

# Big Eight title up for grabs, coaches say

By Matt Woody  
Staff Reporter

Although the Big Eight Women's Basketball Tournament may look like the Colorado show, six teams have a legitimate chance at the title, Oklahoma coach Gary Hudson said Wednesday.

The tournament will be one of the most competitive in recent history, he said.

Colorado coach Ceal Barry agreed. Calling the tournament "wide open," she said Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma all had a shot to become the tournament champions and gain an automatic berth to the NCAA tournament. Iowa State and Kansas State also have a chance to win a game, she

said.

Barry said because the Lady Buffs had been atop the Big Eight all year, the other teams would be gunning for them.

"Everyone coming in wants to beat us," she said.

Colorado, ranked No. 6, had lost only twice throughout the conference season, once to Oklahoma and once to Nebraska. The Buffs are the No. 1 seed in the tournament, which begins Saturday in Salina, Kan.

Hudson said Colorado was the favorite, based on the consistency they showed all year, but "Nebraska will give them a run for their money." Nebraska is the most improved team in the Big Eight, he said.

Hudson, Barry and Oklahoma State coach Dick Halterman agreed on players who would have a significant impact on the tournament. Those players were Lisa McGill of Oklahoma State, Shelley Sheetz of Colorado and Karen Jennings of Nebraska.

Hudson said Jennings, who is averaging 22.0 points and 7.9 rebounds a game, was "the most dominating player in the conference."

Barry said the key to the tournament would be offensive consistency.

OSU's Halterman said the biggest obstacle for teams would be getting past the first round.

"The pressure is on to win a basketball game, and once you win a game, the pressure's off," he said.

## Yedsena

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during the regular season, while the Huskers swept Oklahoma.

Yedsena said the team would love another shot at Oklahoma State.

"We've had the lead the last couple of times and lost," Yedsena said. "The attitude we're taking in is that it's hard to beat a good team three times."

Junior forward Nafesah Brown said that the main thing is for her and her teammates to remain relaxed.

"I'm excited and I'm confident we will play well," she said. "We

need to go in, have a good time and win it."

If Nebraska makes it through Saturday and Sunday's competition, it may set up a championship game with first-place Colorado.

The Huskers and Buffs split their season series.

Yedsena, the Huskers' all-time assist leader, said she hopes she can contribute more points for her team in the tournament.

The junior is averaging 8.2 points per game.

"I just want to up my scoring a little bit," Yedsena said. Coach (Angela Beck) talked to me about it and I know that's what I need to do."

## Huskers outfield best in nation, coach says

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders says he has the best outfield in the nation in Marc Sagmoen, Jed Dalton, and Darin Erstad.

Sagmoen, a senior from Seattle is the captain of this year's team and the leader in the outfield.

Last season, Sagmoen was the Big Eight batting champion with a .446 batting average in 31 games before breaking his right wrist in a game against Evansville.

In the 31 games that Sagmoen played, the Huskers were 20-11, and without him Nebraska went 11-14.

Sagmoen said it was difficult to watch the Huskers struggle without him at the end of last season, but he made the most of the situation.

"It was real frustrating for me to watch the guys play without me, but I tried to keep a positive outlook," Sagmoen said.

"I helped the coaches in the dugout to shift the outfielders," he said, "and it helped me because you learn to recognize some other little things and tendencies when you're watching from the bench."

While Sagmoen said his injury

It was real frustrating for me to watch the guys play without me, but I tried to keep a positive outlook.

—Marc Sagmoen  
NU baseball player

may have helped him, it also helped Dalton come into his own.

Dalton, a sophomore from Papillion, started 42 games last season, including 17 in centerfield after Sagmoen was injured.

Baseball America voted Dalton a second-team freshman All-American after he finished with a .358 batting average.

Dalton said he is expecting to have a better season because of the experience he gained last year.

"I learned a lot last season," Dalton said. "I matured as a player as far as the mental aspect goes."

Erstad, a freshman from Jamestown N.D. is expected to join Sagmoen and Dalton in the outfield.

Erstad was rated as the 13th best freshman in the country by Baseball America, and was also its pre-season Big Eight Freshman of the Year.

## Coach pleased with team's effort in tennis dual loss to Minnesota

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

Poise, character and effort.

That's how Nebraska women's tennis coach Scott Jacobson described his team's comeback effort at the Minnesota Triangular last Saturday.

The team came away with a 1-1 record from the meet and Jacobson was pleased. They defeated Western Michigan 5-4, but lost to Minnesota 9-0.

Jacobson said he was most pleased with the way his team bounced back to defeat Western Michigan. Western Michigan was picked to win over Nebraska and was ranked ahead of Minnesota going into the competition.

The Huskers were down at 4-1 in

## Kansas

Continued from Page 13

for those kids," Williams said. "This was a fantastic night; this was the way to go out."

Strickland, who was one of six Huskers playing for the first time in Allen Fieldhouse, said he actually enjoyed playing before the enthusiastic Kansas fans.

"This is what you look forward to is playing in this atmosphere," said

We showed a lot of character. We have the 'Never say die' attitude.

—Jacobson

NU women's tennis coach

the match against Western Michigan, but won the last four matches to squeak out the victory.

"Western Michigan was a close dual," Jacobson said. "We showed a lot of character. We have the 'Never say die' attitude."

"We really showed a lot of poise." Although the Huskers lost by a lopsided score to Minnesota, Jacobson said he was pleased with his team's

Strickland, who finished with nine points. "It's tough, but I think it's more fun than tough."

Strickland said despite the loss, the Huskers were still optimistic.

"We came up short, but that's all right. We're not down," he said. "We're going to come back, work hard, try to get the win against Oklahoma and look forward to the (Big Eight) Tournament, where we might see (Kansas) again."

Nebraska (19-9) — Badgett 4-9 1-3 10, Chubick 2-6 0-0 4, Chandler 3-12 0-0 6,

effort in the match.

"Minnesota is a good team," Jacobson said. "We played hard, but they are just at a higher level than us."

Nebraska now has a 4-2 overall dual record and is looking forward to heading to Wichita, Kan., to battle Wichita State and Tulsa in two weeks.

Jacobson said he was confident about his team's progress this far into the season and liked his team's chances going into the two duals.

"These are going to be two good duals," he said. "They are good comparatives."

Johnson 8-10 0-0 18, Piatkowski 9-18 2-2 23, Best 2-3 0-0 5, Strickland 4-9 0-0 9, Gregory 2-3 2-4 6, Boone 0-0-0-0, Woolridge 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 35-72 5-9 83.

at Kansas (23-5) — Hancock 2-3 2-2 6, Scott 3-6 1-2 7, Pauley 8-11 2-3 18, Walters 6-15 6-9 19, Jordan 4-9 0-0 10, Woodberry 7-14 11-12 26, Rayford 0-0-0-0, Richey 1-2 4-4 6, Ostertag 1-3 0-0 2.

Totals 32-65 26-32 94. 3-point goals — Nebraska 8-16 (Piatkowski 3-6, Johnson 2-3, Badgett 1-1, Best 1-1, Strickland 1-5), Kansas 4-15 (Jordan 2-4, Woodberry 1-3, Walters 1-8). Rebounds — Nebraska 38 (Chandler, Best 9), Kansas 39 (Pauley 9). Assists — Nebraska 18 (Piatkowski 5), Kansas 17 (Jordan 6). Total fouls — Nebraska 25, Kansas 13. A — 15,800.

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