

# Husker women shoot for second place

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Senior Editor

Tonight, the Nebraska women's basketball team plays the sixth-place team in the Big Eight — a team that has won only two of its past nine games.

On Saturday, the Cornhuskers travel to Colorado for a game that could decide second place in the conference, facing a team that has won its past nine games.

But Coach Angela Beck said her team isn't concerned with anything other than the game at hand.

"The only mention of Colorado is what time we're leaving," Beck said.

Before they leave, the Huskers will meet Oklahoma State tonight at 7 p.m. in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Nebraska is 18-7 overall and third in the Big Eight race at 8-4.

Oklahoma State is 5-7 and 10-15

overall.

One of the Cowgirls' wins came against Nebraska. The Huskers' 12-point loss in Stillwater, Okla., was their worst setback of the season, Beck said.

The memories could help motivate Nebraska tonight, she said.

"We didn't play very well," she said. "We're disappointed in that. But we know they're going to be ready. They know what they're capable of against us."

The Huskers have been working on their gameplan to attack Oklahoma State's sagging-man defense, Beck said. Nebraska's offense played into the the Cowgirls' hands in the first game, she said.

Senior Sue Hesch, who sat out Nebraska's game at Iowa State Sunday with a bruised bone in her leg, will return to the starting lineup against

the Cowgirls.

Nebraska beat Iowa State 80-61 Sunday.

"We've played pretty good basketball here of late," Beck said. "A 19-point win on the road is obscene."

This year's team is only the second of Beck's teams at Nebraska to win more than 17 games. The first, in 1987-88, finished 22-7, won the Big Eight crown and advanced to the NCAA tournament.

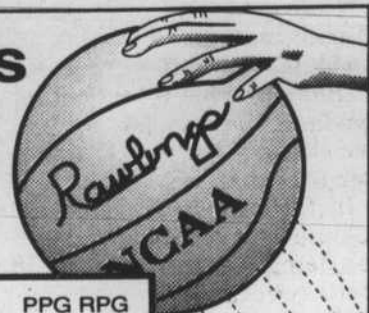
This year's team has the same potential, Beck said.

The Huskers, who have two games remaining before the Big Eight tournament, have a legitimate shot at an NCAA tournament appearance, Beck said.

"Last year we were considered with 17 wins," she said. "We already have 18 wins this season."

"The sky's the limit at this point."

## NU women's basketball probable starters



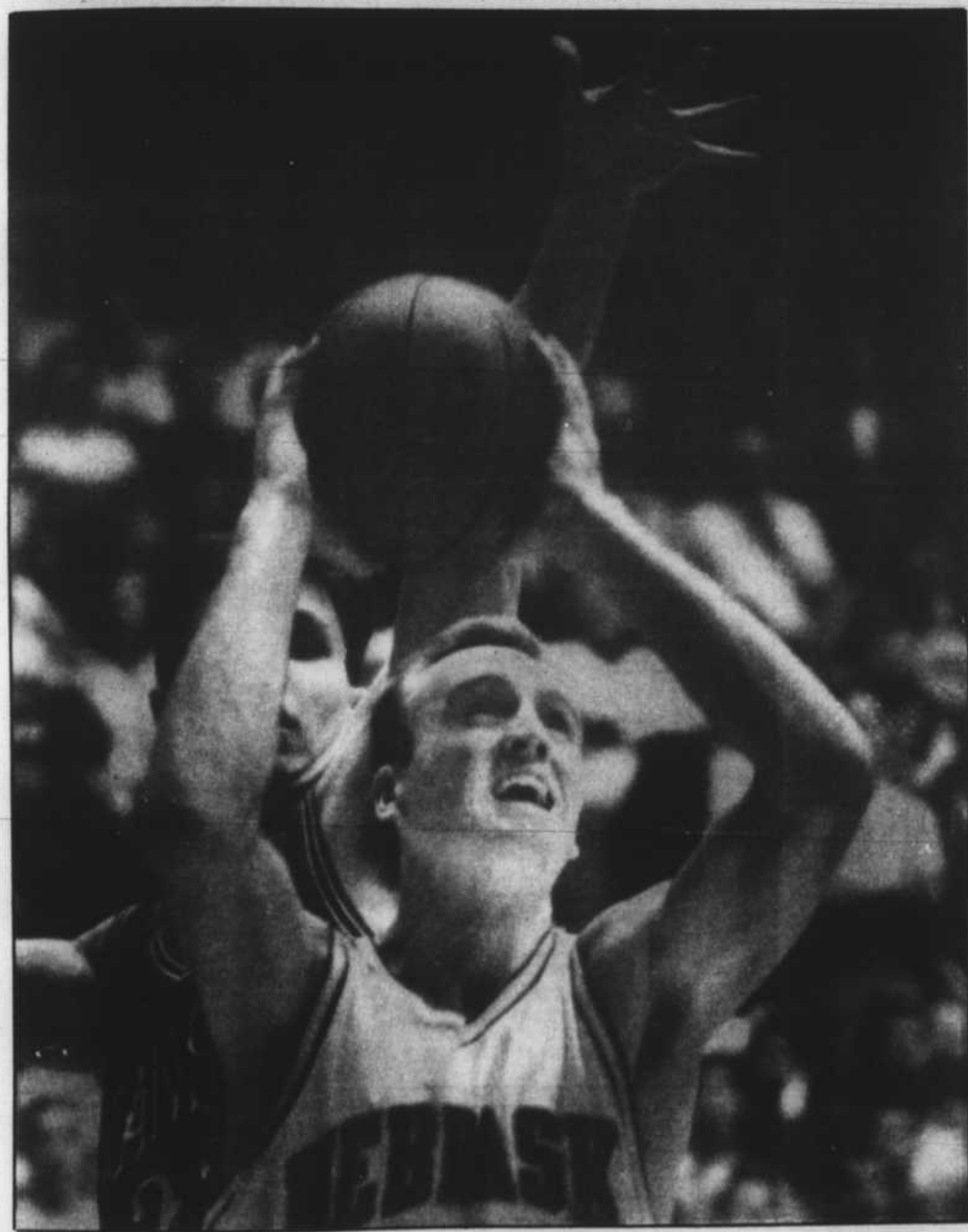
### Nebraska 18-7 (8-4) PPG RPG

G 24	Meggan Yedsena	5-8	So.	11.1	3.4
F 41	Carol Russell	5-10	Sr.	5.3	3.0
F 51	Karen Jennings	6-2	Jr.	25.5	9.8
G 20	Kim Yancey	5-6	Sr.	5.1	1.7
F 42	Sue Hesch	6-1	Sr.	7.1	4.3

### Oklahoma State 10-15 (5-7) PPG RPG

F 33	Shea Jackson	6-1	Jr.	7.4	4.3
C 54	Shawnette Brock	6-0	Jr.	6.4	4.9
G 20	Leslie Day	5-4	Fr.	6.8	3.7
G 21	Regi Briley	5-9	Fr.	2.0	4.3
G 34	Paula Breeden	5-6	Sr.	11.0	3.0

Scott Maurer/DN



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Eric Piatkowski puts up a shot as Rex Walters of Kansas defends in last week's 81-79 Cornhusker win. The No. 25 Huskers will try to make it three straight wins over ranked teams tonight when they face No. 14 Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla.

## NU makes AP poll again Huskers, Cowboys vie for Big Eight eminence

By Jeff Singer  
Staff Reporter

For the first time this season, the Nebraska men's basketball team will compete in something it hasn't for a year — a game between two Top 25 teams.



Nee

For the season, Nebraska is 17-6 and the Cowboys are 21-5.

This is the first time in school history the Huskers have been ranked in consecutive years. Last season Nebraska was ranked 11th in the final AP poll.

The Huskers' appearance in the polls at this point in the season is beneficial in many ways, Nebraska coach Danny Nee said.

"I think it's great," Nee said. "The reason I think it's important is that when the (NCAA Tournament) Selection Committee is looking at teams, if you're in that select group, it means you've earned your way in and it gives you the credibility that you need to get a good seed."

Nebraska earned its way into the rankings with consecutive wins over Top 25 opponents Kansas and Iowa State, after beginning the week with a 26-point loss at Missouri.

The Huskers' 85-69 win over the formerly No. 2 Cowboys three weeks ago in Lincoln also had a little to do with Nebraska's ranking, but that win won't be a factor tonight at Gallagher-Iba Arena, Nee said.

"The game here has absolutely no relevance of what's going to happen in Stillwater," Nee said. "We've got to play 40 minutes against the

best pressure in the country, and if we play like we did against Missouri we don't have a chance.

"But if we play like we did against Iowa State, we do have a chance."

After starting the season 20-0, Oklahoma State has lost five of its last six games and is on a four-game losing streak, capped by Sunday's 66-52 loss to Missouri.

— 66 —

**We've played for 98 years and are now on the verge of making history of two straight NCAAs. We lost four or five players off of last year's program — now we're right back at the same level we were at.**

Nee

NU men's basketball coach

— 99 —

Nee said many factors explained the Cowboys recent problems, but the most important could be Oklahoma State's loss of All-American candidate Byron Houston.

"I think they're the same team that's won 20 games, but you have an injury to your star player and you hit the rough part of your schedule, you're not going to have the ball bounce your way every time," Nee said.

Houston, who averages 20.3 points and nine rebounds per game for the Cowboys, is questionable for tonight's game because of a sprained ankle that prevented him from playing in the loss to Missouri.

Nee said much of Nebraska's success of late must be credited to senior guard Chris Cresswell, who leads the Huskers in three-point baskets

See COWBOYS on 8

## Coach says final foe a mystery

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

The 10th-ranked Cornhusker wrestling team's dual season will end the way it began: shrouded in mystery.

With one dual left on Nebraska's schedule, tonight against Wyoming in Laramie, Wyo., the Huskers don't know what to expect from the 2-6 Cowboys, Coach Tim Neumann said.

"They're geographically set where there aren't many teams for them to wrestle," he said. "Be-

cause they haven't wrestled much this season, and we haven't seen them wrestle all year, I don't really know what they have."

Mystery is nothing new to Neumann. At the start of the season, he was unsure how successful his team would be, because more than half of his 10-man preseason starting roster was made up of freshmen and junior college transfers.

The Huskers have compiled a 12-4 dual record this season and have answered a lot of Neumann's questions.

But questions about Wyoming

remain.

Neumann said the only Cowboy wrestlers he knew about were Mike Donovan and Greg Johnson, Wyoming's starters at the 126- and 142-pound weight classes, respectively.

Donovan, Neumann said, has beaten Nebraska wrestlers in the past, "and he wrestled (former Husker All-American Jason) Kelber pretty close last year at 134."

Johnson beat Nebraska wrestlers in his weight class the past two seasons.

See WRESTING on 8

## NU won't take Lopers for granted, coach says

By Peter Theoharis  
Staff Reporter

When the Nebraska baseball team faces the University of Nebraska-Kearney today, the Cornhuskers will not take the Lopers lightly, Coach John Sanders said.

Nebraska will take a 2-0 record into the nine-inning contest, scheduled for 2 p.m. at Buck Beltzer Field.

Facing an NCAA Division II team this early in the season may make Nebraska more susceptible to an upset. Just ask nationally ranked Creighton,

which split a doubleheader with Division II Wayne State last Saturday.

"It certainly is nothing to be taken for granted," Sanders said. "We need to go to these guys like it's the finals of the Big Eight tournament."

UNK traveled to Norman, Okla., last week for a three-game set against Oklahoma. The Lopers were swept by the Sooners, but Sanders said UNK showed improvement throughout the contests. The Lopers lost the first game 7-0, then lost 11-3 and 8-7.

See BASEBALL on 8