

# Seniors shooting for NCAA title

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

The seniors on the Nebraska women's basketball team have been waiting for success.

That wait may be over. After trouncing Iowa State 89-40 Sunday, the Cornhuskers moved a step closer to gaining only the second NCAA Tournament berth in the team's 19-year history.

"This is very exciting," said senior guard Sara Offringa, who scored 11 points in the Iowa State game. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Nebraska finished the Big Eight season with a 10-4 record, one game behind Colorado.

Offringa said she knew the Huskers had the talent to compete for a Big Eight championship.

“All of our talent has been brewing in these past few years. The talent has just finally come to a head.”  
—Offringa, NU guard

"All of our talent has been brewing in these past few years," she said. "The talent has just finally come to a head."

The Huskers will focus now on the Big Eight Tournament, which begins Saturday in Salina, Kan. Nebraska will play Iowa State in a first-round game at 6 p.m.

Nebraska forward Rissa Taylor said the tournament could be an opportunity for the Huskers to redeem themselves.

"We wanted to win the Big Eight," Taylor said. "Once that dream was shattered, our next goal was to make an appearance in the NCAA Tournament."

Husker forward Karen Jennings, Nebraska's all-time leading scorer, agreed.

"This season is everything I could have asked for, but I want more," Jennings said. "One of my favorite quotes is 'If you think what you did yesterday was good, then you won't

accomplish anything today.' I just keep resetting my goals."

Nebraska forward Kristi Anderson, who played in her last home game Sunday, said the Huskers could even make some noise in the NCAA Tournament.

"I feel we could win the Big Eight Tournament and maybe make the Final Four," she said. "Southwest Missouri State made it last year, and we beat them this year."

"So I see no reason why we can't make it this year."

Anderson said the team's performance in the Big Eight and NCAA tournaments would determine how she would look back on her senior year.

"Next weekend will determine if it is really a dream season," Anderson said.

## FINAL WOMEN'S BIG 8 STANDINGS

	CONF.	SEAS.
Colorado	12-2	24-2
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>10-4</b>	<b>20-6</b>
Oklahoma State	9-5	21-7
Kansas	9-5	18-8
Missouri	8-6	19-7
Oklahoma	6-8	12-14
Iowa State	1-13	2-24
Kansas State	1-13	10-16



Scott Maurer/DN

# Former Huskers vie for pro jobs

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

For nine former Nebraska football players, the first stop on the road to the NFL was Indianapolis.

Those Cornhuskers who participated in the National Football League's combines two weeks ago at the Hoosier Dome were hoping to leave an impression in the minds of professional scouts.

The players who went to Indianapolis last month included outside linebackers Travis Hill and David White, defensive tackle John Parrella, cornerback Kenny Wilhite, offensive guard Will Shields, split end Tyrone Hughes, punter Mike Stigge, fullback Lance Lewis and I-back Derek Brown.

White said he was optimistic about the combines, but said he would have to wait until draft day on April 25 to see what happened.

"They went fairly well, but I don't want to jinx myself," White said.

Stigge, who helped Nebraska lead the nation with a 41.7 yards-per-game net punting average, said it was tough for the punters to prove themselves in Indianapolis.

"For me as a kicker, we didn't do a whole lot of things," Stigge said. "They give you 10 punts, you kick them and then you're done. It was like, OK, boom, you kick your 10 and that's it."

Stigge said the feeling at the com-

See NFL on 8



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska's Jenny Slade vaults in Monday's Masters Classic. The Huskers finished second to Michigan State in the three-team tournament.

# Last event dooms NU in triangular

## Late vaulting lifts Spartans

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

The fifth annual Masters Classic came down to one event for the Cornhusker women's gymnastics team Monday, and that event came back to haunt them.

The Huskers, in front of a crowd

of 1,291 fans at Bob Devaney Sports Center, were leading Michigan State 142.65-142.20 going into the final event, the floor exercise, and ended up losing the meet 190.35-190.75. Illinois finished third with a score of 181.55.

Nebraska coach Rick Walton said he was surprised with the low scores his team received on the floor exercise.

The highest scores the Huskers received on the floor exercise were two 9.6's by Jennifer Hawkinson and Nicole Duval.

And while the Huskers were busy on the floor exercise, Michigan State used the opportunity to shine on the vault, tallying high scores of 9.7 and 9.8.

"I think we did a better job on the floor exercise than the scores indicated," he said. "But they were doing the judging and I was doing the watching."

"Being the last team up on floor, I thought we would have an advantage. It didn't work out."

Walton said he had to give the Spartans, who defeated the Hus-

kers earlier this season in East Lansing, Mich., credit for pulling together on the vault.

"They landed on their feet," he said.

Perhaps the Huskers' biggest downfall was on the bars, Walton said, where two gymnasts fell.

"We lost the meet on the bars," he said. "We had two falls at one half (point) each."

Walton said he was pleased with the performance of his upperclass-

See HUSKERS on 8

# Brown, Chandler impressive on and off playing fields

Farewell to the Big Ds. No, I'm not referring to Dallas and I'm not talking about defense.

I'm talking about two great Cornhusker athletes.

This year Nebraska will be forced to bid its farewells to two class acts, Derrick Chandler and Derek Brown.

Neither of them stuck around for very long, but both have left their marks on Cornhusker athletics.

Brown came into Nebraska as a young pup, but he played like a veteran. He had a strong work ethic. He had speed. He had raw talent. He used those skills to become one of the best running backs in the country. And he used his talent to help lead the Huskers to two Big Eight Championships.

Chandler came to Nebraska as a streetwise, junior-college transfer. He was intimidating. He was quick. He knew how to play the game. He used his experience to become one of the

best centers in the Big Eight and lead Nebraska to two of its most successful seasons ever.

Nebraska has already said goodbye to Brown. He bypassed his senior year to play in the NFL. And on Sunday, Chandler will play his last game in the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

At least the record books are there to log both of the Big Ds' accomplishments.

Brown left Nebraska ranking fourth on Nebraska's all-time rushing list. He was named the Associated Press' Big Eight Offensive Player of the Year this season. And he, along with teammate Calvin Jones, made up the "We-Backs," who were the first Husker pair to each rush for more than 1,000 yards in a single season.

As for Chandler, his two years at Nebraska were enough to give him some records. Last season, his 91



Susie Arth

blocked shots set a record for the most blocked shots in a season. And on Dec. 21, 1991, Chandler set a record for the most blocked shots in a single game with seven.

Both Big Ds will presumably move on to bigger and better things.

Brown has already announced that he would be eligible for the NFL's pro draft. And Chandler has spoken of playing in the pros, too — if not in the NBA, at least in Europe.

But both will be missed dearly long after their departures.

Sure, Calvin Jones can probably

take up most of the slack for Brown's early exit. But nonetheless, a speedy backfield threat is gone.

And Amos Gregory will give the Huskers another big body in the middle after Chandler leaves. But what about the excitement, the outstretched arms and the intimidation factor that Chandler brought into the game?

But perhaps the biggest thing that the two Ds will take with them is class.

Both athletes provided landmarks in my life.

My first sports story ever was on Brown, and I will never forget his willingness to help me out. He actually met me and the interview lasted more than an hour. The framed article still sits on top of my desk and the autograph he wrote to my younger brother still hangs on his wall.

Likewise, my first basketball story

ever featured Chandler after a Husker win over Missouri-Kansas City. I remember leaving the interview thinking that if everyone was as nice as Chandler, the job would be easy.

But soon it became all too clear that these two athletes were the exceptions rather than the rule.

I missed the chance to say goodbye to Brown, but I'm preparing for the goodbye to Chandler.

When his name gets announced, when he does the elbow smack with Andre Woolridge, when he goes up for the jump ball and when he throws down his final dunk, I'll file it all away in my memory bank.

Because it will be the final time Husker fans get to say goodbye to a class act.

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