

# Huskers defeat Wildcats in Japan

## NU to take on FSU Seminoles in Orange Bowl

By Nick Hytrek  
Senior Reporter

Playing halfway around the world didn't provide any solutions to Kansas State's 24 years of frustration against Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers beat the Wildcats 38-24 Sunday in the Coca-Cola Bowl in Tokyo to win the Big Eight championship and the automatic Orange Bowl bid.

It was announced Sunday that 10-1 Florida State will be Nebraska's opponent New Year's Night in Miami. The Seminoles, ranked third in the final Associated Press Top 25, beat the Huskers in the 1990 Fiesta Bowl.

“I'm really proud of our kids. They're really excited about winning. Now, we'll refocus and we want to win the Orange Bowl.”

—Darlington  
NU secondary coach

The No. 11 Huskers finished the regular season with a 9-2 record and were 6-1 in the Big Eight. Kansas State ended its season 5-6, 2-5. It was the 24th straight win for Nebraska over Kansas State.

Before the trip to Japan, the Husker coaching staff expressed concern about the unusual circumstances surrounding the preparations for the game. Those circumstances included a 15-hour time difference, lack of studying time for the players and cultural differences.

But because the Huskers were play-

ing for a Big Eight title, those circumstances didn't affect Nebraska that much, secondary coach George Darlington said on the post-game radio show.

“The distractions were not that much because the kids were focused on becoming Big Eight champions,” Darlington said. “They knew what they had to do. I have to congratulate our players. I think they had a very good attitude. They were ready to play.”

Kansas State entered the game with the second-best defense in the confer-

ence. Darlington said the offense did well to score so many points.

“Scoring 38 points against Kansas State's defense is a very fine accomplishment because their defense is excellent,” he said.

Nebraska managed to rush for 278 yards against a Wildcat defense that had been giving up only 137 yards per game on the ground. The Huskers had 412 total yards.

From the outset, it was evident Nebraska was ready to play.

After the two teams traded punts, the Huskers drove 62 yards for their first score, an 18-yard touchdown pass from Tommie Frazier to Corey Dixon. That pass was the first of five Dixon caught in the game. Frazier completed 11 of 18 passes for 134 yards.

Nebraska struck again on its next possession. This time Frazier scrambled for a 19-yard touchdown run and a 14-0 lead.

See HUSKERS on 8

## Nebraska-Kansas State Scoring Summary

NU—38	KSU—24
① NU—Dixon, 18 pass from Frazier (Bennett kick)	
NU—Frazier, 19 run (Bennett kick)	
② NU—Frazier, 4 run (Bennett kick)	
KSU—Coleman, 10 pass from Garber (Wright kick)	
KSU—Wright, 40 field goal	
③ NU—Bennett, 42 field goal	
NU—Jones, 38 run (Bennett kick)	
④ KSU—Garber, 8 run (Wright kick)	
NU—Frazier, 1 run (Bennett kick)	
KSU—Seib, 21 pass from Garber (Wright kick)	

Daily Nebraskan

# NU dominates Ameritas Classic

## Husker center Chandler makes All-Tourney team

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

It took one half of basketball, but Nebraska finally wore down Kent State and pulled away from the Golden Flashes in the championship game of the Ameritas Classic.

The Cornhuskers used pressure defense to take an 85-61 victory before 12,023 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Saturday.

Husker coach Danny Nee credited the win to Nebraska's defense. The Huskers held Kent to 34 percent shooting from the field.

“I was pleased with the defense. I felt we just basically wore them down,” said Nee. “We put as good of pressure on the ball as we've ever had here.”

Kent stayed with the Huskers throughout the first half. The Golden Flashes slowed the Husker offense and were only down 34-27 at half-time.

Nee said that Kent showed its quality early.

“Kent State, in the first half, really executed well,” he said. “Kent State is a solid, fundamentally-sound team.”

The Golden Flashes' offensive game plan gave the Huskers problems in the first half, Nee said.

“Kent State runs a motion offense that is as good as we'll see all year,” he said. “If they play at the level that they played in the first half, they'll surprise a lot of people.”

Nebraska adjusted to the motion offense and came out in the second half and ran away with the game.

Husker guard Jamar Johnson, who had six points and five assists, said that after intermission, the Huskers wanted to take control on offense.

“We wanted to push the ball up the court more than we did in the first half,” he said.

Nebraska forward Bruce Chubick said it was discouraging for the Huskers to be up by only seven points at half.

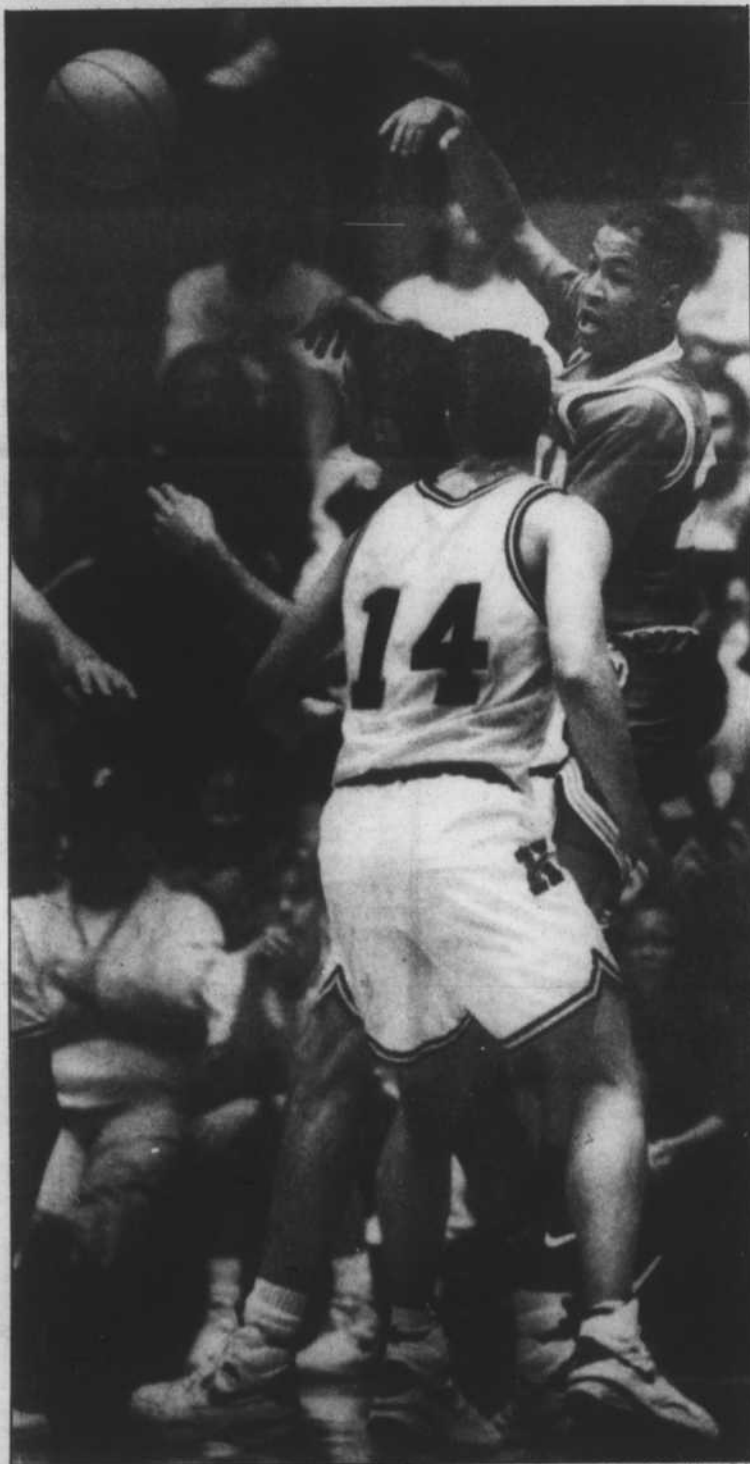
“We had played really good defense, and they were still sticking with us,” he said. “(Kent State) plays defense well, and it's hard to break away from a team like that.”

Kent stayed within ten points of the Huskers during the first seven minutes of the second half.

Then Nebraska started to pull away.

Husker freshman Erick Strickland hit a jump shot in the lane with 13:20 left to put the Huskers up 53-41.

With 9:45 left, Strickland



Staci McKee/DN

Nebraska's Jaron Boone attempts to pass to a teammate during the finals of the Ameritas Classic Saturday. The Cornhuskers beat Kent State 85-61.

brought the crowd to its feet with a thundering break-away dunk to give Nebraska a 62-47 lead.

Chubick said the dunk may have affected Kent.

“The crowd didn't really affect them in the first half,” he said. “In the second half, the crowd may have gotten to them, especially after Erick's dunk.”

The Huskers then went on a 19-3 run to put the game away.

Nebraska forward Eric Piatkowski, who scored 23 points and pulled down a career-high 16 rebounds Saturday, was named the tournament's most valuable player,

and center Derrick Chandler was named to the All-Tournament team.

Nee said he was pleased with his team's play, but he said the Huskers needed to work on their offense.

Nee said that the Huskers accomplished what they wanted to Saturday.

“Our job is to win; our other job is to improve, and I think we're doing both.”

Nebraska will attempt to accomplish both of those jobs again tonight. The Huskers play their third game in four days, against The Citadel at 7 p.m. at the Sports Center.

## Most Valuable Player awarded to Piatkowski

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Getting off on the right foot is something Eric Piatkowski knows well.

Piatkowski scored 48 points and pulled down 25 rebounds in two games of the Ameritas Classic, which helped him to be named Most Valuable Player of the tournament and lead the Huskers to the team championship.

“In scoring, different nights are going to be different people,” Piatkowski said. “Talking with the coaches and my father I know if you go hard like that, then good things are going to happen.”

Piatkowski's work habits did not go unnoticed to coach Danny Nee.

“Eric Piatkowski has done a really solid job. He's making it happen rebounding and on defense,” Nee said.

Piatkowski, who pulled down a career-high 16 rebounds in the championship game against Kent State Saturday, said rebounding would be one of his main priorities this season.

“If I concentrate on rebounding, I can really average a lot,” Piatkowski said. “I'm in a different spot this year (offensively).”

“It really screwed me up last year seeing a shot go up and knowing I could go get the rebound, but not being able to.”

The 6-foot-7 junior from Rapid City, S.D., said that although the Cornhuskers ended up with a 85-61 victory over Kent, the team was disappointed with only a seven-point halftime lead.

“It was a little bit of a scare that Kent State was so close,” Piatkowski said. “The effort is there. By mid-season, things will slowly start to click.”

Piatkowski was clicking in the final, hitting nine of 17 from the floor.

“He's still not getting the calls,” Nee said. “I think he could have gone to the free throw line even more than he did.”

Nebraska plays the Citadel tonight, and Piatkowski said it was important the Huskers kept rolling over their non-conference opponents.

“These non-conference games are very important,” he said. “The Big Eight is going to be pretty balanced so we can't afford to get upset in any of these games so we can have enough wins.”

# Women's basketball team wins invitational

By Phil Carter  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team is riding a three-game winning streak to open the season.

Karen Jennings scored 20 points and snared nine rebounds as the Cornhuskers defeated Northwestern 83-71 in the championship game of the Roger L. White Invitational at Evanston, Ill., on Saturday.

“This is the third time in three years that we have come into Big Ten Conference territory and won their tournament,” said Nebraska coach Angela Beck. “I am very happy. This was a great team win, and we beat an outstanding team.”

Jennings, who averaged 19.5 points and 10 rebounds in two games of the tournament, was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Joining Jennings on the all-tournament team was senior forward Rissa Taylor, who added 16 points and two blocked shots in Saturday night's finale.

“Our defense was tenacious,” Beck said. “We forced a fine passing team into 24 turnovers and held their point guard to just three points.”

Coach Beck commended Husker guards Meggan Yedsena and Lis Brenden as defensive standouts who provided the Huskers with an added spark.

The score was tied at 34 at half-time, but Nebraska opened the second half on a 22-7 run to take a 56-41 lead. Northwestern got as close as 12 points, but the Huskers held on the rest of the way.

Nebraska advanced to Saturday's final by beating South Carolina 63-51 on Friday night.

Jennings led all scorers with 19 points while Sara Offringa added 13. The Huskers won despite shooting just 36 percent from the floor.

“It might have been the poorest shooting night for Nebraska in a real long time,” Beck said. “But we won and I'm happy about that.”

Nebraska returns to the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Wednesday to host Illinois, the beginning of a three-game homestand. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m.