

	Conf.		Games	
	W	L	W	L
Kansas	8	2	21	4
Oklahoma State	6	4	16	5
Oklahoma	5	5	17	8
Nebraska	5	5	17	8
Kansas State	5	5	15	7
Iowa State	5	5	15	8
Missouri	4	6	15	10
Colorado	2	8	10	12

Saturday's Results:
Kansas 77, Kansas State 64
Colorado 88, Oklahoma 84
Oklahoma State 80, Louisiana Tech 53
Sunday's Results:
Nebraska 76, Missouri 75
Monday's Game:
Kansas at Iowa State

Big Eight Men's Standings

Scott Maurer/DN

Nebraska steals last-minute victory

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

“Beating Missouri, winning in their home house, sweeping them for the series this year is monumental.”

—Nee
NU basketball coach

After Sunday's performance against Missouri, the Nebraska men's basketball team might consider changing its nickname to the cardiac kids.

For the third time in the Big Eight season, the Cornhuskers won a game in the final minute, this time by defeating the Tigers 76-75 at Columbia, Mo.

In front of a sold-out Hearnese Center crowd of 13,349 fans, Nebraska beat Missouri in dramatic fashion just as it did last month in a 88-87 overtime victory in Lincoln.

Missouri's Lamont Frazier tried to make an inbounds pass with five seconds left and the score tied at 75, but Nebraska guard Jamar Johnson stole the pass and raced to the Husker basket before being fouled by the Tigers' Melvin Booker.

Johnson hit the first of his two free throws to give Nebraska the lead, and

a half-court shot by Lamont Frazier was short, enabling the Huskers to even their Big Eight record at 5-5.

The Nebraska win not only improved the Huskers' overall record to 17-8, but it also broke Nebraska's six-game losing streak in Columbia and gave Husker coach Danny Nee his first career win at the Hearnese Center.

Nee said it was a big win for the Huskers after they lost to Oklahoma State last Monday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

“At this time of the year, I can't tell you how important this type of game (is),” Nee said on his postgame radio show. “Winning on the road, beating Missouri, winning in their home

house, sweeping them for the series this year is monumental.”

At the onset of the game, it looked like Nebraska was going to extend its losing streak. The Huskers fell behind early, as a three-pointer by Tiger guard Jed Frost put Missouri up by 11 points in the first half.

Nebraska was able to reduce the deficit to 40-37 by halftime, keyed by a steal and dunk by Husker guard Eric Piatkowski as the first half expired.

Piatkowski's slam seemed to inspire Nebraska in the second half. The Huskers came out of the locker room with a 18-6 run, capped by a Piatkowski layup, that put Nebraska up by nine points.

But the Tigers again clawed their way ahead of the Huskers, using a Melvin Booker layup with a little more than two minutes left of play, to go up 70-66.

Again Piatkowski answered, as a three-pointer from well behind the three-point arc cut the Nebraska deficit to one, and a layup by Husker center Derrick Chandler on Nebraska's next possession gave the Huskers a 71-70 lead.

Nee said he was proud of how his team was able to come back to give Johnson the chance to win the game at the free-throw line.

“At the end when we got behind, we found a way to come back, and I don't even know how it happened,” he said.

While the Huskers climbed into a third-place tie in the league standings, Missouri dropped its Big Eight record

See NEE on 8

Free throw woes doom NU's bid to upset Buffs

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

The only loss that the 23-1 Colorado women's basketball team had suffered this season came at the hands of Nebraska.

On Sunday, the Cornhuskers threatened to do it again before poor free throw shooting dashed their hopes.

The No. 4 Buffaloes defeated the No. 22 Huskers 71-63 before a record crowd of 8,521 people at the Coors Events Center in Boulder, Colo., and avenged a 62-50 loss to Nebraska in Lincoln on Jan. 22.

Despite the loss, Nebraska coach Angela Beck said her team played well in a hostile environment.

“This was a great basketball game,” Beck said. “To play the No. 4 team in the nation this close on its own floor in front of 8,500 fans shows the great character that this team is made of.”

The first half was highlighted by streaks. Colorado took a 33-20 lead with about five minutes to play in the first half behind a 14-5 run.

Nebraska answered with its own 10-0 run capped by a layup by Lis Brenden as time ran out to end the half, cutting the Buffaloes' lead to 33-

30 at intermission.

Nebraska challenged the Buffaloes throughout the second half and took the lead, 38-37, on a basket by Karen Jennings. Jennings finished with a game-high 23 points and eight rebounds.

However the Buffaloes went on a 9-0 run to give them a 46-38 lead with 14:30 to play. Colorado never trailed again.

The Huskers were able to cut the lead to two points on four occasions, but each was answered with a Colorado basket.

The Buffaloes were paced by Shelley Sheetz, who finished the game with 20 points and six assists.

Sara Offringa and Nafeesah Brown scored 14 and 12 respectively for Nebraska.

Perhaps more than the Colorado defense, the Huskers' biggest opponent was their free throw shooting. Nebraska was seven for 20 from the line in the second half, shooting only 48 percent for the game.

Beck said she understood the ineffectiveness from the free-throw line.

“We thought about (the free throws)

See HOOPS on 8

Recruit should be a hit next year, coach says

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

Cornhusker volleyball coach Terry Pettit said the most recent athlete to sign a letter of intent to play at Nebraska had as much talent as anyone.

Jennifer McFadden, a middle blocker from Dubuque, Iowa, has joined Kate Crnich of River Forest, Ill. on the list of athletes who will play volleyball at Nebraska next season.

Pettit said he couldn't be happier with McFadden's decision.

“(McFadden) is 6-2, she plays high above the net, and she's an exceptional blocker and attacker,” he said.

McFadden helped lead Dubuque Wahlert High School to a 45-1 record last season and the No. 3 national ranking by Volleyball Monthly magazine.

McFadden also was a High School All-American selection by Mizuno, Volleyball Monthly and USA Today, and she played in the Mizuno High School All-Star match.

Pettit said McFadden's high school

experience could enable her to come to Nebraska and make an immediate impact.

“Every year we have at least one freshman who comes in and makes an impact,” Pettit said. “We think Jen will be able to contribute and compete for playing time.”

Pettit said McFadden's strengths included her physical style of play and her versatility.

“She's a middle blocker, but she has the necessary skills to play any of the front row positions,” he said.

Pettit said McFadden chose Nebraska over Stanford, Texas and Illinois.

“We're very pleased she decided to come here,” he said. “I think of the incoming freshmen around the country, she is probably one of the most physical players.”

And Pettit said he was pleased with the recruiting class.

“I feel really good about it,” he said. “We got good students and good athletes.”



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Andy Davis returns a shot against Creighton's Alfred Magar in a dual Saturday.

Singles play topples Creighton

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

Although Nebraska men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott was disappointed with the play of his team this weekend, the blow was softened by two Cornhusker victories.

The Cornhuskers defeated intrastate rival Creighton 6-1 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Saturday morning. One day earlier, Nebraska topped Indiana State 6-1 in the first match of the spring season for the Huskers.

Despite the victories, McDermott was critical of his team's play.

“It was an uninspired weekend and we played flat,” McDermott said. “They need to motivate them-

selves against lesser opponents.”

Nebraska dominated the competition, allowing Creighton only two sets and Indiana State just three. However, four of those five sets were dropped by Matthias Mueller, the Huskers' No. 1 singles player.

Mueller lost both singles matches he played in — three sets each. Mueller's two losses were the only ones suffered by Nebraska.

McDermott did praise the focus and play of his younger players — sophomore Mike Garcia, sophomore Andy Davis and freshman Jan Andersen. The trio compiled a 10-0 during the two events.

Nonetheless, McDermott said individual members of the team need to motivate themselves.

“I shouldn't have to give an

emotional pep talk for these matches,” McDermott said. “We need to save them for when we really need them.”

That time may be soon for the Huskers, as they will host Wichita State March 6 in Lincoln. McDermott said the Shockers return every player from last year's team and have added a strong freshman.

McDermott said that this weekend can be a learning experience for the Huskers.

“I really think the guys think we're a lot better than we are,” McDermott said. “Hopefully the guys know now to be mature whenever they play. Maybe (this weekend) will help us play better in the long run.”