"That's just the tip of the iceberg," Coleman said. "I was always a glider in high-school, then in my sophomore year here at the university, I changed to the spin technique, which means I've only been working on the spin for two years."

"I'm capable of throwing much farther than that (his personal best) once the technique is still refined

and once I get it down to where I want it to be," Coleman said.

Coleman followed his father's footsteps and began putting the shot in the seventh grade in Elgin, Ill.

"My father was a shot putter in high school and he told me how he won his conference and that's what got me started," Coleman said.

From that point, Coleman said he went on to win his conference in both junior high school and high school, where he set a new state record. Later he went on to be a high school national champion.

Coleman said his credentials helped bring him to Nebraska, where the major part of his training is various degrees of Olympic-weight lifting.

"When I'm in the off-season, I usually train very heavy," Coleman said. "But during the season, my techniques are usually more explosive."

"Everything's quick and very pushy," Coleman said. "Because the shot-put is a very explosive event."

Coleman said he is dedicated

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Warm weather starts symptoms of Final Four madness in hoops

This recent warm weather has got me thinking. Maybe dreaming is a more appropriate word.

February has only just begun, but March is now in sight.

Ahh, March. The month in which the weather becomes endurable again. It's a happy month. The air is filled with the songs of birds returning from their winter vacations in a warmer climate, the trees get their leaves back, the grass turns green.

And it starts to heat up, not only outdoors, but indoors as well.

Especially indoors. Inside basketball facilities on college campuses everywhere, the intensity level of the top teams reaches a fever pitch.

Yes, it's time to come out of winter hibernation. March Madness is only six weeks away. Six weeks may seem like an eternity, but to die-hard college basketball fans it's a signal to replace the batteries in the remote control, stock up on beer and watch the greatest sporting spectacle short of the Olympics.

Simply put, March Madness epitomizes the essence of amateur sports.

Sixty-four of the best college basketball teams are selected and allowed to have at it until only one remains unbeaten. For three weeks,

basketball fans follow the upsets, the come-from-behind wins, the last-second miracles.

Aside from the actual tournament itself, maybe the most fun thing about college basketball is watching the regular season unfold.



Nick Hytrek

Every season is filled with the perennial powerhouses storming through the season, the upstart teams nobody has ever heard of, the teams that pre-season predictors said would be good — but aren't.

Another fun thing about college basketball is the arguments you have with friends about who the best team in the country is, and who will win it all.

And then there are the predictions. (You didn't expect to get through this column without predictions did you?)

Every sportswriter in America makes predictions based on his or her "expert" observations. And I'm no different from any of them.

So sit back and get ready to dis-

agree.

I find it easier to determine the Final Four teams before picking a national champion. I know who will be there, but first those who won't.

Michigan. There's no way a team this young will make it that far. A lot has been said about the freshman class, but, no matter how talented it is, these guys won't be able to hold up under the game-to-game pressure of the NCAA Tournament.

Syracuse. A surprise this year, but the Orangemen's early exit in the tournament won't be. Next to Missouri and Indiana, Syracuse has the deepest tradition for losing games it should win.

Indiana. See above.

Missouri. Ditto.

Kentucky. The Wildcats are doomed by streaky shooting. In order to get very far in the NCAA Tournament, consistent shooting is a must. Coach Rick Pitino has won a lot of games by giving his players the green light to shoot from anywhere at any time, but his team will hit the skids in the third round.

Ohio State. Maybe, but probably not. Jimmy Jackson just might be the best player in the country and Lawrence Funderburke has the best name,

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