Jennings

Continued from Page 13

The difference between Jennings and a lot of younger people, Beck said, is the fact that she thinks she takes action on all of the goals she sets for herself.

But Jennings isn't old beyond her years, Beck said.

"It sounds like she's just this huge adult," she said. "But she has simplistic views. She'll be the first to tell you that she's kind of cheesy at times.'

During the team's West Coast swing over Christmas break, the Huskers went to Disneyland. But instead of waiting in line for the roller coasters, Beck said Jennings and teammate Kristi Anderson decided to go to all the exhibits they could learn something from.

The two rode the carousel and the It's a Small World ride, Jennings said. "We got pictures with Goofy, where

some people didn't," she said.
Part of the reason Jennings came to Nebraska was the opportunity she would have to contribute to a growing program, Beck said.

'I think she wants to take this team to a new winning tradition, to new heights," Beck said. "I think she's doing that with her teammates although I don't think the job's finished vet.

Jennings has definite goals for her team.

"I prayed in church today, 'Please put us in the NCAAs,'" she said.

The Huskers, who begin play in the Big Eight Tournament Saturday, have a shot at only the second NCAA Tournament appearance in school history

But it is too late for the Huskers to accomplish another of Jennings' goals. Nebraska finished the regular season 19-8 overall and 9-5 in the Big Eight..

It was good enough for third in the conference, but not good enough for

"I just want a championship really bad," she said. "A lot of people say, 'Well what haven't you done since you've been here?' And that's one thing I haven't done and that's what I really want to aim for."

Some of her goals are even more

far-reaching.

"I really want to make Nebraska a nationally prominent team," Jennings said. "I want to be part of something where we build something.

Jennings very easily could have stepped into an already prominent women's basketball program. Coming out of high school, she was highly recruited by Iowa, ranked No. 8 in the most recent poll.

But Jennings chose to come to Nebraska over Iowa and Illinois.

"When you make a decision, you never look back," Jennings said. "And I never have. I think it was the best decision of my life.

The Huskers received only 12 points in this week's Associated Press Top 25 poll, but Jennings has her own ideas about the team's capabilities.

"I do believe we are a Top 25 team
— when we play well," she said.
"When we don't play well, then we're kind of in the pack a little bit.

Jennings has helped Nebraska push its way to the front of the pack.

She came to Nebraska after twice earning all-state honors in Iowa's sixon-six basketball. An offensive player, Jennings' 59-point average carned her honorable-mention All-America recognition her senior year.

In six-on-six basketball, the court is divided in half. Three players from each team play offense, and the other three are defensive players.

At Nebraska, Jennings was in for a 'nightmare season" during her freshman year.

But she was voted the Big Eight Co-Newcomer-of-the-Year and finished the season with a team-high 13.4 point per game average. The Huskers finished the season with a 10-18 record.

"When I was a freshman, I think I concentrated on getting into the system and trying to fit in and trying to contribute as much as I could," Jennings said. "I don't think I ever fit in to the personalities of the team.'

Her sophomore season was better. Jennings led the Huskers, and the Big Eight, with a 20,5 point average and helped Nebraska to a secondplace finish in the conference.

This year, Jonnings said, she fits in to the team on and off the court. "Now I feel like I'm a part, and

I'm close to every player on the team.' Jennings leads the Huskers in scoring and rebounding. She is shooting better from the floor, the free throw line and three-point range than the

But Jennings is not good at everything, Beck said.

rest of the team.

'She has her weaknesses," Beck said. "She can't dance. We tell her to shut up when she starts singing.

"We keep her humbled."

Jennings knows what she has to work on.

"Defensively, I think I've come a long way, and still there's areas where I can constantly improve," Jennings said. "But we'll not tell any of my opponents that."

It is hard, Jennings said, for her to watch tapes the coaches sometimes made to help her improve her de-

"I don't even want to watch myself play when I play bad because it just makes me sick.

Offensively, Jennings is at her best. She has scored in double figures in 78 of her 83 games as a Husker. In high school, she once scored 84 points in one game.

But Jennings said she also was uncomfortable if anyone expected her to score in double figures every night.

'Coach Beck will read the stats and say, 'Jennings has 25 points and 10 rebounds' or whatever, and then she'll go 'Carol had 10 points,' and everyone will go 'Whoo Carol,' and 'Rissa had 12,' 'All right Riss,' and she'll go on to someone else," Jennings said. "But whenever she reads mine the whole locker room is quiet, because everyone just expects.

"I got a couple 'Whoos' when I scored 48," she said with a laugh.

Jennings scored a school-record 48 points against Kansas State earlier this season.

But Beck said the rest of the Huskers have been very accepting of Jennings' success.

"I think that you could get sick and tired of reading about her and hearing about how she's done everything,... because there's a lot more components to our team than Karen Jennings," Book said. "But I think she genuinely cares about everyone, and



Jennings puts up a shot over Kansas' Angela Aycock. Jennings leads the Big Eight in scoring with a 25.5 points per game average. She also ranks fifth in the NCAA in scoring and has the school record for points in one game, scoring 48 against Kansas State earlier this season.

they understand she is a big factor." From the outside, it could be difficult to realize Jennings is not the only player on the Nebraska women's

basketball team. Jennings grabbed the majority of the team's headlines this season as she helped Nebraska to a 19-8 record.

One of the leading scorers in the nation, she led the Huskers in scoring in every regular-season game-but one. Despite one second-place team

finish, she carned most-valuable-player honors in each of Nebraska's three tournaments But Jennings is the first to ac-

knowledge the rest of the team. "I think I've just been blessed to have great teammates," Jennings said.

"It could be really easy for people to say 'Oh, Karen gets too much' and not pass the ball to me, but that never

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-Attend & participate in training activities
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happens. 'I'm really lucky." **Attention Student Leaders** The Odyssey Program is looking for student leaders to be mentors for the 1932-93 year. If you will be a junior or senior during the 1932-93 academic year and would like to be involved in a peer-mentoring program, look no more. The Odyssey Program is your opportunity to be matched with a new student who needs guidance as they begin to develop their leadership skills. Here's your chance to give back what you've gained. Interested or have questions? Call the Campus Activities and Programs office and ask for Megan at 472-8138 or just stop by Suite 200, City Union.

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