

Osborne has shot at award

From Staff Reports

Football News named Nebraska's Tom Osborne as one of 10 semifinalists for Coach of the Year.

Cornhusker outside linebacker Trev Alberts was named to the magazine's semifinalist list for Defensive Player of the Year.

Among other Big Eight schools, Kansas State's Bill Snyder was named to the coaches' list. Wildcat free safety Jaime Mendez was named a semifinalist for the defensive award.

Charles Johnson of Colorado was the only Big Eight player picked to be a semifinalist for the magazine's Offensive Player of the Year.

Team takes 'Jenningsless' approach

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

For the first time in four years, Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck is preparing for a season without Karen Jennings.



Jennings, a 6-2 forward/center, led the Huskers to a 23-8 record, a tie for second in the Big Eight with a 10-4 league mark and an NCAA Tournament bid last season.

Jennings graduated from Nebraska as the school's all-time leading scorer and second leading rebounder.

She was named Big Eight Player-of-the-Year for the second time and was also a Kodak All-American last season and is now playing professionally in France.

With Jennings gone, Beck said Nafeesah Brown would carry much of the offensive load inside. Brown, a 6-1 senior forward from Chicago, is a preseason first team All-Big Eight selection, and Nebraska's top returning scorer and rebounder, averaging 13.4 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

"Nafeesah is a big time player," Beck said. "I think she is ready to show everyone what she can do."

Despite Brown's impressive numbers, Beck said she didn't expect any one player to step in and replace Jennings' 20.9 points and 8.0 rebounds per game averages.

"I think it is going to be fun trying to succeed with a different type of attack," Beck said. "We may have

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— Beck
women's basketball coach

become a little too one-dimensional the past couple of years because all we had to do was throw the ball to Karen and she would do the rest. Now I think we'll have to have better balance and will spread it around a little more."

Sophomore center Pyra Aarden, 6-foot-4, and freshman Emily Thompson, 6-3, will also play big roles in the post if the Huskers are going to challenge for a Big Eight title this season.

Without Jennings, the Husker offense will probably focus more on perimeter play, with increased emphasis put on three-point shooting, Beck said.

"We will definitely be guard oriented, so we've put in more offensive sets for the guards so they can get more shots," Beck said.

Meggan Yedsena has the most experience of any of the guards and was voted preseason second team All-Big Eight.

Yedsena, a senior point guard from Mahoney City, Penn., is Nebraska's career leader in assists, but Beck said



Preseason women's basketball poll

Points awarded on a 8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 scale

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	total points
Kansas	6	1	-	-	48
Colorado	1	5	1	-	42
Oklahoma State	1	1	3	2	36
Nebraska	-	1	3	3	33
Oklahoma	-	-	1	2	23
Missouri	-	-	-	1	21
Kansas State	-	-	-	-	12
Iowa State	-	-	-	-	9

Player-of-the-Year
Angela Aycok

Preseason first-team All-Big Eight (votes)

- G Shelley Sheetz, Colorado (6)
- G Angela Aycok, Kansas (6)
- G Stacy Coffey, Oklahoma State (5)
- F Nafeesah Brown, Nebraska (5)
- F Jamillah Lang, Colorado (4)



DN graphic

she was looking for more scoring from Yedsena this season.

"Meggan is one of the most underrated players in the conference," Beck said. "I think she will get more shots now and will be looking to score more. She is going to be a major factor."

Sophomores Lis Brenden and Kate Galligan should also get more shots in the Husker offense.

Brenden averaged 5.4 points per game last season, while Galligan av-

eraged 6.6 points before a knee injury ended her year after 17 games.

Beck also said freshmen guards Tina McClain and Kate McEwen would get chances to help the Huskers.

"I don't think this team fears the loss of Jennings," Beck said. "I think they are getting a lot of their motivation from trying to prove that they can win without her. It is time to move on."

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NU humbles Houston, then tumbles to Texas

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

All of the parts were in working order for Nebraska's volleyball team on Friday night against Houston at the Texas Challenge.

But the 18-4 Cornhuskers didn't have everything functioning well the next night against second-ranked Texas, Nebraska assistant coach Cathy Noth said.

At the Texas Challenge in Austin, Texas, the Huskers won their match against the Cougars in four games and lost their match against the Longhorns 15-5, 15-6, 15-4.

Noth said the Longhorns keyed on their match with Nebraska.

"Coach (Terry) Pettit told the players that Texas played the match like it was a world series," she said. "And that's why they won."

"Texas was well-prepared for us like we were well-prepared for Colorado."

The Longhorns' height was a big advantage, Noth said. Texas started five players who were more than six feet tall.

"They're the biggest team that we've gone up against," she said. "That played a factor in the running of our offense."

The Huskers had to play without 6-foot middle blocker Jen McFadden, who didn't make the trip because of an injured ankle. McFadden leads the Big Eight in blocks and is second in the nation in blocks. Junior Peggy Meyer took McFadden's place in the lineup.

The loss to Texas was Nebraska's first three-game defeat of the season. And the 15 total points scored by the Huskers was the lowest output ever in a three-game match.

Nebraska defeated Houston, which had been on a six-match winning streak. After the Cougars took the first game 15-13, Nebraska battled back to take the next three by scores

of 15-7, 15-1 and 15-11.

It was the first time this season that Nebraska had come back to win a match after losing the first game. Noth said she was pleased with the Huskers' effort against Houston. "I thought we came out and played well," she said. "Nikki (Stricker) set really well and Kelly Aspegren had a good weekend."

"Everybody contributed to the win."

Sophomore Allison Weston had a game-high 23 kills to pace the Hus-

ers against Houston. Aspegren recorded five service aces.

Noth said the Huskers would learn from the Texas loss.

"It was an eye-opener to us," she said. "There are many things, if we played them again in two or three weeks, that we'd do differently."

"We haven't gone against good blocking teams like Texas. We need to adjust to big blocks and improve our passing game."

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— Noth
NU assistant volleyball coach

Husker swim teams sweep season opener

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams opened their collegiate season with wins in a double-dual meet Saturday at the Devaney Sports Center.

The men beat the University of South Dakota 134-99, while the women defeated Colorado State 141-98.

Despite the lopsided scores, Nebraska swimming and diving coach Cal Bentz said the victories weren't easy.

But Bentz said he was glad Nebraska made them look easy.

"It's nice to start out our collegiate competition and do as well as we did," Bentz said. "We had some really nice swims."

For Bentz, one of the most pleasing performances came from Nebraska sophomore All-American Melanie Dodd. Dodd won the

women's 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle, and she was part of the winning 400 medley relay.

Nebraska won 10 of the 12 men's events. The women won 10 out of 12 events.

Even with the fine performances, Bentz said, he thinks there is room to improve. And to improve, he said, his team will have to get in better shape and focus more.

Bentz also said he thought his team was starting off better than last year.

Along with Nebraska's 21-20 squeaker at Kansas, No. 21 Colorado and No. 17 Oklahoma both survived tough road games quite handsomely.

Kansas State, the newcomer to the upper division, was the only loser of the field.

Holding an 11-point lead, they were only one quarter away from probably locking up a bowl bid and strengthening their case for a major bowl. But then Iowa State's option offense started popping big plays, and before you could say, 'Goodbye New Year's Day,' the Cyclones had locked up a 27-23 victory.

Kansas State (6-2-1 overall, 2-2-1 Big Eight) dropped from No. 18 to No. 24 and still needs one more victory in its last two games to get the minimum six for a bowl. Oklahoma and Colorado both improved their bowl pictures. The Sooners (7-2, 3-2) beat Missouri for the 10th straight year, 28-23, while Colorado (5-3-1, 3-1-1) won 31-14 at Oklahoma State (3-6, 0-5).

Jones

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was pretty fatigued. The linemen did a tremendous job all day.

Jones said last year's 19-10 loss to Iowa State added to every players' efforts.

"I think last year's (Iowa State) loss gave us some extra emotion," he said. "We just have to be ready because every team is going to be shooting for the Nebraska Cornhuskers."

After rushing for only 190 yards rushing last week against Colorado, Nebraska gained 311 Saturday. The Huskers gave up 182 yards rushing, but 150 of that was to Kansas tailback Charles Hendley.

Jones said the Jayhawks mirrored Nebraska's game plan with their successful running.

"In some sense, they were taking the ball right at us," he said. "They were running it well, running it a lot and running a lot of time off the clock."

While that kept the offense off the field, Jones said, he still wanted to thank the Blackshirts for the win.

"I would like to congratulate the defense for a tremendous job," Jones said. "Once again, the defense prevailed for us."