



Courtesy of Big Eight media services

Kansas kicker Dan Eichloff attempts a field goal in a game last year. The No. 13 Jayhawks will play Nebraska Saturday at Memorial Stadium.

Lax, rigid game plan may meld for Jayhawks

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Although the play of the Kansas football team has been somewhat of a surprise this season, Dan Eichloff's kicking has never been in question.

Eichloff, a junior kicker and punter for the Jayhawks, may be the best double-duty man in the country.

He holds the school record for the longest and second-longest field goals in school history. His 61-yard field goal against Ball State earlier this season was the longest in the conference this year.

Last season, Eichloff connected on a 52-yard field goal against Nebraska in the Jayhawks' 59-23 loss to the Cornhuskers. The year before, he gave Kansas an early 3-0 lead that Nebraska quickly overcame in a 41-9 victory.

Eichloff said it would take more than a strong kicking game for 7-1 Kansas to stop Nebraska this Saturday in Memorial Stadium.

"Nebraska is a great team and always great in the Big Eight," Eichloff said. "We might have a shot if we show up and play our best game."

Kansas stands atop the Big Eight stand-

ings with a 4-0 conference mark, but the Jayhawks haven't come within 36 points of Nebraska in the last five years.

The Jayhawks haven't beaten the Cornhuskers since recording a 23-13 win at Lincoln in 1968.

But Kansas — with a 27-10 win over Oklahoma two weeks ago — established itself as a force in the conference, Eichloff said.

"The reason for our success this season is a real, solid team effort," Eichloff said. "We can't point at one certain person or area, because everyone has done well on defense and offense."

Eichloff said the Huskers' 52-7 win over Colorado last Saturday was enough to impress anybody.

"That game really showed who's big in the Big Eight," Eichloff said.

Although the game will be the Jayhawks' first road test against a ranked team this season, Eichloff said Kansas had taken a "just another game" attitude into practice this week.

"We are on a plan and we will practice the same way we practice for the other teams like Kansas State or Ball State," Eichloff said. "We just have to practice hard and hope we can beat the Huskers on Saturday."

Narrow win gives Nebraska piece of conference title

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Just as in the previous 16 years, the Big Eight volleyball crown will be worn by Nebraska.

But it wasn't easy for the Cornhuskers, who had to play five games Wednesday night to beat Colorado 15-5, 15-10, 9-15, 8-15, 16-14 in front of 2,879 fans in Boulder, Colo.

With the win, Nebraska clinched at least a tie for its 17th straight conference title, and the Huskers need a victory over either Kansas State or Iowa State later this month to win the Big Eight outright.

Nebraska assistant coach Cathy Noth said the Huskers knew Wednesday's match would be a battle.

"This wasn't a walk in the park," Noth said. "After we played Colorado in Lincoln, we were preparing for them at their place and knew they'd have a lot of emotion going into the match."

Noth said intensity was the key ingredient in the Nebraska victory.

"We got wrapped up in emotions — we started to get emotional and when we get emotional we have to keep it under control," Noth said.

The fifth-ranked Huskers improved their record to a perfect 10-0 in Big Eight play while raising their overall mark to 16-2.

The Buffaloes dropped to 17-5 overall and 7-2 in conference play, with both Big Eight losses coming to Nebraska.

The loss also deprived No. 13 Colorado from registering its first-ever win against the Huskers. Nebraska holds a 15-0 career mark over the Buffaloes.

The Huskers seemingly had an easy victory in their hands following the match's first two games. Nebraska's win in the second game was its 36th straight win — a new school record for games won in a row. But then the momentum switched to the Buffaloes' side of the net.

Colorado went on to win the next two games by holding the Huskers to single digits, but a

Big Eight Volleyball Standings

BIG 8

TEAM	Conference	Overall
Nebraska	10-0	16-2
Colorado	7-2	17-5
Iowa State	4-3	16-5
Oklahoma	4-4	11-11
Missouri	4-6	15-9
Kansas	1-7	17-13
Kansas State	0-8	6-17

Scott Maurer/DN

hard-fought fifth game helped Nebraska win its 14th consecutive match and 55th straight in the Big Eight.

The Huskers had a .168 hitting percentage in the victory while limiting the Buffaloes to just .090.

But the biggest statistical edge held by the Huskers Wednesday evening was in team blocks. Nebraska outblocked the Buffaloes 23-3, as Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater tied a Big Eight record with eight solo blocks of her own.

Thater's 21 kills were also a team high, but Noth said the grueling five-game victory was a team effort.

"You have to give it to the whole team — it was a team win," Noth said.

Noth said Wednesday's win was vital for the Huskers.

"This is the biggest win for us on the year," Noth said. "Knowing the Big Eight was on the line for us — it was crucial for us."

Runner's Big Eight title win starts stride toward nationals

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

David Itteffa battled competition and the altitude to grab the Big Eight individual men's cross country title last Saturday in Boulder, Colo.

The win made Itteffa the first Nebraska man to win the Big Eight title since 1970.

"The altitude was a big factor in running the race," Itteffa said. "You can't make surges in the altitude, you have to run the same pace for entire course."

Itteffa said runners went through oxygen

more quickly in the thin mountain air, so he figured out a way to conserve energy and battle the rest of the field.

"There were runners capable of beating me," Itteffa said. "The only thing is to do the best you can and hope."

Itteffa, the only top ten finisher for Nebraska, won the title with a time of 24:49 on the 4.8-mile course, beating out Oklahoma's Conor Holt. As a team, the Cornhuskers finished sixth.

The win highlighted a season of steady progress for Itteffa. He placed seventh in the

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Magic's critics send out frightening message

So what have you done for me lately?

In essence, that's the question the National Basketball Association was asking Earvin "Magic" Johnson when pushing him into re-retirement Monday.

Johnson, the Los Angeles Lakers superstar who retired from professional basketball last year after he found out he was HIV positive, came out of retirement this summer when he knew he would be able to handle the rigors of the NBA.

But numerous critics — ranging from NBA executives to fellow professional basketball players — thought it would be unsafe to other players and hurt the league if Magic played in the NBA while being HIV-positive.

Magic, the 6-foot-9 point guard who is the NBA's all-time career assist leader, transformed the NBA from an obscure, financially problematic

league to professional sports' biggest success story.

But that didn't seem to concern those selected individuals who thought Magic should stay away from the game that he loves and cherishes.

One of those people who has made it public that Magic's presence on the court would be a hazard as well as a distraction was Utah's All-Star forward Karl Malone.

Malone, who played with Magic on the U.S. men's basketball team in this year's Summer Olympics, said it would be best if Magic remained in retirement for the sake of the players in the NBA.

But until Malone receives his degree as a licensed physician, it probably would be best if he kept his comments to himself and let the experts decide if Magic causes a threat to his NBA counterparts.

Medical experts have said that



Jeff Singer

there's more of a chance that someone will get hit by lightning than contracting AIDS through athletic competition, but this fact still didn't seem to silence Magic's comeback critics.

When Magic came out of college following his sophomore year at Michigan State in 1979, his dynamic play and enthusiasm for the game helped bring more interest into the lackluster NBA of the 1970s.

And he is one of a handful of people given credit for resurrecting the league from financial ashes to a

popularity level that can't be matched.

While I was growing up in the Los Angeles area, I hated the Lakers with a passion and was a fan of their cross-town rivals, the L.A. Clippers.

And no, I wasn't mentally deranged as a kid for liking a Clipper team that could be beaten by most high school teams while the Lakers were across town winning NBA titles in the City of Angels.

But what made going to the Forum and watching the Lakers play so special was Magic, whose dazzling play on the court could only be matched by the high level of class he exhibited off the hardwood.

Magic has shown he's able for high-level competition with his accomplishments just this year.

He won the NBA All-Star game's Most Valuable Player award in Feb-

ruary; he helped lead the U.S. men's basketball team to a gold medal in the 1992 Summer Olympics; and he was competing in a vigorous preseason Laker schedule the past few weeks during the NBA's exhibition season.

But Magic, arguably the greatest player to ever compete in professional basketball, just wanted to contribute one more time to the game he loved so much.

The problem is, it doesn't seem the NBA is showing its love as affectionately back to Magic.

But the scariest message that Magic's critics have sent to those who are HIV-positive and/or have AIDS is that if you have the disease and are playing sports, then hide it and let the chips fall where they may.

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