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# Experience anchors KSU

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

When the Kansas State men's basketball team travels to Lincoln to play the Cornhuskers Saturday, Wildcat coach Dana Altman will be hoping to see small improvements in his team.

Ball handling, defense and consistency are all aspects of the game Altman hopes to improve before his team gets to the heart of its Big Eight schedule.

"Every phase of our game needs a little work, every phase," he said. "Hopefully we'll continue to work hard and improve."

Altman, whose team is off to a 2-1 start in Big Eight Conference play and is 10-3 overall, said Nebraska's height is his biggest concern entering the 7:05 p.m. contest at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Their size has always created problems for us, and depth is another concern of mine," he said.

Altman, who is originally from Wilbur, said he also was concerned with his team's ball handling.

"We haven't been handling the ball really very well at all," he said. "We've definitely had some lapses that have caused us some trouble."

Experience, Altman said, is a major asset his team possesses.

The Wildcats return two starters from last year's 16-14 squad—guard Askia Jones, their leading scorer from a year ago, and senior forward Vincent Jackson.

## Altman Against Nebraska

Kansas State coach Dana Altman is 1-3 against Nebraska since he became coach in 1990. A look at those four games:

Date	Site	Result
1/5/91	Manhattan	NU, 74-69
2/23/91	Lincoln	NU, 85-78
2/8/92	Manhattan	KSU, 70-66
3/4/92	Lincoln	NU, 91-62



Scott Maurer/DN

In addition, three part-time starters— forwards Aaron Collier and Deryl Cunningham and guard Brian Henson— return to anchor the Wildcats this year.

But Altman said Jones, who aver-

aged 11.6 points a game and was the Big Eight three-point champion last year, had been inconsistent so far this season.

"(Jones) has been kind of up and down all year," he said. "Right now he's struggling a little bit."

Altman said both Jones and Jackson needed to improve if the Wildcats were to be successful.

"Jones is going to have to play better than he has been lately," Altman said. "And Jackson is going to have to step up his play."

Altman, who is 39-32 and in his third season at Kansas State, said he believed his team's success hinged on its defensive intensity.

"When we've done well covering people defensively, we've won; if not, we've lost," he said. "We've been able to stop some people, but when we don't stop them, we've been in some trouble."

Altman said he had not yet had the opportunity to study Nebraska's game films, but he was certain his team would need to prepare for a difficult challenge.

Altman said he was unable to compare Nebraska to Oklahoma State, Colorado or Kansas, the three Big Eight opponents the Wildcats have faced this season.

But Altman said he was unable to find any obvious weaknesses in the 11-5 Husker team.

"We're going to have to play awfully well to beat Nebraska," he said. "They are a very talented team."

# Hornets coach is pleased despite team's 17 losses

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

What is it like to be 1-17? The Sacramento State Hornets found out after its 86-70 loss to Nebraska at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Wednesday night.

Hornet coach Don Newman is struggling in his first season as coach of the Hornets. The team is in its second season as a Division I school.

"I know the fans see our record and say that we are a terrible team, but that isn't the case," Newman said. "I know that this doesn't sound like much, but we have got to be the best 1-17 team in the country."

Newman said that despite Sacramento State's record, he was happy with his team's aggressiveness and the progress it had made this season.

"My players go out and play hard every single night and give great effort," Newman said. "My seniors are providing good leadership and are sacrificing some pride to do the things that we need to do to be successful at the Division I level."

Sacramento State has been forced into playing big name opponents to maintain its Division I status. Along with the Huskers, the Hornets' schedule includes games against California, Loyola-Marymount and Brigham Young.

Newman likes his team's attitude

about playing marquee teams, knowing that they probably don't have a chance to win.

"I think the guys are excited about playing team's like Nebraska because it gives them an opportunity to play against a higher level of competition," Newman said. "It's great for them to play in an atmosphere like Nebraska has here and experience major college basketball."

Newman is secure about his future as the Hornets' coach and is more concerned with gaining the respect of his players and the progress of the basketball program at Sacramento State than keeping his job.

"When the season is over, we will evaluate our job beyond just W's and L's," Newman said. "It is more important for me to get the young kids to believe in my system and understand the discipline and work ethic we need to be successful."

Although it seems like Sacramento State and Nebraska are at opposite ends of the basketball spectrum, Newman drew a comparison between the Hornets and the Huskers.

"We are really in similar positions as basketball teams," Newman said. "We are both in transition. We are struggling to make the transition to Division I and they are trying to make the move from a team on the bubble to a top team in the country. I hope we are both successful."

# Talented recruits give CU three verbal commitments

BOULDER, Colo. — Colorado, placing a high priority on recruiting in-state football talent, has received verbal commitments from three players in the state and is pursuing five others.

Overland's Scott Bentley is the top in-state recruit, and in fact is the top place-kicking prospect in the nation. Bentley says his options still involve three teams—Colorado, Florida State and Notre Dame. Bentley visited with CU coach Bill McCartney on Saturday and is expecting a home visit from Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz this week.

The Buffs also are targeting Sierra quarterback-defensive back Mike Forney, Brighton quarterback John Hessler, Boulder defensive end Tennyson McCarty and Fort Collins linebacker Pete Monte.

Forney, who admits he isn't a clas-

sic drop-back quarterback, is being recruited by CU as a quarterback but could project to another position because of his athletic ability. He visited Oklahoma last weekend and will visit Arizona this weekend.

Hessler has narrowed his choices between Arizona and CU. Like Bentley, Hessler wants to play baseball, a sport CU doesn't offer. And like Bentley, CU has promised to place Hessler in a summer baseball program.

McCarty visited Northwestern and Penn State and visits CU this weekend. He knew Northwestern head coach Gary Barnett when he was offensive coordinator at CU, and Penn State assistant Bobby Kennedy was once an assistant at Boulder.

Western Athletic Conference schools are recruiting Monte, and Notre Dame has shown interest.

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