

Bufs will face Huskers for fourth time this year

From Staff Reports

Nebraska will play Colorado for the fourth time this season after the Buffaloes defeated Northern Iowa on Sunday to advance in the NCAA volleyball regional in Lincoln.

The Buffaloes defeated the Panthers 14-16, 15-13, 15-9, 15-12. "Losing the first game took a chunk out of us, but we got back," strong hitter Karrie Downey said. "We have to learn that we can't let teams back in the match like that."

Colorado coach Brad Saindon said he was excited about making it to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament.

"After we played Nebraska well in the Big Eight tournament, it

gave us a glimmer of hope," he said. "We know them well and can compete with them."

"Sweet 16, the NCAA tournament — upsets are what this tournament is all about."

Downey led Colorado with 21 kills.

"I've seen Colorado play, and there were some individuals that were unstoppable," Northern Iowa coach Iradge Ahrabi-Fard said.

Colorado had to play without junior opposite hitter Shannon Parke, who was suspended for the match.

"She was suspended from the team and will meet with the coaches (today) to determine her future with the team," Saindon said. "Vaguely speaking, it was a violation of team rules."

Team nets third in invitational

From Staff Reports

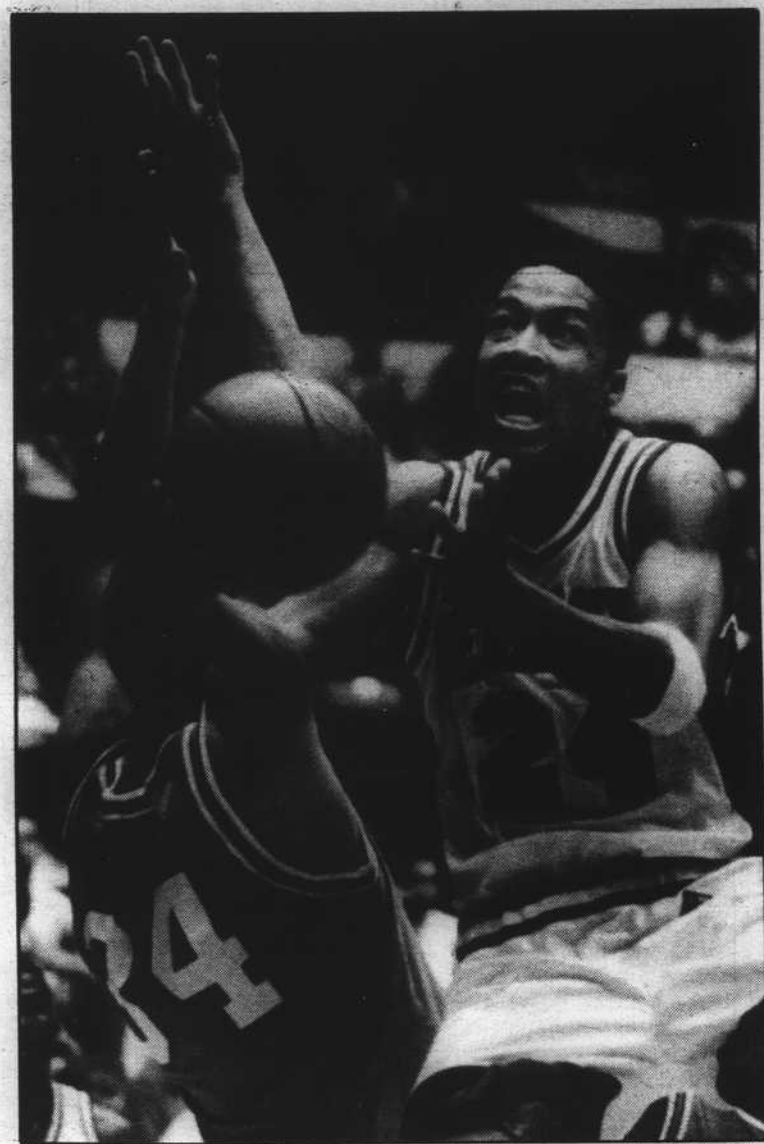
The Nebraska women's basketball team claimed third place in the Duke Invitational on Sunday afternoon with an 80-46 victory in the consolation game against Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The Huskers got off to a quick start as they took a 44-16 first-half lead thanks to 12 points by junior guard Lis Brenden. Brenden finished with a team-high 19 points and three assists.

The Huskers shot 44.6 percent from the floor as they raised their record to 4-2. Wisconsin-Milwaukee fell to 0-4.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck changed her starting lineup to find a better balance.

"I decided to shuffle the lineup around today and we got a lot more balance," Beck said. "Yesterday we lacked emotion, and we learned from that. Today we had more fun, but you always have more fun when you win."



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Jaron Boone, right, goes up for a shot in the lane in the first half of Saturday's Ameritas Classic championship game.

Ameritas

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Strickland said the team reacted well to his vocal outpour during the Idaho State charge.

After Idaho State cut Nebraska's lead to seven points, the Huskers went on a 21-5 run to

take a 76-53 lead with just less than eight minutes to play in the game.

Wald, who had 14 points and four assists against Idaho State, was named to the all-tournament team along with fellow Huskers Strickland and guard Jaron Boone. Wald said Strickland's show of emotion inspired the team.

Win

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Nebraska players agreed they had not seen a player this season who hit the ball as hard as Vtyurina.

"If it hits the block faster," said Husker middle blocker Peggy Meyer, who had a career-high eight kills, "it'll go faster to the floor. So you can take it two ways."

A kill by Vtyurina capped a 4-0 George Washington run to give the Colonials an 8-4 lead. Winsett answered with a kill, and with Allison Weston serving, Meyer blocked another Vtyurina attempt.

Kills by Winsett and Weston tied the game at 8, but George Washington regained the lead on a service ace by Vtyurina. The score was tied at 10, 11 and 12 before a wide hit and a net violation gave the Huskers a 14-12 lead and game point.

But a mishandled pass returned the serve to the Colonials, who answered

by scoring three straight points to earn their own game point. With Liu Li serving, a Weston kill gave Nebraska a sideout. Another block by Meyer tied the score at 15. After four consecutive sideouts, Meyer's kill gave Nebraska a 16-15 lead.

And with Winsett serving, Meyer blocked Vtyurina to end the game 17-15. In addition to finishing off the first game, Meyer, a 6-foot-1 senior from Morehead, Minn., posted Nebraska's final kill and served the winning point in the second game.

"The first game set the pace for the match," Vtyurina said, who had 25 kills, 16 errors and 66 attempts for a .136 hitting percentage. "But we were prepared to go in and fight again. We had nothing to lose, so I just swung away."

"Of course I tried to not make errors, but Nebraska has great blockers. You have to swing as hard as possible. If you get it in, it's great."

GW

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"I was so much in the game that I just wanted to hit it very hard and the net was unfortunately there," Vtyurina said.

Homan agreed with Vtyurina and said Nebraska stepped up its blocking.

"I think that their strength lies in hitting and blocking," Homan said. "You have to get the ball around the block or through the block to make them ball handle."

Colonial senior Stefanie Francis said even though the season ended with a loss, she was grateful to see the transformation in George Washington volleyball.

"We've come so far, it's amazing," Francis said. "My freshman year we went 10-24 and now you're in the second round of the NCAAs going 17-15 with the team that's ranked No. 1."

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