

# Huskers earn NCAA trip after loss

## Nebraska seeks first tourney win

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

It will be a sort of homecoming for Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee in this week's NCAA Tournament.

The Cornhuskers will be making their third-straight trip to the NCAA tourney, this year playing New Mexico State in Nee's home state of New York at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y.

The first-round game will be on Friday and the time of tipoff will be determined by CBS early this week.

Nebraska received a No. 10 seed in the East Regional, which is a good placing for the Huskers, according to Nee.

"Nothing beats getting invited to the NCAA," Nee said at a gathering of players, coaches and boosters at the Legionnaire Club Sunday. "We're very happy, very excited, third year going in — it just doesn't get any better than this; this is what it's all about."

Nebraska will be the underdog for the first time ever, with the Big West regular-season champion Aggies receiving the No. 7 seed.

In the Huskers' other three NCAA tourney appearances, including last season's first-round loss to Connecticut, they have compiled a 0-3 NCAA tourney record as the favorite each time.

Nebraska guard Jamar Johnson said the 20-10 Huskers are going to be trying for their first NCAA tourney win against a difficult foe.

"We're happy to be in the NCAA Tournament, but once again we drew a tough team," Johnson said. "We can't underestimate New Mexico State."

The Huskers' bracket in Syracuse includes Great Midwest Conference champion Cincinnati (No. 2 seed), Atlantic 10 Conference champ Massachusetts (No. 3) and Atlantic Coast Conference power Virginia (No. 6).

Nebraska joined six other Big Eight teams being invited to the NCAA tourney, with only Oklahoma and Colorado not going.

"It's a once in a lifetime shot," Nee said. "It's just very exciting to know that you're going to be part of it."



Robin Trimarchi/DN

Nebraska's Amos Gregory drives by Kansas State's Aaron Collier in Friday's 47-45 Cornhusker loss to the Wildcats at the Big Eight Tournament.

# NU to take on San Diego in first NCAA home game

By Beau Finley  
Staff Reporter

The wait is over for the Nebraska women's basketball team.

Nebraska earned the sixth seed in the West Regional Sunday and will host a first-round home game against San Diego at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The NCAA Tournament home game will be Nebraska's first in school history.

Cornhusker coach Angela Beck, who gathered with her team at South Stadium to watch the tournament selection show, said she was thrilled with her team's seed in the 48-team tourney.

"Obviously, we're ecstatic," Beck said. "This is really exactly what we wanted to have happen."

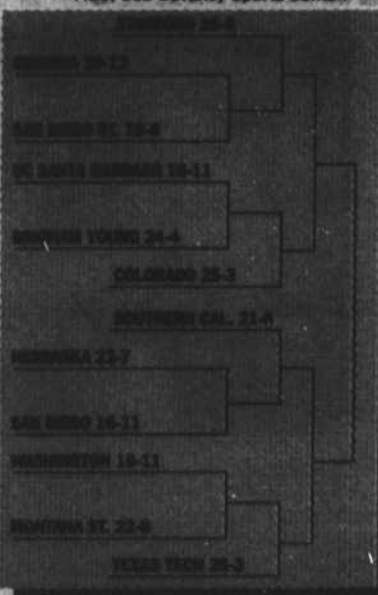
Nebraska made one other tournament appearance in 1987. The Huskers lost a first-round game at Southern California that year.

San Diego, 16-11, was the tournament champion of the West Coast Athletic Conference. The Toreros compiled an 8-6 regular-season conference record and beat Santa Clara in the tournament final to earn an automatic berth.

Beck said although she didn't know much about San Diego, her team would

## NCAA WOMEN'S WEST REGIONAL

Nebraska plays at home on Wednesday at 7:30. Bob Devaney Sports Center.



Scott Maurer/DN

be ready Wednesday.

"I don't think they are going to be intimidated by a San Diego," Beck said.

Nebraska could continue its Cali-

fornia connection with a win against San Diego, as they would have to travel to Los Angeles to play Southern California. USC is the third seed in the West Regional.

Beck said she thought her team got a favorable draw, and the Huskers could make a game with the Women of Troy interesting.

"USC is a beatable situation," Beck said. "Our players are prepared to play anybody that we could."

The tournament proves to be a showcase for the Big Eight. Colorado (seeded No. 4 in the West), Kansas (No. 8 in the Midwest) and Oklahoma State (No. 10 in the Midwest) will join the Huskers in the tourney field.

Beck said she was satisfied with the recognition given to the conference.

"That's a great draw," Beck said. "The Big Eight got some respect this year."

Despite the celebration, 1993 Big Eight Player of the Year Karen Jennings said she was already thinking about the work that was ahead of the Huskers.

"I wasn't as elated as everyone else was because I know that now is when the work really begins," Jennings said. "Just getting in isn't good enough for me."

# Baseball roster full for NU over break

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska baseball team started its spring break a week early, but the Cornhuskers won't be getting much relaxation on their spring trip.

The Huskers will be playing 10 games in 11 days, starting with the Pepsi/Johnny Quick Classic today through Saturday in Fresno, Calif.

Arizona, ranked No. 2 by Baseball America, heads the field along with No. 19 Clemson and No. 20 Fresno State. Nebraska was ranked No. 32 by Collegiate Baseball and St. John's was No. 33 in the pre-season.

Kansas State, Southwest Missouri State and Texas Tech round out the tourney field.

Despite struggling through its first five games, Nebraska has high hopes for the tournament.

"We have some great expectations for this tournament," Coach John Sanders said. "We are looking at this as a real challenge and a test of how good we are."

Sanders said he was looking for improved play from the 4-1 Hus-

kers during the trip.

"I'd like to see us go out and play well," Sanders said. "If we do that, the wins will come."

If the Huskers win consistently on the trip, Sanders said they could establish themselves in the national rankings.

"We have a chance to get in the polls on a solid basis by beating some ranked teams," Sanders said. "We feel confident that we can win the whole thing."

Husker outfielder Marc Sagmoen said strong pitching separated the teams they would face on the trip from other teams Nebraska played in the early season.

"They're all going to have guys that throw really hard with good control," Sagmoen said. "If we adjust, we will be in good shape. They are all beatable."

After the tournament, Nebraska will travel to Palo Alto, Calif., to play one game at No. 12 Stanford on March 21.

The Huskers then go to Albuquerque, N.M., to play a double-header against New Mexico on March 23, and a single game against the Lobos on March 24.

## Last-second shot sinks NU's hopes

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas State did it to Nebraska again.

The Cornhuskers, who entered the 1993 men's basketball Big Eight Tournament with a 0-5 career record against the Wildcats in tourney play, had lost by a total of 11 points in their losses.

And Nebraska again lost a thriller to Kansas State, this time 47-45 to the Wildcats Friday on a last second shot by Askia Jones that ended the Huskers' hopes of breaking their jinx against the Wildcats.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is the worst game we've played in the whole Big Eight," Nebraska guard Eric Piatkowski said. "It's embarrassing to have this happen at this time of the year."

"There's no excuse for having a pitiful performance like this," he said.

The loss dropped the fourth-seeded Huskers' overall record to 20-10 in front of a sold-out Kemper Arena crowd of 16,936.

Nebraska, which averaged 81.8 points per game before Friday, was held to a season-low 45 points in a game that matched Kansas State's defensive-minded tempo.

The Huskers were held scoreless for almost four minutes after tip-off, and could only manage 20 points by halftime, with All-Big Eight player Piatkowski having scored no points in the first half.

Nebraska overcame its 23-20 half-time deficit to the Wildcats, and took a 37-32 lead midway through the second half after an Andre Woolridge layup that gave the Huskers their biggest lead of the game.

But clutch Kansas State shooting and a wild skirmish at the end of the game, which resulted in Jones' last-second rebound and basket, gave the Wildcats the two-point victory and advanced them into the tourney's semifinals.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said it was easy to see why his team came up short on Friday.

"I think we were ready to play, but we just didn't perform at the level that

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