

KSU, ISU surprise conference

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

It may be too soon for Iowa State and Kansas State to start making NCAA Tournament reservations.

But the early success of the two basketball teams in the Big Eight Conference race has caught the attention of the league coaches.

In preseason polls, the Wildcats were predicted to finish seventh in the league and the Cyclones were picked eighth. In this week's Big Eight rankings, however, Iowa State is second in the Big Eight with a 4-1 conference mark and a 15-4 record overall. Kansas State is third at 13-5 and 4-2. Kansas leads the Big Eight with a 16-1 and 4-0 record.

"They have been a pleasant surprise for the league," Kansas coach Roy Williams said. "I'm extremely impressed with both clubs."

Iowa State coach Tim Floyd looks at the Cyclones' success from a different perspective.

"We're pleased with where we are at," Floyd said. "But we also realize we haven't played Kansas or Nebraska yet, and we still have to go to Oklahoma and Missouri. There is a lot of basketball to be played yet."

Iowa State had to replace 95 percent of its scoring from last season's 23-11 team, which finished fifth in the league with a 6-8 record and qualified for the NCAA Tournament. But Floyd replaced his lineup with seven junior college transfers, including Dedric Willoughby and Kelvin Cato.

Willoughby is second in the conference in scoring, averaging 20.2 points per game while making 39.8 percent of his shots. He is also ninth in the conference in 3-point field goal percentage at 31 percent.

In conference games, Cato is the

Big Eight Standings

Team	Conference		Overall	
	Wins	Losses	Wins	Losses
Kansas	4	0	16	1
Iowa State	4	1	15	4
Kansas State	4	2	13	5
Nebraska	3	2	15	5
Missouri	3	3	13	7
Oklahoma	2	4	10	8
Colorado	1	5	6	11
Oklahoma State	0	4	10	6

league's third-leading rebounder, averaging nine boards per game.

Missouri coach Norm Stewart said he was impressed with the play of the two junior college transfers in the Tigers' 73-62 loss on Jan. 21 to the Cyclones.

"The first time I saw him (Kato) I was really impressed," Stewart said. "Willoughby is a go-to-guy for them, and Tim Floyd has done a nice job of defining everybody's roles with the junior college transfers they brought in."

At Kansas State, Coach Tom Asbury has had to prepare the Wildcats differently this season than he did a year ago, when they finished 12-15 and 3-11, last place in the conference.

Both senior guard Elliot Hatcher

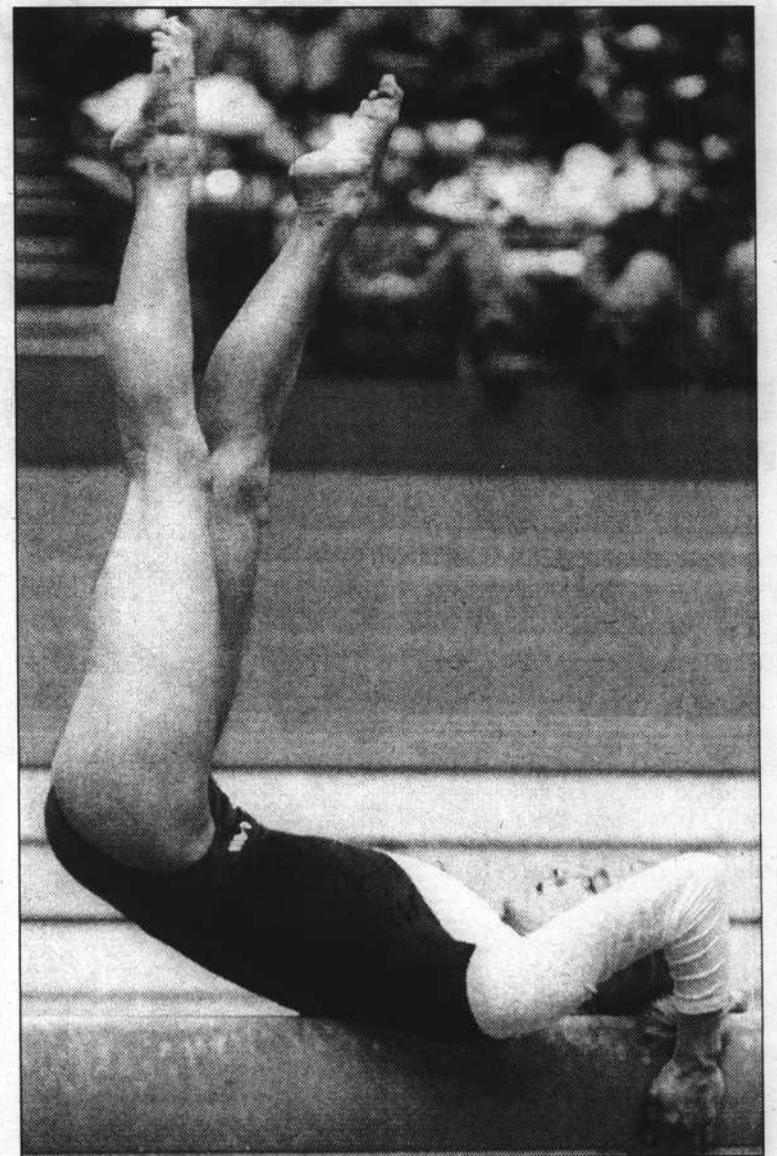
and senior forward Tyrone Davis have experience under their belts after last season's initiation to the Big Eight.

Hatcher, who was a member of the Big Eight newcomer team last season, is averaging 15.8 points per game and leads the league in steals. Davis leads the conference in field goal percentage at 60 percent and is third in the Big Eight, averaging 8.6 rebounds per game.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said for the Huskers to have success against Kansas State on Wednesday, they must limit the scoring of Hatcher and Davis.

"The success of Kansas State goes through Hatcher and Davis," Nee said. "They are a very, very good basketball team, and in order to beat them you must contain Hatcher and Davis."

Experienced



Scott Bruhn/DN

Cornhusker junior gymnast Kim DeHaan performs on the balance beam Saturday night against Missouri. DeHaan is one of three upperclassmen expected to lead Nebraska this season.

Gymnast DeHaan helps lead Huskers

By Gregg Madsen
Staff Reporter

Leadership is critical for the Nebraska women's gymnastics team this season.

The Huskers start five freshmen and three upperclassmen, and that makes junior Kim DeHaan's role invaluable.

DeHaan and another junior, Shelly Bartlett, have combined with senior Joy Taylor to handle the leadership responsibility this season, Coach Dan Kendig said.

"I don't really feel like we have that one person," Kendig said. "We have three upperclassmen that have been through it that are helping all the freshmen and doing a great job. To put all that pressure on one is a lot to ask."

Pressure has not affected DeHaan in her last two seasons at Nebraska.

The 5-foot-4-inch Sioux Falls, S.D., native owns the Husker all-around record, a 39.275 effort against Iowa State last season.

At the Big Eight Championships in Columbia, Mo., last season, DeHaan set the school record in the floor exercise with a 9.95, and Kendig said she was capable of equaling that mark on the uneven bars this year.

Against Missouri last Saturday, DeHaan scored a season-high 9.6 in the vault and finished fourth in the all-around with a 38.025.

"Kim's just really clean on everything she does," Kendig said. "That's her asset. If she hits, she's going to score well because there

aren't a lot of deductions."

Although DeHaan was disappointed with her 9.2 score in the floor Saturday night, she said Nebraska's 193.425 team score would boost team confidence.

"It will just continue to build," she said. "Now we know that we can go out and hit our routines, and so we just need to improve from there."

DeHaan, who has competed in gymnastics since the first grade, is a three-time All-Big Eight selection and was 1994 Big Eight newcomer of the year.

She said the highlights of her career at Nebraska had been winning back-to-back Big Eight championships in 1994 and 1995 and competing in nationals last season in Athens, Ga.

A biology major, DeHaan has a 4.0 grade point average and has been named academic all-conference in each of the last two seasons.

DeHaan said the friendships on this year's team made competition more fun.

"It's just the whole team atmosphere in college," she said. "The girls here are really great. We all pull for each other and stick together."

Kendig said the collective leadership of the upperclassmen would determine the course of the rest of the season.

"I really think that the nice thing is that we have three people to spread it out," Kendig said. "I think they're all three capable of having their best seasons this year."

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Garner

Continued from Page 7
and on the team, and a team-high seven rebounds per game.

Before the Big Eight started, Garner was averaging only 10 points and 6.1 rebounds per game. He said he noticed his performance was not up to par.

"I just had to make a change because if I didn't make a change we could be (winless) in the Big Eight," Garner said. "I know the team needs me and I need them, too. They've supported me with all the senior leadership. I just need to keep making an improvement."

During the nonconference season, he said he was still feeling the effects of an injury he suffered in one of his first practices in Lincoln. In a pre-season drill, Garner fell to the floor and broke his tailbone.

That was a tough beginning after a successful 1994-95 season at WNCC.

Last season, playing in Scottsbluff, Garner was named junior college player of the year and averaged 19 points and eight rebounds per game for the Cougars.

Against third-ranked Kansas, Garner said he learned how tough playing on the inside can be in the Big Eight. The Jayhawks outrebounded the Husk-

"We know that we are much better than the team that showed up."

BERNARD GARNER

Nebraska forward

ers 42-33, and 20 of the Jayhawks' rebounds came on the offensive end.

Garner said he learned a lot from his first game against the Big Eight conference leader.

"They don't give up," he said. "They keep playing and keep playing and that's just Kansas tradition. If you boxed them out, here came somebody else."

Garner said he hoped that lesson would rub off on the Huskers.

"This is not going to get us down," Garner said. "We know that we are much better than the team that showed up."

But Nebraska must make a quick turnaround. The Huskers travel to 13-5 Kansas State on Wednesday night. Garner said winning on the road was important after losing in the Devaney Center.

"If we would have won, we would have been tied for first place in the conference," Garner said.

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