

# SPORTS

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## Nee notes three keys to Big Eight success

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Reporter

Danny Nee did a little coaching Tuesday afternoon at his weekly press conference.

Nebraska's basketball coach outlined three areas in which the Cornhuskers must improve if they are to make a run to get back into the thick of the Big Eight Conference.

First and foremost, he said, the Huskers need to shoot the ball better. Also, Nee said he wanted to see the bench players contribute more and the forwards and center to continue to improve.

At 2-4 in the Big Eight and 15-6 overall, Nee said Nebraska needed a win tonight over Colorado, which is 10-8 overall and 1-6 in the Big Eight. Tipoff at the Coors Event Center in Boulder, Colo., is set for 8:05 p.m.

Nebraska has beaten the Buffaloes six out of the last seven times the teams have met. Last year in Boulder, though, Colorado topped the Huskers 86-81.

In six Big Eight games, Nebraska is shooting 38.9 percent from the field, seventh in the conference. Nee said the Huskers could not expect to win many games, especially on the road, if they didn't shoot the ball better.

"That really hurts Nebraska basketball," he said, "because we are an offensive type of team."

In games outside of the conference, the Huskers are hitting 52 percent of their shots. That's the kind of shooting Nee said he would like to see the entire season.

For the first time in conference action, the Nebraska big men played a significant role in Sunday's 71-59 win over Oklahoma.

Forwards Terrance Badgett and Melvin Brooks and centers Chris Sallee and Mikki Moore combined to score 37 points. Nee said that was an encouraging sign, considering that guards Jaron Boon, Erick Strickland and Tom Wald are the only Huskers averaging double

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## Kansas City point guard wants to sign with Huskers in April

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Reporter

Tyrone Lue, a point guard from Rayton, (Mo.) High School said he told the Nebraska basketball coaching staff last weekend that he intended to sign a letter of intent in April to play for the Cornhuskers next fall.

However, the 5-foot-11, 165-pounder said Tuesday night that his commitment wouldn't become official until after he shares the news with his mother.

"Personally, I committed," Lue said. "I

told them that they are my No. 1 choice and I have to talk to my mom."

Lue, who is averaging 23 points and eight assists per game this season, lives with his aunt and uncle in Kansas City, Mo. His mother lives in Mexico, Mo., a town of 12,000 people 30 miles northeast of Columbia.

He said he was going to visit his mother, who doesn't have a phone, on Feb. 17, and tell her that he plans to sign with the Huskers.

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## President continues to pitch plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, unable to bring baseball players and owners any closer to settling their strike, said Tuesday night he would ask Congress to order binding arbitration.

Clinton said he would make his request on Wednesday, only eight days before the start of spring training, and said he hoped Congress would act "expeditiously." But earlier in the day, the Republican leadership in Congress discouraged Clinton from turning to Capitol Hill for a solution.

Clinton has no legal power to end the six-month-long strike and would need Republican support to approve a measure to force binding arbitration.

"I'm sorry I can't report success," Clinton said after he and Vice President Al Gore met with players and owners for several hours at the White House Tuesday night.

"Clearly, they are not capable of settling this strike without an umpire."

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, having heard the president's plan, said they were reluctant to step into the problem.

"The president has apparently thrown the ball into Congress' court. We maintain our view that Congress is ill-suited to resolving private labor disputes," Dole and Gingrich said in a joint statement.

## Malesev leaps at chance of high jump record

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Petar Malesev finally got a personal best.

Now he wants to set a Nebraska best.

Malesev began the 1995 men's indoor track and field season by setting an automatic qualifying record with a 7-foot-5-inch leap in the high jump against North Carolina Jan. 28.

But even though he has qualified for the NCAA meet March 10-11 in Indianapolis, there is no time to let up.

"You don't want to relax too much," Malesev said. "I don't think any of us are relaxing; we still want to perform better and better."

The 'we' the 6-foot-7 senior from Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, is talking about is he and fellow high jumper Sheldon Carpenter. Carpenter has also had an NCAA qualifying mark in the high jump.

Malesev and Carpenter are first and second in the Big Eight in high jump height this year.

But now is no time to stop, Malesev said.

"I really would like to break both indoor and outdoor records."

Those records are held by a high jump tandem other than Malesev and Carpenter.

The duo of Jeff Loescher and Darren Burton set those records in 1985.

Loescher set the indoor record



Nebraska high jumper Petar Malesev has qualified for the NCAA meet in the high jump with a jump of 7-feet-5-inches.

with a leap of 7-6.

Burton set the outdoor record with a high jump of 7-5 1/4.

Malesev, the Big Eight men's track and field athlete of the month for January, is only one inch be-

hind Loescher and two inches behind Burton.

Malesev said he hadn't done anything special to try and catch Loescher and Brown.

In fact, he has done things that

might hurt him.

"I've been doing the upper body," Malesev said. "In order to be successful in the high jump, you want to be skinny and I don't want

See PETAR on 8

## Baseball strike is all part of the American dream

Phil Harrison was offered another chance to chase his dream two weeks ago.

The Nebraska assistant baseball coach walked away from the game more than a year ago. He was puzzled, confused, angry at the game he loved and the life he was leading.

Unlike thousands of other baseball addicts, Harrison couldn't walk away from the game after being released from his minor-league contract.

He refused to believe the words of the geniuses pulling the strings in management and player development for the Chicago Cubs and Montreal Expos.

At age 25, Harrison was told he was over the hill.

He was out of the game for two months before signing with the Expos. He had a strong season for the Harrisburg Senators in 1991, posting a 7-1 record and 2.20 ERA. Harrison spent the winter in the

Mexican Pacific Winter League with Expos players and coaches, but despite another strong season, the Expos released him during spring training.

To help put his baseball career out of its misery, Harrison should have called Dr. Jack Kevorkian.

But Harrison wouldn't accept the inevitable.

He hung onto baseball by seeking an exotic South American cure.

After two months away from the game, Harrison found his way to Venezuela to pitch for the Caracas Crocodiles in the summer of 1992.

When he was offered a chance to pitch in Venezuela, Harrison had no idea what he was getting into, and he wasn't sure if the move would help his career.

But he knew he wanted to play somewhere, anywhere, so he followed the game to Caracas. "Before I left I made sure I got



Jeff Griesch

all my shots, so I wouldn't get malaria eating a bad taco or something," Harrison said. "I knew it might not be the best, but at least I was playing, right?"

But an attempted coup made the political situation in Caracas unsettling. Even more disturbing for Harrison was the absence of scouts in the stands.

Harrison went 11-3, with a 1.24 ERA and two no-hitters, but his career was all but dead. He was a year older and no one saw him play.

Although he was disappointed, Harrison felt lucky to be alive. Earlier in the season he and another American were almost stoned in the streets by demonstrators because they were Americans. All this for \$1,500 a month.

Harrison returned for a winter in the Mexican League and earned \$3,000 a month, but was buried in the rotation and didn't get a chance to play.

"I was bitter at the coach, but I still wasn't bitter at baseball," Harrison said. "I still loved the game."

After a frustrating year in Mexico, Harrison sensed the end of his career, but he hung onto hope and tried a comeback in the Mexican Summer League in 1993.

Mexico was warm and sunny, and Harrison earned \$4,500 a month, but it was far from paradise.

Once, he was threatened at knife-point by a taco-stand owner

in Mexico City because he was American.

Somehow, Harrison found away to laugh about the threats and poor living conditions.

But he rarely found humor, excitement or fun in baseball anymore.

He struggled with his control and confidence.

His numbers were bad, and his life was worse.

One late night in the middle of the season, he stood on a rooftop in Puebla, Mexico, reflecting on his life with a bottle of Corona in his hand.

He was unhappy. He wasn't playing well. The game wasn't fun. He was tired of living out of bag. He was almost broke. His life was in ruins because he couldn't stop loving the game.

Harrison left the rooftop, packed his bags, caught a Volkswagen taxi

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