

# Husker women shooting for tournament title

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

Despite some minor defensive problems, Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck said she was pleased with her team's opening-night win over Arizona State on Tuesday. And that performance has Beck looking toward this weekend's Roger White Invitational in Evanston, Ill. Nebraska will open the tournament Friday with a 6 p.m. game against South Carolina. Host Northwestern and Yale will play in the other semifinal, with the winners meeting 4 p.m. Saturday.

The Cornhuskers committed 29 turnovers in the 86-79 win over the Sun Devils, but were able to perform well offensively, with five players scoring in double figures.

Beck said the offensive display was a positive for her team.

"We had a good nucleus," Beck said. "A lot of people contributed and we didn't take a lot of bad shots."

Nebraska's success included a 38 percent shooting performance from three-point range, an impressive statistic considering the Huskers were last in the Big Eight in that category last season.

"I am real pleased with the shots

we took and the percentage of made shots," Beck said.

This weekend, Beck said the Huskers may have to work on the defensive end to win the tournament.

"We have to improve on the little things, like take care of the basketball better and limit the other team to only one shot each time down the court," Beck said.

"We are heading into a tough tournament with some very athletic competition."

South Carolina, according to Beck, is a "run and gun" team that relies on an up-tempo game and three-point shooting. The Gamecocks also have

height, including 6-foot-4 center Marsha Williams.

Beck said the Huskers planned to run with South Carolina in the game, which will be the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

"I think the up-tempo game might be in our favor," Beck said. "We are really in good shape at this point in the season."

Beck said last year's tournament experience (Nebraska won the CableVision Classic and Illini Invitational and participated in the National Women's Invitational Tournament) would help her team in tournaments this year.

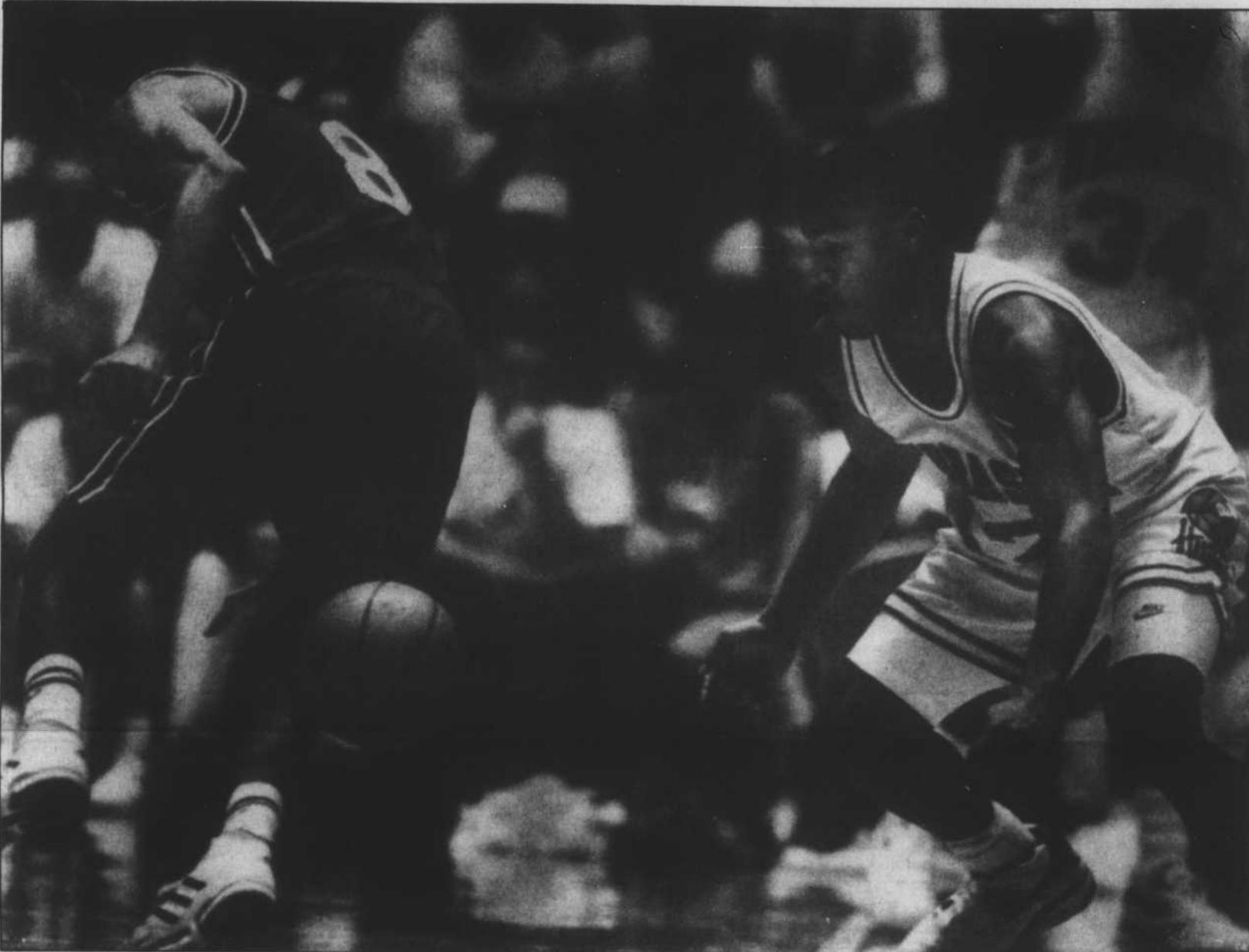
"We have always been tourney tough and I feel we will give them (South Carolina) a good ride," Beck said.

Nonetheless, Beck said her team wouldn't take anything for granted heading into this weekend.

"I have a team of fighters," Beck said. "They are determined and have goals to accomplish."

The key to success in the tournament may come from the post play and a better defensive effort, Beck said.

"This tournament is an opportunity and we just need to take advantage of the opportunity," Beck said.



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Jamar Johnson goes for a loose ball in Nebraska's opening exhibition against the Cuban Nationals. The Cornhuskers will open their season tonight with a 6:30 p.m. game against Colgate.

## Swim teams hosting own invitational

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams will go four different directions this weekend.

The divers will send three women and three men to the USC Invitational in Los Angeles, while 12 other Cornhusker divers will compete in the Texas Invitational in Austin, Texas.

Another 10 members of the men's team will compete in the U.S. Open in Orlando, Fla.

The rest of the Nebraska team — most of them swimmers — will remain in Lincoln to host the Husker Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Other teams competing at the meet include Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Metro State College of Denver, Drury College, Northern Colorado and The University of Nebraska at Kearney.

"This meet should really challenge the swimmers that will be competing from Nebraska," said Cornhusker coach Cal Bentz. "As a team, we're really looking forward to this weekend and the competition."

The meet will begin at 4 p.m. Friday with preliminaries and finals. Saturday and Sunday, the preliminaries will begin at 10 a.m. The finals on Saturday begin at 4 p.m. and on Sunday they will start at 2 p.m.

# NU set to live up to expectations

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

After receiving a lot of preseason hype, the Nebraska men's basketball team is hoping it can fulfill expectations.

And the first place the Cornhuskers would like to start is with a first-place finish in the Ameritas Classic.

Nebraska opens the tournament against Colgate 6:30 p.m. today at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The other game will pit Kent State against Idaho State at 8:30 p.m., with the consolation game at 1 p.m. Saturday and the championship game following at 3 p.m.

In November, the Huskers made school history when they earned a No. 25 preseason ranking in The Associated Press poll. It was the first time a Husker basketball team earned a preseason ranking.

Nebraska has also been ranked in other preseason polls, including Sport Magazine (11th), Basketball Weekly (13th), Street & Smith's (16th) and Sports Illustrated (18th).

Husker basketball coach Danny Nee said receiving preseason ranking was something he had strived for during his tenure at Nebraska, as he enters his seventh year at the helm of the Huskers.

"I look at the expectations as a complete positive," Nee said. "We've been working six years to get to this

## Ameritas Classic

Semifinals 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. Friday  
Final 3 p.m. Saturday

PROBABLE STARTERS

Nebraska		Colgate	
G Jamar Johnson	6-0	G Tucker Neele	6-3
G Andre Woolridge	6-1	G Hason Brown	6-1
C Derrick Chandler	6-10	C Jason Whatley	6-10
F Eric Piatkowski	6-7	F Nate O'Neil	6-4
F Bruce Chubick	6-7	F Darren Brown	6-7
Idaho State		Kent State	
G Erin Cowan	6-0	G Jeff Anderson	6-4
G Corey Bruce	6-4	G James Johnson	6-0
C Jim Potton	6-9	C Doug Carr	6-8
F Chris Daniels	6-8	F Greg Holman	6-4
F Derrick Boles	6-6	F Rod Koch	



Scott Maurer/DN

level of getting respect." Nee said he thought this was one of the best teams he had coached at Nebraska.

"I'm telling you we're good — write it down," he said.

The Huskers completed the exhibition portion of their schedule last weekend, posting a 116-96 win over Marathon Oil to conclude their preseason with a 2-0 record.

But Nee said his team was excited to play in games that count in the win-loss columns.

"This time of the year we're all anxious to play," Nee said.

Nebraska point guard Jamar Johnson agreed.

"We're getting to the point now when we're tired of beating up on each other at practice," Johnson said. "It feels good to go up against someone else and bring it all together."

Four starters return from last year's 19-10 Husker team, including Johnson, forwards Eric Piatkowski and Bruce Chubick and center Derrick Chandler.

The fifth spot remains uncertain, as three freshmen challenge for the starting nod.

Jaron Boone, Andre Woolridge and Erick Strickland are all competing for the shooting guard position, but Nee

said it really didn't matter who ended up starting tonight against the Red Raiders, because all three would get playing time.

"I've been pleased with the freshmen in their athletic ability and in their attitude," Nee said. "They're going to play and they're going to play a lot of minutes."

As for Nebraska's opponents, Colgate was the only team that didn't finish under .500 last season, as the Red Raiders ended with a 14-14 record, the first time in 15 years they didn't end a season with a losing mark.

Idaho State's Bengals ended last year with a 9-21 record and a sixth-place finish in the Big Sky Conference, while the Mid-American Conference's Kent State Golden Flashes were 9-19 after the '91-'92 campaign.

### Notes:

- Sophomore forward Jason Glock has decided to sit out this season as a redshirt. The Wahoo native played in 20 games last year and averaged 1.3 points per game.

- Nee and Colgate coach Jack Bruen are both alums of New York City's Power Memorial High School. Nee graduated from the school in 1965 while Bruen finished three years later.

## Kansas State

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has limited its opponents to an average of 137 yards a game on the ground.

The Husker offense is averaging 331.8 rushing yards a game, but will be without Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year Derek Brown, who separated his shoulder during last week's 33-9 win over Oklahoma.

That leaves the rushing duties to Jones, Nebraska's leading rusher with 1,024 yards. Jones said not having to share time with Brown would be an adjustment.

"I'm not used to playing four full quarters but I think I've conditioned myself well enough throughout the year that I will be able to step up and hopefully do a great job," Jones said.

Kansas State's offense however, has not been as potent this season. The Wildcats average 237 yards per game and have scored more than 20 points in only three games.

Part of that low output, Osborne said, was poor quarterback protection.

"They struggled particularly early in the year offensively," Osborne said. "They were sacked a lot. They just didn't protect the passer."

Nonetheless, Jones said there would be no looking past the Wildcats.

"This is going to be for the Big Eight championship," he said. "We would hate to have Colorado go down to the Orange Bowl."

"Kansas State, they're a very good football team and anything can happen."