

# SPORTS

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## SPORTS OPINION



### Trevor Parks

## Kansas already has Big Eight title locked up

After one week of Big Eight basketball, something has become very apparent. Get out of the way of Kansas.

The Jayhawks have steamrolled opponents en route to an 11-1 record one game into conference play. Only a mental lapse against Temple at the Jimmy V Classic in New Jersey prevents them from being No. 1 and undefeated.

On Monday night, Kansas thrashed Oklahoma State 76-61 in Gallagher-Iba Arena, ending the Cowboys' 24-game homecourt winning streak and showing conference opponents how good this team is.

In the process, the Jayhawks gave themselves the longest homecourt winning streak in the conference at 21 games. Bad news for future teams that have to travel into the Phog of Allen Fieldhouse.

To put it in terms everyone can understand, the Jayhawks are the Nebraska volleyball team and the Cornhusker football team of Big Eight men's basketball. They are that good.

Going into the Big Eight, Kansas has played three ranked teams and beaten them all. The only other conference team to beat a ranked opponent was the Huskers. And Texas, which was ranked 23rd and coming off a win over North Carolina, plummeted out of the rankings in the next poll.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said Kansas had more depth, more strength and overall more everything than the other teams in the Big Eight.

"Looking at Kansas, they are a cut above the rest of the other teams in everything," Nee said. "It's Kansas, and then I think 2-8 will be very, very competitive. But I do believe that someone can beat them."

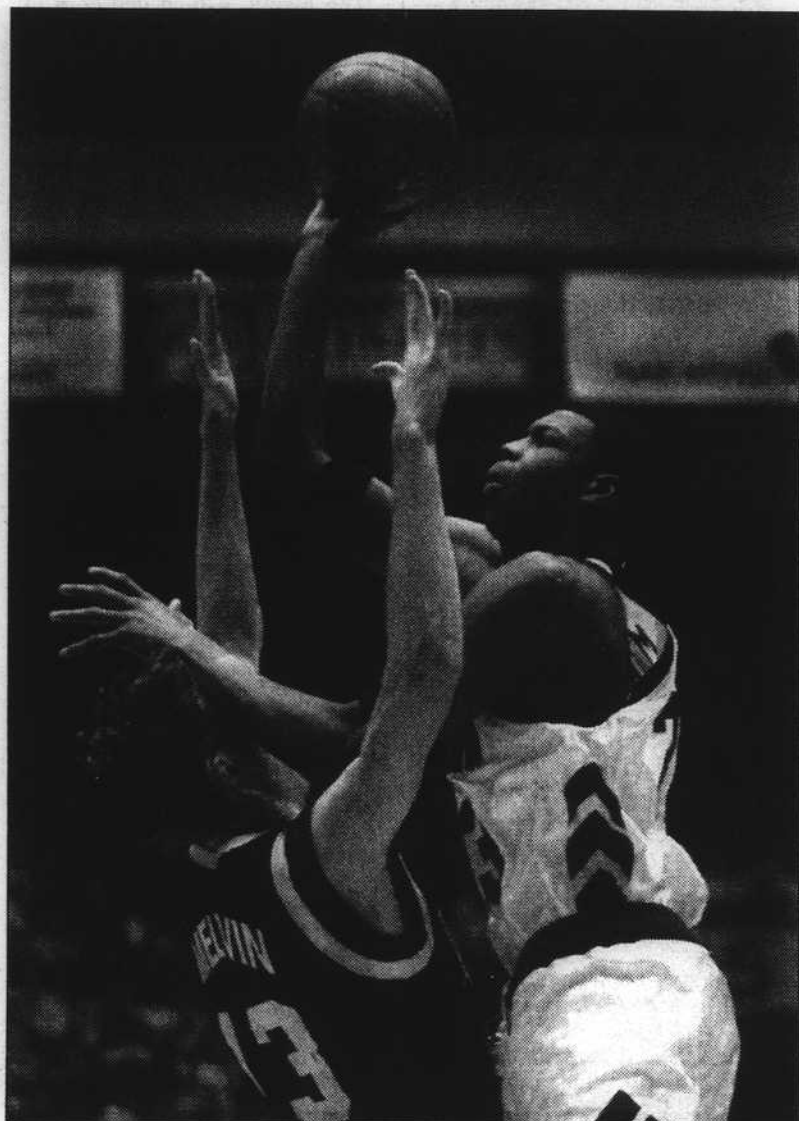
That leaves Nebraska, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Kansas State, Missouri, Colorado and Iowa State fighting for those two through eight spots. All unranked, all not as tested as Kansas. With those facts, maybe the Jayhawks could sweep through the conference 14-0.

The trend in the conference's final year is to have one team trounce every other team and then win a national championship. The Nebraska volleyball team did it. The Nebraska football team did it.

Now it's time for another Big Eight team to dominate everyone in the conference and win the national title. I think Kansas fits that mold.

Perhaps someone can puncture the armor of the Jayhawk machine during conference play. It could happen, but only if the Jayhawks forget how to play.

Parks is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.



Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska freshman center shoots over Colorado's Charlie Melvin Wednesday night. Hamilton scored 13 points and had eight rebounds in the 79-74 win.

## Reputation helps draw recruits

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

National championships help, but constant success over the years is what sells the Nebraska football program to potential recruits.



high in interest in the Cornhusker football program now.

"Obviously, what's been a factor over the last couple of years is that people see this as, if not the top, one of the top programs in all of college

football," Pederson said. "I think, certainly our acceptance across the country has been outstanding."

The national championship has helped in creating an added interest among the recruits who visit the campus.

Pederson said many of the high school and junior college players who visit Lincoln this time of year want to see everything associated with the Cornhuskers' national championship, including trophies, rings, and watches.

"We display the trophy prominently, not only for our own players to see but for potential recruits to be able to see what kind of things they can win and accomplish," Pederson said. "Players are obviously interested in the trophies, rings and watches, and those things do make a difference. It's very exciting."

But Nebraska's success and national championships have deterred some recruits from playing for the

## NU fights off Colorado rally

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

The third time Nebraska pulled away from Colorado proved to be the charm Wednesday night.

Nebraska	79
Colorado	74

After blowing a 38-27 halftime lead and another eight-point first-half lead, Nebraska held on to win its conference opener 79-74 over the Colorado Buffaloes before a season-high crowd of 11,344 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska, 12-3 and 1-0 in the Big Eight, avenged a home loss to Colorado from last year and handed the Buffaloes their fourth straight defeat, dropping them to 5-7 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

Nebraska was led by senior guards Erick Strickland and Jaron Boone, who scored 18 points each. Strickland added seven rebounds, three assists and five steals.

Center Mikki Moore shot 7 of 9 from the field and scored 16 points in 23 minutes. True freshman center Venson Hamilton pitched in 13 points and eight rebounds in 23 minutes.

Cornhusker coach Danny Nee said he knew playing against the Buffaloes would be a game of spurts.

"The game went the way that I thought with Colorado making a lot

of runs," Nee said. "I was just pleased we had the glue enough to keep things together."

The Huskers made their final run at just the perfect time after Colorado took a 58-57 lead with 8:51 remaining in the game.

With 8:23 to play, Nebraska took the lead for good on a 15-foot jumper by Moore, giving the Huskers a 59-58 lead. One minute later, Moore made a layup to extend the lead to three points. Nebraska then built a 65-58 advantage on a Boone dunk.

Colorado tried to erase the deficit, pulling within two points at 68-66 when Martice Moore hit a layup off an inbounds pass with 2:36 left in the game.

The Huskers outrebounded the Buffs 28-15 in the first half. But in the second half, Nebraska was outrebounded 31-17. Nebraska shot just 38.7 percent in the second half after shooting 44 percent before halftime.

Boone extended the Nebraska lead to four points with a shot over Colorado guard Mack Tuck with 2:06 remaining. After that, the Huskers didn't make a field goal, but they were 9 of 14 from the free-throw line in the final two minutes.

The closest Colorado came down the stretch was at 73-69 when Tuck — who scored a game-high 25 points

See HOOP on 8

## Aarden aims for med school

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

Pyra Aarden did not practice Wednesday with the Nebraska women's basketball team. Instead, she was preparing for an interview with the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Aarden, a senior with a 3.6 grade-point average in sociology, wants to attend medical school in the fall and has aspirations of being a pediatrician.

"I've wanted to be a doctor for a long time now," Aarden said. "I feel a doctor can really impact people's lives. And it's a

See AARDEN on 8

## NU wrestler prepares for Olympics

By Antone Oseka  
Staff Reporter

Temoer Terry didn't expect to be wrestling for Nebraska this year.

Before the season, Terry had his sights set on Atlanta and the 1996 Olympic Games in August.

Nebraska's starting 158-pounder planned to redshirt this season and train exclusively in freestyle wrestling to prepare for the Olympics. But he chose to wrestle for Nebraska and prepare for the Olympics at the same time.

One question plagues Terry's mind: "Did I wrestle well enough here to get me an Olympic spot?"

So far, Terry has done just that. He is rated No. 1 nationally in his weight class, and has wrestled only 10 matches.

"I want to be national champ, and

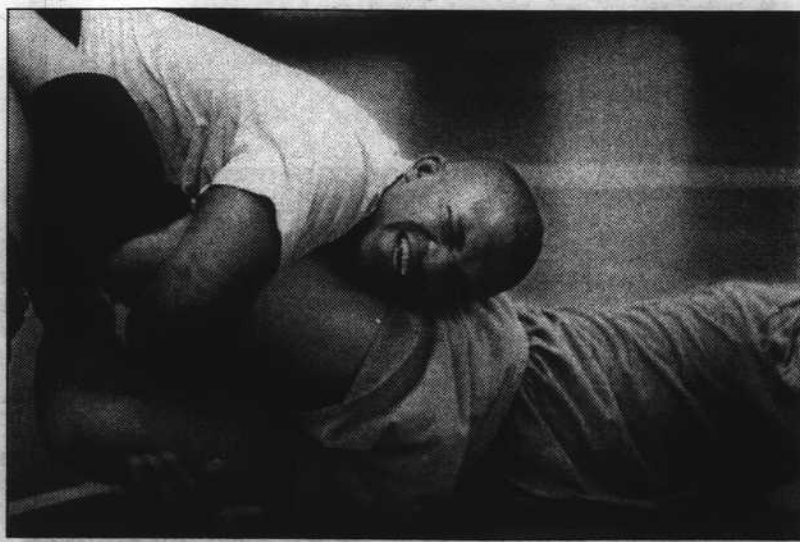
I want the team to be national champs," he said. "I think we're going to be disappointed with anything less, and I think we should be disappointed with anything less."

On Saturday, Terry and the Huskers travel to Reno, Nev., for the Reno Challenge where their biggest competition is Big Eight rival Oklahoma State. Terry sees Reno as just that, a challenge.

"It should be a good match for me to see where I am," Terry said. "Hopefully, I can go in and blow them out."

After the Huskers return from Reno, they prepare to see their toughest competition before the NCAA Championships in March. Nebraska squares off against teams like top-rated Iowa and second-ranked Iowa State in the Cliff Keen National Duals here in

See TERRY on 8



Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska wrestler Temoer Terry is the top-ranked 158-pounder in the nation.