

# Wichita State looks for answers in matchup against Husker team

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

How good is the Wichita State basketball team?

That's still a question for first-year Shocker coach Scott Thompson, but with Nebraska would provide the answers.

"We're in such a rebuilding process. We're not ready to play," Thompson said about the 7:35 p.m. game at Levitt Arena in Wichita, Kan. "We have such a long, long road ahead of us, we're just concerned about ourselves."

The 1-1 Shockers started off the season with a 93-71 loss at Alabama, but Thompson said the Cornhuskers were better than the Crimson Tide.

"We look at Nebraska being even better than Alabama. With the great talent they have, they're just a super, super team," he said. "We're going to have to come out ready to play more than we did at Alabama."

Guard Jimmy Bolden leads Wichita State with a 14-point scoring average, while Chad Elston is right behind, averaging 13 points per game.

"I have four starters back, but they're coming off a 8-20 team," Thompson said. "You can have veterans back, but you are still introducing your system and trying to get things in place."

Wichita State will play its second home game of the season against the Huskers, although the crowd shouldn't

PROBABLE STARTERS

**Nebraska at Wichita State**  
7:30 p.m. Saturday  
Levitt Arena, Wichita, Kan.

	Nebraska	PPG	RPG
G	Eric Piatkowski	20.3	11.0
G	Bruce Chubick	9.7	6.0
C	Derrick Chandler	14.5	11.5
F	Jaron Boone	13.0	4.5
F	Jamar Johnson	8.0	4.0

	Wichita State	PPG	RPG
F	Claudius Johnson	9.0	6.0
F	Michael Wiggins	9.5	6.5
C	John Smith	8.0	3.5
G	Tory Joyner	1.5	2.5
G	Jimmy Bolden	14.0	4.0



make much of a difference, Thompson said.

"We're coming off the worst record in the history of Wichita State basketball and attendance has dropped off," he said. "Hopefully, we can make it a game and get the fans into it."

As far as height, the front lines of the two teams are comparable, with the main difference being 6-foot-10 Nebraska center Derrick Chandler.

"I'd say we match up with them pretty well until you get to the big guy," Thompson said. "We don't have anybody that's going to match up with him."

Thompson and Nebraska coach Danny Nee coached together at Notre

Dame under Digger Phelps for three years (1977-80). Thompson said he liked how Nee had his team playing early this season.

"They've got tremendous talent and they play really hard," Thompson said.

Nebraska is not the first and won't be the last Top 25 team that Wichita State will face. After the opening-game loss to Alabama, other current Top 25-caliber teams on the schedule include Kansas, Florida and Xavier of Ohio.

"This year, we seem to be playing a lot of those," Thompson said. "I inherited this schedule. It's not my idea of trying to build your program."

# Teammates notice Chandler's absence

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick  
Staff Reporter

For more than half the game, the Nebraska basketball team found out what life without Derrick Chandler was like Thursday night.

Chandler, who injured his ankle in Monday's game against The Citadel, played only 13 minutes in the Cornhuskers' 100-83 win over Creighton, scoring six points.

Junior guard Eric Piatkowski said that because the Cornhuskers won't have another true center on the team until recruit Amos Gregory becomes eligible next Friday, Chandler's limited play hurt the Huskers' performance.

"It affects the team a lot," Piatkowski said. "I think it's quite obvious that we're not that big underneath — we're not quite that physical."

"And when he's out of the game we have really good players, but they're not centers."

Freshman guard Erick Strickland said the Huskers missed Chandler's defense.

"He's a big force in the middle, and any time you don't have Derrick in there you are missing a big part of your defense," he said. "It's a lot easier for you knowing you can over play your man and backdoor — you've got somebody there to stop those kind of easy points."

"So we miss Derrick and we are

looking forward to getting him back in full stride."

Chandler said his ankle felt good before the game and that he was prepared to play more minutes.

"I told coach the only way he could have kept me from not actually playing was to tell me not to dress up," Chandler said. "I figured once he told me to dress up that I was going to see substantial playing time."

"When he cleared the bench a couple of times and I was still was on the bench, I started getting frustrated."

When freshman Terrance Badgett picked up his third foul late in the first half, Chandler said he knew Nebraska coach Danny Nee would have to play him.

"I went in and I felt good, and I told him I felt good, so he said just get ready for the second half," Chandler said. "He said, 'You're not going to play that much, but when you go in their try to loosen it up, and get your wind back', so that's what I tried to do."

Freshman guard Jaron Boone said Chandler inspired the Huskers when he entered the game.

"When he came in it was big booster," Boone said. "He came in and got a couple of boards, couple blocked shots and that really got us fired up because at that point we were getting kind of down, out of the flow of the game because the referees were taking us out."

# Shields, Hill named to All-American teams

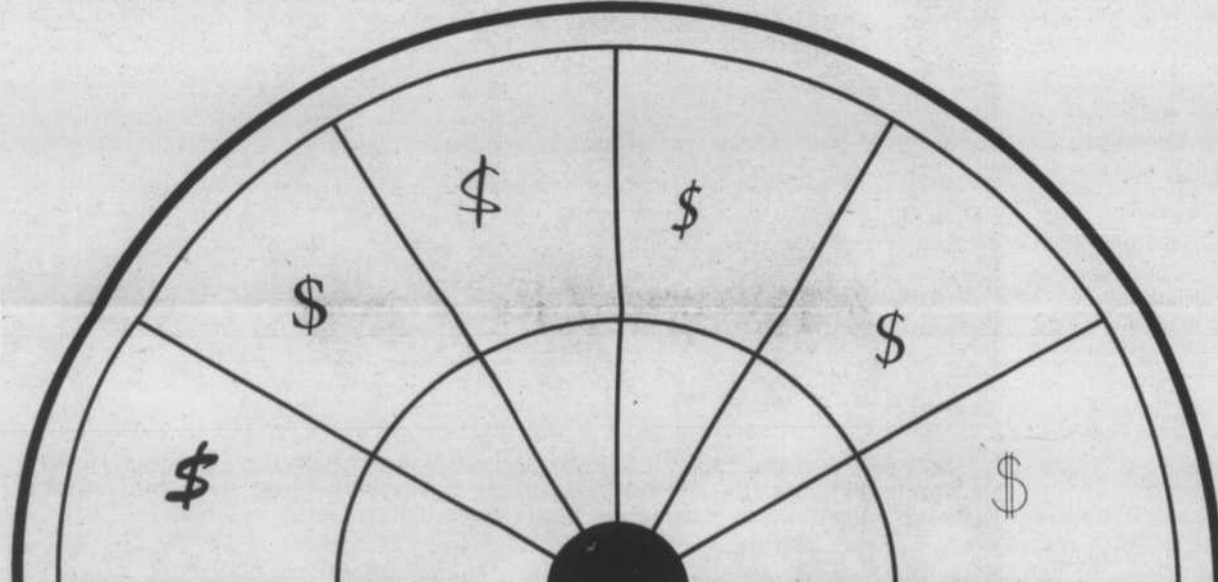
From Staff and Wire Reports

Nebraska senior guard Will Shields, winner of the Outland Trophy as the nation's top lineman Sunday, on Thursday was named to The Associated Press All-America first team. Cornhusker outside linebacker Travis Hill also was named to the second team, the only other Husker to be named to any of the first three teams.

San Diego State running back

Marshall Faulk and Florida State outside linebacker Marvin Jones were the only two repeat selections from last year's team.

Top-ranked Miami had three selections on the team (quarterback Gino Torretta, linebacker Micheal Barrow and defensive back Ryan McNeil) while second-ranked Alabama had two (linebackers Eric Curry and John Copeland). No other team had more than one first-team selection.



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