



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska's Derrick Chandler puts up a shot in a game against The Citadel earlier this year.

## NCAA Tourney teams to be picked by Sunday

By Susie Arth  
Senior Reporter

For KU athletic director Bob Frederick, the long and grueling process is about to begin.

Frederick, who is a member of the NCAA Tournament Committee, will go behind closed doors for three days to pick the 64 teams that will compete in the tournament.

The process begins Thursday evening, and the teams, players and fans will know

who made it into the tournament by Sunday evening, he said.

The first part is easy, Frederick said. "Of the 64 teams, 30 of them are automatic conference qualifiers," he said.

Then there are some obvious choices. "There are 15-20 teams that anyone in the country could pick right now," he said.

But then things start to get sticky. "We might spend an hour and a half

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## Piatkowski named to All-Big Eight first team by AP

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

A first-team All-Big Eight selection at Nebraska.

It hasn't happened for seven years, but Cornhusker guard Eric Piatkowski ended Nebraska's drought this week by being named as one of five players on the Associated Press' all-conference team.

Piatkowski, a 6-foot-7 junior guard from Rapid City, S.D., became the Huskers' first All-Big Eight first team selection since Dave Hoppen received the honor in 1986.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was proud of the first player to receive the honor during his seven-year tenure at Nebraska.

"I think it's one of the highest awards a player can attain," Nee said at his weekly press conference.

He said it was easy to see why Piatkowski was named All-Big Eight.

"Eric Piatkowski is as complete a basketball player as there is in college basketball today," Nee said. "I think next year Piatkowski is going to be one of the premier players in the Big Eight and one of the premier forwards in the country."

Piatkowski, who leads the Huskers in scoring with an average of 16.6 points per game, joined Oklahoma State center Bryant Reeves, Iowa State guard Justus Thigpen, Kansas guard Rex Walters and Colorado guard Donnie Boyce on the first team.

Piatkowski said he was happy to join his Big Eight counterparts on the team.

"It's just a great honor," Piatkowski said. "When I first found out, I was on cloud nine; it was kind of a little dream of mine ever since I first came here, and (the honor) was something I was striving for."

Piatkowski, who was honorable mention All-Big Eight last season, said he credited Nee for his ability to play consistently all year long.

"One of the most important things he did is how he kind of saved me throughout the season and kept me really strong so I could be strong toward the end of the season," Piatkowski said.

He said it was beneficial that Nee helped him not overdo himself against weaker non-conference teams because "when you're playing some of the lesser teams — some of the cupcakes at the beginning of the year — you want to go out there and score 35 or 40 points night in and night out."

Under Piatkowski's leadership, the Huskers finished in a tie for second place in Big Eight play this season and have a 20-9 overall mark heading into this weekend's Big Eight tournament.

Piatkowski said good showings in both the Big Eight tourney and the upcoming NCAA Tournament were important along with his individual honors.

"That was great, but right now I'm more concerned about getting wins," he said. "This is my fourth year, counting the redshirt year, and we've been to the NCAA tournament twice and we lost both times. I want to stay there longer than we have in the past — that's my main goal."

## Injuries won't keep sprinter out of NCAA Championships

Washington says bruises, wounds won't hinder him

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

One Nebraska track athlete will be thinking about more than the competition when he travels to Indianapolis for the NCAA Indoor Championships this weekend.

Riley Washington, a freshman sprinter for the Huskers, will be recovering from an altercation that injured his face and left him covered with bruises Friday.

"I just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," Washington said.

Washington, a football scholarship player who qualified for the 55-meter dash, said he would be able to compete this weekend despite the injuries.

"I thought it might affect my performance at first," Washington said. "But not anymore. I'm not in bad shape, but not in the best, either."

Washington gained his berth in the NCAA Tournament with his time of 6.17 seconds at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational earlier this season.

He also won the 55-meter dash at three different meets this season and placed second at the Big Eight Indoor Championships with a time of 0:06.25.

Cornhusker coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased with Washington's chances of doing well in Indianapolis.

"He is ranked as one of the top sprinters in the nation," Pepin said. "I am hoping he goes in and runs three solid rounds."

Pepin said Washington's ability to qualify for the meet did not surprise him.

"He is a great talent," Pepin said. "I am going to say what I said all year long about him: He is one of the finest junior sprinters in the nation and the world."

Washington said he would give his best effort when he stepped on the track in Indianapolis.

"I just want to go see what I can do with the competition," he said.

## Big Eight basketball teams to face unpredictable battle

Former Marquette basketball coach Al McGuire once said, "Winning is overemphasized — the only time it is really important is in surgery and war."

McGuire could probably add the 1993 Big Eight Tournament to that selective list.

In what could turn out to be the most exciting conference tourney ever, or at least in the last two years, six teams have a legitimate chance of winning the tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

Friday's four first-round games in Kemper Arena should be loaded with fireworks, with the battered survivors advancing to a blood-bath semifinal round.

And the two left standing for Sunday's final game should resemble the final round of a heavyweight championship fight.

OK, maybe this is all a bit dramatic, but in a tourney where NCAA Tournament bids will be won or lost

for several teams, and the fact that the difference in Big Eight records between the second and sixth seeds was one game, it should be exciting to say the least.

So let's look at the odds of a probable Jayhawk pecking, a possible Sooner surprise or an impossible Buffalo miracle:

**Kansas (2-1 odds of winning the Big Eight tourney):** The Jayhawks, who convincingly won the league title during the regular season, have my nod to continue in their winning ways throughout the tourney.

And I still favor Kansas, even though in my encounter with Jayhawk supporters last week, I was shot at with BB guns by some idiotic Kansas fans in Lawrence after they noticed I was from Nebraska. (For a split second, I thought I was in Colorado covering a football game with the equally hospitable Buffalo fans.)

**Nebraska (5-1):** The Cornhuskers are fortunate to have drawn one of the



Jeff Singer

two for-sure wins by playing Kansas State's Wildcats in the opening round.

Nebraska could cause some damage in the tourney, but having to face Kansas in the semifinals is a tough draw.

**Oklahoma (8-1):** You might be asking how the tournament's No. 6 seed has better odds than Oklahoma State does with the second seed?

Reason is that the Sooners will destroy No. 3 Iowa State in the first round, and with the bracket they are in, they should cruise right into the tourney's final game to face Kansas.

**Missouri (10-1):** The first round's other upset will come when the seventh-seeded Tigers upend Oklahoma State and make up for a lousy regular

season.

Remember a couple of weeks ago when Cowboy center Bryant Reeves made a miracle 45-foot basket at the end of regulation to beat Missouri and all but end the Tigers' hopes of going to the NCAA tourney? Missouri does.

**Oklahoma State (12-1):** The Cowboys have gone to the well once too often during the Big Eight season in finding good fortune against conference foes, and odds are, they won't need to make hotel reservations in Kansas City past Friday night.

**Iowa State (15-1):** The question is whether the Cyclones can win when they're not in Ames. Will playing on a neutral court in Kemper help break Iowa State's woes away from Hilton Coliseum?

In essence, it really doesn't matter, because Oklahoma is a better team and will hand the Cyclones a first-round loss that will send the Iowa State circus back to Ames.

**Kansas State (100-1):** The bad

news for the Wildcats is that they are going to lose by the largest margin of any first-round loser, which is ironic in a 4-5 seed matchup.

The good news is it will give Kansas State more time to practice the Cat's Tail in preparation for home NIT games.

**Colorado (infinity-1):** Remember three years ago when the eighth-seeded Buffs went to the tourney's championship game before falling to Oklahoma?

Well, that will be the last good memory Colorado fans have in Kansas City for the next couple of decades.

Whoever is fortunate enough to make it through Sunday's final unblemished will show they've got what it takes to win not only the Big Eight tourney, but excel through the NCAA Tournament war as well.

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