



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska guard Jamar Johnson dribbles the ball in Wednesday's game against Sacramento State. The Cornhuskers will host Kansas State on Saturday.

## Huskers foresee battle with challenging K-State

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's men's basketball team is hoping Big Eight life at home will be kinder than it has been so far on the road.

The Cornhuskers, who have started off conference play at 0-2 with consecutive losses last weekend at Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, will look to get well with their first Big Eight win Saturday against Kansas State.

Tip-off will be at 7:08 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The game will be televised live by Prime Sports.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he thought the Huskers' 0-2 start and his team's place at the bottom of the Big Eight standings won't be a distraction from the game against the Wildcats.

"I don't think our record will have any effect on them," Nee said. "I think if anything, it will be motivational to play harder and better."

The Huskers struggled in a non-conference tuneup on Wednesday, getting past 1-17 Division I inde-

### Men's Basketball Starters

#### NEBRASKA

|                    | PPG  | RPG |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| G Jamar Johnson    | 11.0 | 3.4 |
| G Jaron Boone      | 7.9  | 2.3 |
| C Derrick Chandler | 9.5  | 6.8 |
| F Eric Piatkowski  | 15.9 | 6.1 |
| F Bruce Chubick    | 8.0  | 5.8 |

#### KANSAS STATE

|                    | PPG  | RPG |
|--------------------|------|-----|
| G Askia Jones      | 12.8 | 3.7 |
| G Anthony Beane    | 9.3  | 2.6 |
| C Deryl Cunningham | 10.1 | 7.9 |
| F Aaron Collier    | 10.4 | 6.2 |
| F Vincent Jackson  | 12.1 | 4.5 |

Scott Maurer/DN

pendent Sacramento State 86-70 to improve their overall record to 12-5.

But one element that Nebraska didn't use against the Hornets was forward Eric Piatkowski.

The 6-foot-7 junior, who is leading the Huskers with a 15.9 points-per-game average, sat out against Sacramento State with the flu but will start against Kansas State.

The Wildcats are 2-1 in league

play and have compiled a 10-3 overall mark so far this season.

They have beaten both Oklahoma State and Colorado in overtime, and were beating No. 1 Kansas in the second half of their game last Monday, only to lose 71-65 to the Jayhawks in Manhattan, Kan.

Nee said it would be a challenge to beat Kansas State.

See HOME on 8

## CU game vital for Huskers' title chances

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

If there is any question whether the Nebraska women's basketball team is still in the hunt for the Big Eight title, this weekend will provide the answer.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the Cornhuskers can't lose to Colorado tonight if they want to keep their conference title hopes alive.

The Huskers will be tested again Sunday when Missouri comes to the Devaney Center.

Colorado stands alone atop the Big Eight with a 3-0 record and a 15-0 overall mark. The Tigers are in third at 2-1 and 10-2 overall.

"I think we have an exciting event to publicize and that is the Colorado game," Beck said. "They're in the Top 10 and are one of the few undefeated teams left in the country."

The Lady Buffs are winning by an average of 22.3 points per game and can attribute that partly to the 1992 Big Eight Newcomer of the Year, guard Shelley Sheetz. The sophomore is averaging 16.7 points a game.

"That is the reason for them being so good at this point. As a freshman, she led them to a Big Eight championship in the tournament," Beck said. "She is one of the best players in the league."

Another benefit for Colorado is experience. Six seniors — Amy Mathern, Sherrice King, Mindy Henry, Missy Kraak, Stephanie Mack and Abby Wirfs — see playing time for the Buffs.

"When I look at Colorado, one of the differences between Colorado and Nebraska basically is the fact that those six girls have been playing together for four years," Beck said. "They have a lot of continuity in those six."

““  
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—Beck  
Nebraska coach

Beck said she is pleased about her teams' status going into the contest.

"Our attitude is good and we're very healthy. We have to get the chemistry working together for this game," she said.

Nebraska has won seven out of the 11 meetings with Colorado in Lincoln, including the last two games. However, a third straight win over the Lady Buffs at home will not be an easy task, Beck said.

"I hope we can have a great crowd and I think our players will be ready," Beck said. "I do think it will be an upset if we beat them, with them being ranked in the Top 10."

"It will be a very difficult challenge for us, but we'll be fired up for it," she said. "We'll have a good crowd and it will be a great atmosphere for womens' basketball."

Beck said that if the Huskers, 2-2 in the conference, lose their third Big Eight conference game, the chances of winning the title are slim. But if Nebraska gets a victory, the Huskers are right back in the chase, Beck said.

"This is a real important game for us," she said. "The effort will be there. We'll just have to work on the basic fundamentals to pull us through."

## NU wrestling coach hopes for home crowd help during duals meet

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann is hoping experience and a home crowd will help his team perform its best at the National Duals Meet Championship at the NU Coliseum this weekend.

"I'm looking for our best performance of the season," he said. "We have a group of experienced wrestlers who've been in big meets before."

Neumann is also looking for a little help from the fans.

"When we held the Big Eight Tournament here a couple of years ago, the crowd actually helped us win a couple of matches," he said. "When you get a few thousand people cheering the wrestlers on, it pumps them up."

The fifth-ranked Cornhuskers will wrestle defending NAIA national champion Northern Montana in their first-round match at 9 a.m. Saturday. Action will continue throughout the day, with the semifinals set for 8 p.m.

Sunday's action begins at 10 a.m., with the championship finals at 4 p.m.

Although Northern Montana is an NAIA opponent, Neumann said the Huskers would not take the Lights lightly.

"We know a little about Northern Montana," he said. "They have two former Nebraska wrestlers — Matt Campbell, who wrestled here in 1983 and then went to the military, is their best at 118 pounds, and Randy Street

at 150 was NAIA national champion last year."

If the Huskers win their first dual, they will get the opportunity to wrestle Iowa State in a rematch of their Jan. 6 dual, which the Cyclones won.

Neumann said his team was looking forward to a rematch, but that the Huskers were not looking past Northern Montana.

"I'd be disappointed if we didn't win our first dual," Neumann said. "If it should work out, with us playing Iowa State, we shouldn't have any problems getting it cranked up after the Jan. 6 dual."

The Huskers are healthy, with the exception of Tommy Robbins at 167 pounds, who is questionable for the weekend.

Seven of the top 11 teams in the country will wrestle in the National Duals, including top-ranked Iowa and No. 2 Penn State.

Neumann said the Hawkeyes and the Nittany Lions would be his pre-meet favorites.

"Both Iowa and Penn State have been to National Duals before and won it before," he said. "But legitimately there's six teams that can win it: Penn State, Iowa, Iowa State, Nebraska, Arizona State and Ohio State."

Neumann is hoping to use the tournament as a gauge of where the team stands.

"Whether we win it or get in the top four or five, each guy will face a good opponent," he said.