

# NU buries loss, refocuses on Connecticut

## Huskers lose 3 straight to Sooners Basketball team prepares to go east

By Thomas Clouse  
Senior Editor

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Nebraska men's basketball team learned first hand Friday, what the Oklahoma Sooners felt last year after losing three straight games to the Cornhuskers.

The fourth-seeded Sooners beat the fifth-seeded Huskers 107-85 in front of 16,870 spectators at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

Nebraska lost all three match-ups to the No. 2 Sooners this season — 79-76 in Lincoln, 106-97 in Norman and 107-85 in the Big Eight Tournament.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was surprised at Nebraska's play.

"I was shocked that we didn't play better," Nee said. "But we played poorly because Oklahoma played well."

"(Oklahoma) took us out our offenses, controlled the boards and basically dominated the

game," he said.

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said the game was closer than the score indicated.

"It might look like we dominated, but I never really felt comfortable," Tubbs said. "(Nebraska) will shoot the three-point shot."

"If they get hot, they could have turned the game around," he said.

Nebraska shot seven of 29 three pointers, including three of 20 in the second half, for a 24 percent average.

Tubbs said the reason why the 21-7, 9-6 Sooners won the game was simple.

"We shoot 53 percent, (Nebraska) shoots 33 percent. That's the ball game," he said.

Oklahoma shot 39 of 73 from the field, including 10 of 14 from three-point range for a 71 percent average. The Sooners also hit 70 percent (19-27) of their free throws for the

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By John Adkisson  
Senior Editor

Who's afraid of the Big Bad East?

Apparently not the Nebraska men's basketball team, which learned on Sunday that it will play Connecticut in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The game, to be played Thursday at Riverfront Coliseum in Cincinnati, will mark the Cornhuskers' third-ever appearance in the tournament, and the first time Nebraska has put together back-to-back trips.

Husker coach Danny Nee, whose team lost a first-round game last season to Xavier, said Connecticut, a member of the Big East Conference, is a good team from a good league.

"I think they've got a great basketball team," Nee said. "We expect it to be a great matchup, with the Big East against the Big Eight."

A couple of Husker players also said they

were happy with their first-round opponent and site.

Nebraska senior forward Dapreis Owens, whose hometown of Mansfield, Ohio, is just three hours from Cincinnati, said the game will offer him the luxury of playing before his family and friends.

"There's not much more you can ask for," Owens said. "My family and friends get to see me play for one last time."

Center Derrick Chandler, who was recruited by Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun, said the game will give Nebraska a chance to redeem themselves after last year's early exit.

"It's important for us to win a game, to take that next step in building a tradition here," Chandler said.

Nebraska coaches and players gathered with fans on the second floor of the Legionnaire

See NCAA on 8

## NCAA picks tournament top seeds

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Defending champion Duke, Ohio State, Kansas and UCLA were made the top seeds Sunday for the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Duke is the top seed in the East, Ohio State in the Southeast, Kansas in the Midwest and UCLA in the West.

Indiana blew a chance for the top seed in the Southeast and a share of the Big Ten championship with Ohio State by losing to Purdue 61-59 Sunday. The Hoosiers (23-6) are seeded second in the West, and will play Eastern Illinois (17-13) in the first round.

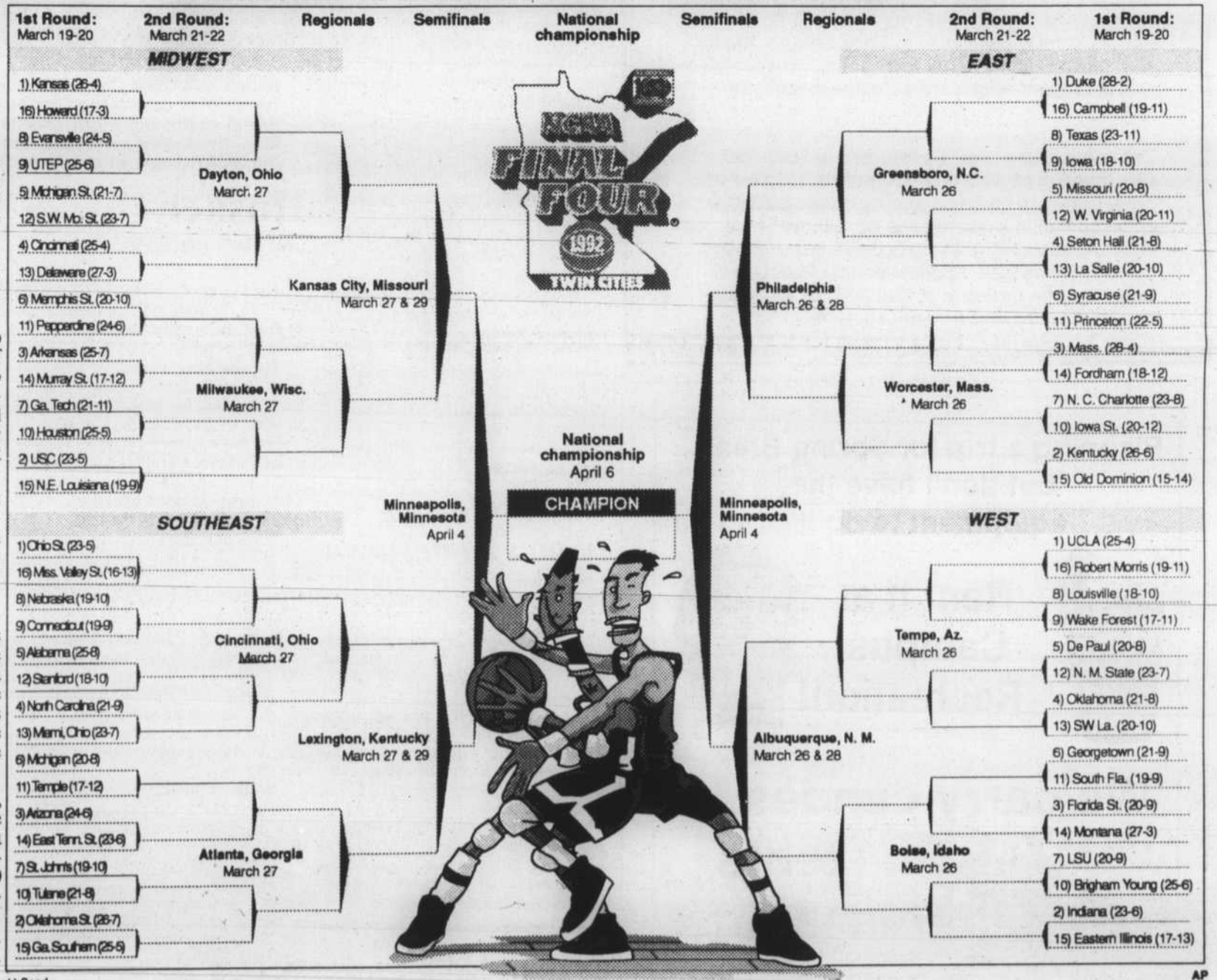
Top-ranked Duke (28-2) will play Big South champion Campbell (19-11) in the opening round Thursday at Greensboro, N.C., while No. 8 UCLA (25-4) will meet Northeast Conference champion Robert Morris (19-11) on Friday in Tempe, Ariz.

Third-ranked Kansas (26-4) plays Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference winner Howard (17-13) in the first round Friday at Dayton, Ohio, while fifth-ranked Ohio State (23-5) faces Southwestern Athletic Conference champion Mississippi Valley State (16-13) on Thursday at Cincinnati.

The Big Eight placed six teams, the most of any conference, while the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big East and Big Ten had five each. The Southeastern Conference, the Pacific 10 and the Metro had four teams selected.

The Southeast region, which Nebraska is in, appears to be the strongest, with seven Top 25 teams.

### NCAAMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 1992



## NU track teams quiet critics; finish 7th, 14th

By John Gardner  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's track teams did their best to put themselves on the track-and-field map this weekend at the NCAA Indoor Championships in Indianapolis.

After being picked to do close to nothing, the women finished in a tie for seventh place with 18 points. The men tied for 14th place with 13.5.

The Arkansas men won their ninth-straight indoor title with 53 points. For the women, Florida coasted to the title with 50 points.

Coach Gary Pepin said both Cornhusker teams could have placed higher with a break or two.

For instance, Cris Hall placed second in the high jump at 6-2 1/4,

Hall cleared the same height as the winner, but finished second because she had more misses during competition.

"I thought for sure she was going to win it," Pepin said. "It was probably one of the longest jump-offs in national championship history, and I think Cris just ran out of gas."

"Both jumpers were getting so tired at the end that I doubt if they could have jumped over a one-foot block."

Also, Pepin said, he may have placed Fran ten Benschel in the wrong race. Ten Benschel placed third, with a school-record time of 9 minutes, 17.87 seconds in the 3,000-meter run.

"As it turned out, I think the field in the mile was a little easier," Pepin said. "Fran beat the mile champion at the conference meet, but she ran a

heck of a race in the 3,000."

And in the 200, freshman Kathy Travis was part of what Pepin said may have been the best field ever assembled for the event. Travis, along with Denise Lucas, came up short of qualifying for the finals by only a few hundredths of a second.

"Denise ran a better time this year in the 200 and didn't even qualify," Pepin said. "Last season, she placed with a slower time. And the freshman from UNLV who beat Kathy at the Husker Invite ended up placing fourth."

Shanelle Porter scored the other points for the Nebraska women by placing fourth in the 400 in a personal-best time of 53.34.

Finally, the women's 1,600 relay didn't finish the race, because Kwani

Stewart dropped the baton.

"Kwani was all by herself and had probably run about 250 meters when all of the sudden her quadriccp started bothering her and she flat out dropped the baton," Pepin said. "I'm sure they would have qualified and probably scored."

All of these factors could have spelled a third-place finish for the women, Pepin said.

For the men, Kevin Coleman stole the show in the shot put. Going into the meet, however, Track Wire magazine picked Coleman to place second.

Coleman won the event with a school-record toss of 65-9 3/4. His effort easily outdistanced Shane Collins of Arizona State, who threw 62-8.

"It was no contest in the shot put," Pepin said. "Kevin completely domi-

nated the competition."

The men's 1,600 relay team set an all-time Big Eight best time of 3:07.64 in the preliminaries. The team, made up of Mark Jackson, Ken Waller, Patrick Trainor and Travis Grant, came back to place fifth in the finals at 3:09.42.

"For whatever reason, they didn't come back and run as well in the finals," Pepin said.

Baylor won the event in a collegiate record time of 3:04.89 — one of the fastest times in the world, Pepin said.

Petar Malesev scored the other points for the men. Malesev was part of a four-way tie for third in the high jump with a mark of 7-3 3/4. Because of more misses, he was awarded sixth place.