

Tough mid-season opponent to test skill, coach says

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Some breather. In taking a break from Big Eight action tonight, the Nebraska women's basketball team will host Southwest Missouri State, a team that reached the NCAA Final Four last season.

Game time is 7 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said the game won't be easy for her 14-4 Cornhuskers.

"A lot of coaches will stick in an easy opponent in the middle of the season just to get a 'W,' Beck said. "That's definitely not the case here.

"They're a team that is ranked first in its conference, they're a team that has four out of its five starters returning and they're also a team that leads the nation in home attendance."

After beating Iowa State 82-52 Sunday, the No. 25 Cornhuskers had only one day to get ready for Southwest Missouri State, and the lack of preparation concerns Beck.

"We get back late (Sunday) night and then we have only one day to prepare," Beck said. "I don't feel our intensity level was where it should be. . . I hope we can get the intensity back and play well."

Southwest Missouri State, 9-6 overall, is leading the Missouri Valley Conference with a 5-1 league record.

The Bears are led by forward Melody Howard, who is averaging 18 points and four rebounds per game.

But the player to watch will be Nebraska forward Karen Jennings. The senior from Per-

NU gymnasts eke out victory against sixth-ranked Auburn

Huskers show true abilities in difficult meet, coach says

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

In a sport where inches make a world of difference, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team took a mile-long step this weekend towards reaching the NCAA tournament.

The Huskers defeated sixth-ranked Auburn 193-192.7 in Auburn, Ala. on Saturday and avenged a loss last year to the Tigers.

Coach Rick Walton said that the Husker win was what his young team needed to boost its confidence.

"We needed something like this to happen for us. We needed it to gain credibility," Walton said. "Now we know it can be done."

Walton said the outcome of the meet wasn't decided until the last routines were completed. He praised the Huskers for their competitiveness against a veteran team.

Cowboys' Super Bowl blowout not what was expected

At least everybody else could see it coming.

Super Bowl XXVII left brows dry, fingernails long and heart rates slow.

I was all geared up for a tradition-breaking cliffhanger.

I didn't see the blowout coming.

I never thought the Cowboys had it in them. They were too young, they were too inexperienced and they had a "no-name" defense.

For years, my younger brother had been warning me that the Cowboys were the team of the future, and I just laughed it off.

He pointed to proven winners like Jimmy Johnson, Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin and Troy Aikman.

But I still dismissed it. The Cowboys the team of the future?

Not in a million years. But obviously he was more of a visionary than I was.

There I sat Sunday, wanting to feel

the urge to chew a fingernail, hoping my heart rate would make a rapid increase, and praying that first bead of sweat would form on my brow.

Nobody had let me in on the secret. Dallas is the team of the present.

Everyone involved in the coverage and commercial planning of the game knew the Cowboys were back.

And they provided some really neat extras to evoke emotions in the game's viewers.

Amusement was the first emotion that crept into my heart.

Those new moving pictures when they showed the players' height, weight, college and position really cracked me up.

It was cool to see Irvin playing catch with himself and Emmitt flashing that smile and winking at the camera.

All the players looked like they felt pretty stupid, but boy did that add some fun to the otherwise drab game.

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sion, Iowa, has 2,123 career points and is only seven points away from breaking the all-time career scoring record at Nebraska held by Maurice Ivy.

"She's pretty excited," Beck said. "She wants to win the game first, but I think it is especially exciting for her since she has the chance to break the record at home."

The Huskers have won five of their last six games, including four straight, and look to continue the streak and earn more national respect tonight.

"This is a great opportunity to move up in the polls," Beck said. "I didn't know if we would be in the polls at this time of the year."

The Bears continually draw large crowds, which makes Beck thankful that her team is playing at home.

"I'm real happy we are playing at home," Beck said. "Next year, we'll be going there, so we hope we do a good job on them now."

"It's not going to be easy at all," she said. "I'm sure they'll come in and give us all that we can handle."

"They (Auburn) are a very experienced team," Walton said. "We beat them, though. They didn't give us the meet."

Sophomore Nicole Duval won her second all-around in three meets, setting personal-best marks in the floor exercise, uneven bars and the vault.

Martha Jenkins and Jennifer Hawkinson finished third and fourth respectively.

Walton said the all-around performances were strong and showed the ability of the Husker team.

"We performed at a 9.5 average for the meet," Walton said. "Our team is back."

Walton said he was confident that Nebraska is ready to perform to its capabilities and go after its goals.

"I think we're a top 10 team and I think we should be at the national championships," Walton said. "We're coming along."

The Huskers will be competing at home for the second time this season on Saturday when they host Air Force at the Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7:30 p.m.



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Nebraska's Andre Woolridge shoots over Missouri's Jevon Crudup in a game Saturday. The Cornhuskers, 2-3 in the Big Eight, play at Iowa State on Wednesday.

Increased patience on offense is big step for NU, Nee says

By Jeff Griesch
Staff Reporter

Finally, Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee has his team pointed in the right direction.

The Cornhuskers won an 88-87 overtime game against Missouri on Saturday and improved to 2-3 in the Big Eight.

"We found a way to win a tough game against an excellent team," Nee said Monday during the Big Eight coaches teleconference.

Nee said that the Huskers are becoming a better team, and their improvement is beginning to show on the floor.

"We think we are improving a lot in all facets of the game, and our young kids are gaining a better understanding of what we are trying to do," Nee said. "We have better patience, offensively we are playing better, and our defense and rebounding are better."

Increased patience on offense may be the

biggest stride Nebraska made in the game against Missouri, Nee said.

"We think that our patience on offense is a giant step for us," Nee said. "We're moving the ball around the perimeter more, we're going inside out, and we're getting better shots."

Another key to Nebraska's win may have been the absence of Missouri forward Jevon Crudup after he was charged with a technical foul late in the game.

Missouri coach Norm Stewart benched Crudup for the remainder of the Nebraska game and also kept him out of the starting lineup for Monday's game against No. 3 Kansas.

Stewart said the incident at Nebraska was at least the third incident of taunting or other misconduct this season, and he said it was time to do something to stop it.

"I feel it is necessary to discipline the individual while trying not to hurt the team," Stewart said.



Susie Arth

The commercials also helped keep the Super Bowl exciting.

Larry Bird's shooting battle with Michael Jordan over a Big Mac probably sparked a few giggles from the viewers.

Seeing Larry Legend matching Air Jordan shot for shot had to bring some pride to some of the old-timers.

And the Aluminator's debut in the Bud Bowl only to suffer a heartbreaking loss on a fumble had to touch some of the viewers deep down inside.

The halftime show with Michael Jackson showing support for the children of the world gave me a warm glowing feeling.

I was really pulling for the Cowboys in their attempt to mess up Johnson's hair, and I was discouraged to see his hair bounce back into shape only seconds later.

Then Irvin came through with a funny quote.

While holding the trophy, Irvin was warned not to drop it.

"I never drop anything," he responded. How's that for confidence?

But the most emotional part of Super Bowl XXVII was provided within the actual game and by the Buffalo Bills.

Even the best writers could not come up with a more woeful scenario than what happened to Jim Kelly.

In his third attempt to lead his team to a Super Bowl victory, Kelly went down with a knee injury.

To see him hobbling out on crutches, hanging his head, but still cheering for backup Frank Reich, would have made even the biggest

Cowboy fan's heart flutter.

But my favorite emotion — admiration — was evoked by Buffalo wide receiver Don Beebe.

The game was practically over, Dallas led 52-17, but Beebe still sprinted 65 yards to knock the ball out of Leon Lett's hands, denying the Cowboys the record for the most points scored in a Super Bowl.

Now there's a guy who deserves respect.

It may have lacked intensity, excitement and anxiety, but other emotions were out in full force.

And if my brother is right, football fans better get used to these new emotions.

If Dallas continues to play like it did Sunday, the fingernails will just have to wait to be chewed.

Arth is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.