



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska guard Lis Brenden dribbles the ball in the Cornhuskers' 90-54 win over Eastern Washington Saturday afternoon.

Huskers beat Wichita State for fifth win

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

The latest win by the Nebraska men's basketball team was everything but easy.

The Cornhuskers, who defeated the Wichita State Shockers Saturday night in front of a crowd of 9,845 fans at Levitt Arena, trailed by four points after the first half.

Apparently, the adversity was enough to spark the Huskers to their fifth win in as many games.

"We were playing way below what we were capable of playing," said Nebraska forward Eric Piatkowski. "But Wichita State was a good team and their crowd really got into it."

Piatkowski, who led Nebraska with 19 points, said all that really mattered to him and his teammates was winning the game.

"We played kind of sloppy at times," he said. "But it doesn't matter who you're looking at, and it doesn't matter how good a team is. It's always tough to win on the road."

In his postgame radio show, Husker coach Danny Nee said he was pleased with the Huskers' performance, even though they shot only 44 percent from the field.

"You've got to win when you don't shoot the ball," he said. "I thought we won with defense. I thought we won with determination."

Nee said the game easily could have gone the other way.

"It was a heck of a basketball game," he said. "I was proud of Nebraska because we didn't knuckle under. Very easily, we could have lost by six, seven, eight points."

Because his team found a way to

Nebraska Men's Basketball Schedule

- Dec. 19 Appalachian State*
- Dec. 21 Texas-Arlington*
- Dec. 23 at Southern Cal
- Dec. 28-30 Rainbow Classic (Michigan, SW Louisiana State, North Carolina, Kansas, Fordham, Hawaii, Jackson State)
- Jan. 2 Eastern Illinois*
- Jan. 5 Southern Utah*
- Jan. 9 at Missouri-Kansas City

*Home games

DN graphic

win, Nee said, the Huskers achieved one of their goals: to be undefeated after their first five games.

Piatkowski said he thought freshmen Terrance Badgett, Erick Strickland, Jaron Boone and Andre Woolridge did excellent jobs of responding to the pressure of their first game away from the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The four freshmen combined to score 24 points. Woolridge, a guard, led the freshmen Huskers with eight points, including two three-pointers late in the game that gave Nebraska the lead for good.

"I think they played extremely well," Piatkowski said of his younger teammates. "They're improving with

See WICHITA on 10

Basketball tournament no battle for Husker women

By Jeff Griesch
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team used strong offensive performances to dominate Howard and Eastern Washington this weekend to win the CableVision Classic.

"It wasn't a tournament where we were really challenged," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said. "But I think it was a good experience for us and it gave us a chance to play everybody and see what we could do."

On Friday, the Cornhuskers rolled to a 123-62 victory over Howard at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Karen Jennings led the Huskers with 26 points and Rissa

Taylor added 20.

The Huskers established four all-time records: most points scored, points in the second half (68), field goals made (52) and most assists (43).

The Huskers overpowered Eastern Washington 94-50 in the championship game on Saturday.

The Husker defense stifled the Lady Eagles throughout the game, but the offense was out of sync early.

"Right now, our defense is our offense," Beck said. "Our quarter-court offense is really struggling because we are using a lot of young players, but the defense is winning games for us."

Nebraska led only 15-11 with 10:01 left in the first half before

pulling away.

Nafecah Brown provided the spark the Huskers needed in the first half by scoring 9 points in a span of three minutes, giving the Huskers a 22-13 lead with 6:03 remaining in the half. The junior forward finished with 17 points.

Karen Jennings led five players in double figures for Nebraska with 19 points. Meggan Yedsena, Kate Galligan and Rissa Taylor all had 10 points for the Huskers.

Yedsena added 10 assists and 5 steals.

Yedsena, Taylor and Jennings made the all-tournament team, with Jennings being named the tournament's Most Valuable

See TOURNEY on 10

Despite loss, memories are sweet for Huskers

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

It was a sour ending to a sweet season for the Nebraska volleyball team.

The Cornhuskers had their ups and downs in the 1992 campaign, but it all came to an end last Thursday in Champaign, Ill., when Illinois swept Nebraska in three games in the NCAA Tournament's Mideast Regional.

But even the loss to the Fighting Illini couldn't overshadow the Huskers' accomplishments this year.

Nebraska won its 17th consecutive Big Eight title in 17 tries and consequently made an 11th straight trip to the NCAA playoffs.

Team records were shattered throughout the year, as the Huskers set a school record by winning 36 games in a row to accompany a 16-match winning streak.

And the accolades were numerous on an individual basis. Players who

helped Nebraska finish at 22-6 with a No. 7 ranking included middle blocker Stephanie Thater, who was named Big Eight Player of the Year for the second season in a row. Outside hitter Eileen Shannon and setter Nikki Stricker joined Thater on the first team All-Big Eight list.

Other individual honors went to freshman outside hitter Allison Weston, who was honored as the conference's Newcomer of the Year, and sophomore Christy Johnson, who earned Backcourt Specialist of the Year.

Those players were vital to the Huskers' victories over ranked teams like Pacific (No. 5), Texas (No. 12), Ohio State (No. 14), Texas Tech (No. 17) and Pittsburgh (No. 25).

But Nebraska's biggest win over a ranked team was against conference rival Colorado in the first round of the NCAA Tourney.

See VOLLEYBALL on 11

Coach hopes layoff doesn't throw off wrestlers

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

While everyone else is going home for the holiday break, the Nebraska wrestling team will be in Lincoln practicing for upcoming duals and meets.

Coach Tim Neumann said the team will not practice until Dec. 26.

"There's a new deal made by the NCAA that we can't have official practices from Dec. 11 to Dec. 26," he said. "We're going to have open workouts during finals week."

The wrestlers will get a holiday break, but it will be a shortened one,

Neumann said.

"From (next Friday) to the 26th, they're going to go home, and then we'll practice twice a day until Jan. 3," he said.

Neumann said he had been very pleased with his team's performance so far.

"Our goals were to get in the top five in the country by Christmas and to get more wrestlers besides (Corey) Olson ranked," he said.

Heading into the holidays, the Cornhuskers appear to have accomplished both of these goals.

New rankings will be released Wednesday, and Neumann expects

“We started the season ranked 11th and now we should be ranked fourth in the nation.”

—Neumann
NU wrestling coach

his team to be one of the top five teams in the country after placing second at the Las Vegas Invitational on Dec. 4 and 5.

"We started the season ranked 11th and now we should be ranked fourth in the nation," he said.

Besides Olson, who is ranked first at 177 pounds, senior Matt Lindland is expected to be first at 158 and senior Rulon Gardner should be second at heavyweight, Neumann said.

The team's next competition will be a Jan. 6 dual against Iowa State.

Neumann said he is worried about the month-long layoff between meets for his wrestlers.

"Hopefully, we can kick off the second semester like we ended the first semester," he said.

On Jan. 9, the Huskers will com-

pete with 25 other teams in the Great Plains Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

This is an individual meet and not a team meet, so Neumann said that he is hoping that his team will improve and "take a step forward."

Neumann is looking for impressive performances from three of his seniors who need to improve.

"I'm looking for Tommy Robbins at 167 to bust out and have a good meet," Neumann said. "John Buxton and Rick Coltvet need to pick it up."

"These three seniors have to pick it up a notch for us to contend for a national title."