

Player works on little things

Big numbers not at the top of Badgett's list

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

At 6 feet 6 inches and 224 pounds, Terrance Badgett isn't used to being called little very often.

But that is what Badgett considers his most important contributions to the 12-3 Cornhuskers: the little things.

After consecutive losses to Texas and Missouri, Badgett said that role became very important.

"I have to step up my play," Badgett said. "I have to just rebound more, and do the little things, like set picks to get my teammates open. I like doing that."

"I'm not the one who will score the high points or be the star of the team. I just want to win. I do what is important at the time, and that's the attitude I take. Right now, what's important to me is that this team re-groups."

Badgett's numbers don't exactly jump out, averaging a little less than 10 points and six rebounds a game, but statistics aren't his concern.

"I just come to play," he said. "I have to work hard on the boards and rebound well. I have to be the one to pat my teammates on the butt after something good or bad happens. I just have to be positive for my teammates."

"I've always had the attitude that when someone new comes in, get them the ball so they'll get involved. Then they'll be relaxed and play good. If you do things like that, then the whole team will move forward together."

Badgett hopes to set the example that will help Nebraska move forward.

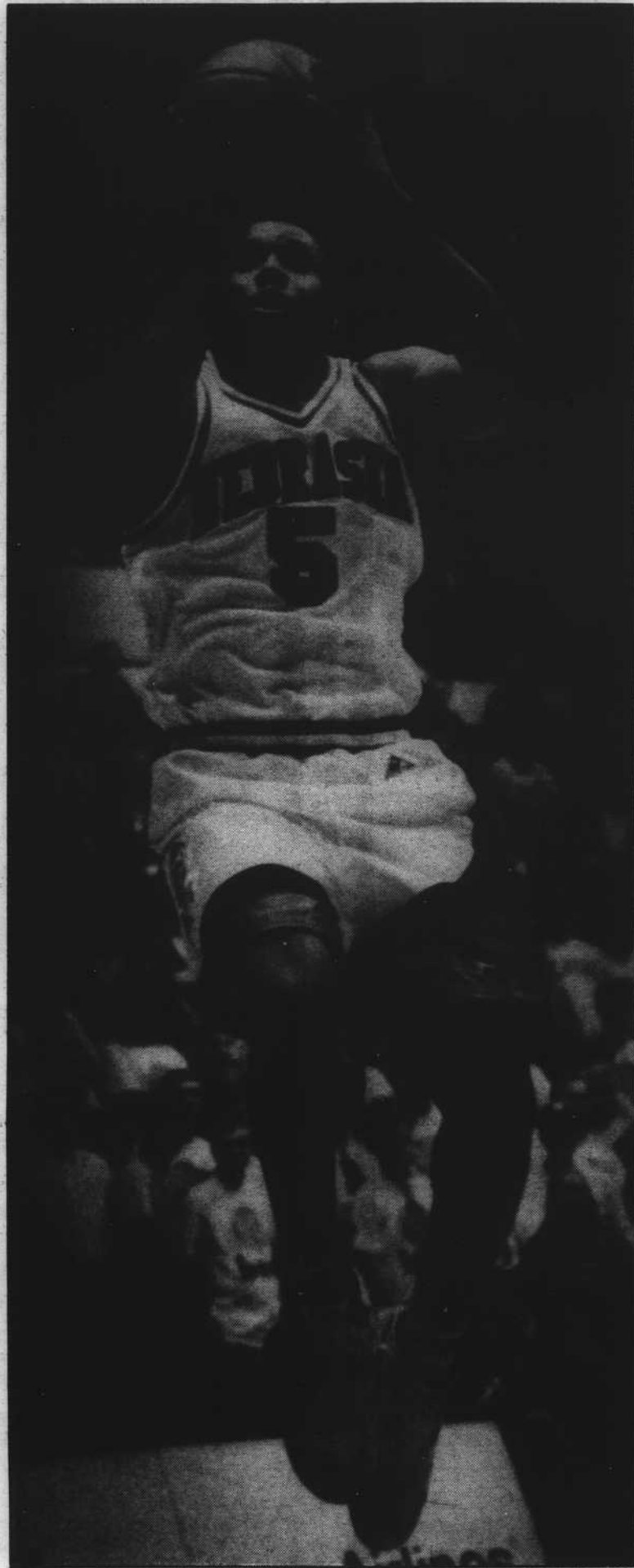
"I just do whatever it takes — box out and rebound or whatever," Badgett said. "If we do all the fundamental things as a team, we'll win. Talent-wise, we're probably the best team in the Big Eight. We just have to convert that into being disciplined with the things we do on the court."

"Our cups are empty as of right now. We still have so much more we have to go for. We still have over two months of basketball left, so we can't be satisfied about where we're at."

The junior from Omaha has already stepped up his play from last season, when he averaged 8.6 points and 4.6 rebounds a contest.

Even more impressive is the fact that Badgett has posted better numbers while playing at a post position, where he gives up inches to taller forwards and centers.

Badgett said he didn't mind the extra workload inside because of Nebraska's lack of height.



Damon Lee/DN

Nebraska forward Terrance Badgett heads for the basket Saturday during the Huskers' 82-74 loss to Missouri. Badgett has started all 15 games for Nebraska this season.

"It doesn't affect me," he said. "Granted, I'd like to be out at the 3-spot where I normally play. But I just want to win, so I'll play the post and rebound. I still run the floor and get people open. I'll play in any spot they need me, if it will help Nebraska win games."

Wildcats

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to the floor after being hacked on a layup attempt.

The 6-foot guard looked for a moment to be injured, but regained his feet and made both free throws.

"I was woozy a little bit," Wald said. "The room was spinning. I don't know if he tried to do it, but I couldn't get up real quick. I'm all right. No head damage."

Following another field goal from Hatcher at the 5:37 mark, Boone scored five consecutive points to trigger an 11-1 run that lasted the rest of the half.

Nee said the low point of the game came with 15:28 to go in the first half, when forward Terrance Badgett limped off the court to the locker room. Nee said Badgett suffered a pulled muscle somewhere in his right leg.

Badgett returned later in the first half for a series of plays, but wasn't able to play and returned to the locker room.

Nee said the health of the team was a concern. Senior guard Jason Glock, who started the Huskers' two previous games against Missouri and Long Beach State, did not suit up Thursday because of a sore leg.

Glock will be ready for Nebraska's next game, which is next Wednesday

at Missouri-Kansas City, Nee said.

Wald, making his first start in a Nebraska uniform, replaced Glock in the starting lineup. The junior from Brooklyn Park, Minn., dealt out a game-high 11 assists and added eight points in 33 minutes.

Wald said he was glad to get the start, but was willing to do whatever it takes to help the team.

"If it's me coming off the bench," he said, "and it's best for the team, than I'm happy doing it. I've had a lot of talk with Coach Nee about that. Everybody would love to start. But I would really like to win. I would like to make it far into the national tournament. If it means coming off the bench than that's what I've got to do."

Starting a smaller lineup against the Wildcats, Strickland, who scored 18 points and added nine rebounds, said the guards focused on crashing the boards.

"We knew coming in that Belvis Noland (Demond) Davis were good rebounders as guards," Strickland said. "We figured we had to really box them out and go in and help to get the long rebounds. Our game plan was to keep them on the perimeter and make them shoot perimeter shots."

Strickland and Boone alone outrebounded Kansas State's three guards 18-6. As a team, Nebraska outboarded the Wildcats 52-46.

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