

SPORTS

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SPORTS OPINION



Todd Walkenhorst Huskers need some maturity to bounce back

Every single morning, I awake to hear little kids screaming and hollering at each other. I guess that's a disadvantage of having a day care right next to my apartment.

There's nothing more obnoxious than three- and four-year-olds acting like little children, but at least they have an excuse.

Unfortunately, there is a striking similarity between day care and the Nebraska basketball team.

The problems have been well documented.

Of course there is the losing, but it's really not the losing that has Husker fans concerned. It's something else.

It's a lack of maturity.

During last Saturday's loss to Iowa State, players were not paying attention in huddles and not playing as a team. After the loss, players were yelping and singing in the locker room.

"The problem is when you start losing, it's like a family when two brothers or sisters start fighting and disagreeing," Coach Danny Nee said. "That's what you heard in the locker room. That's the problem."

Maybe it's time for some family counseling.

This team needs to mature. Five members of the team are 21 years or older, including three 23-year-olds. And none of them are acting like the so-called "senior leaders" they are supposed to be.

Terrance Badgett was ejected for throwing an elbow during Nebraska's victory over Missouri on Jan. 24. Jaron Boone was suspended in the middle of a loss to Kansas State on Jan. 31 for arguing with Nee. He missed the Iowa State game later that week. Erick Strickland was ejected after receiving a double-technical foul during the Huskers' loss to Missouri on Feb. 7.

"The players in the program were hand picked," Nee said. "I'm committed to them. I'm staying with them."

The question is, will the players stick by Nee?

Players on Tuesday met with Athletic Director Bill Byrne to discuss how to stop their losing streak.

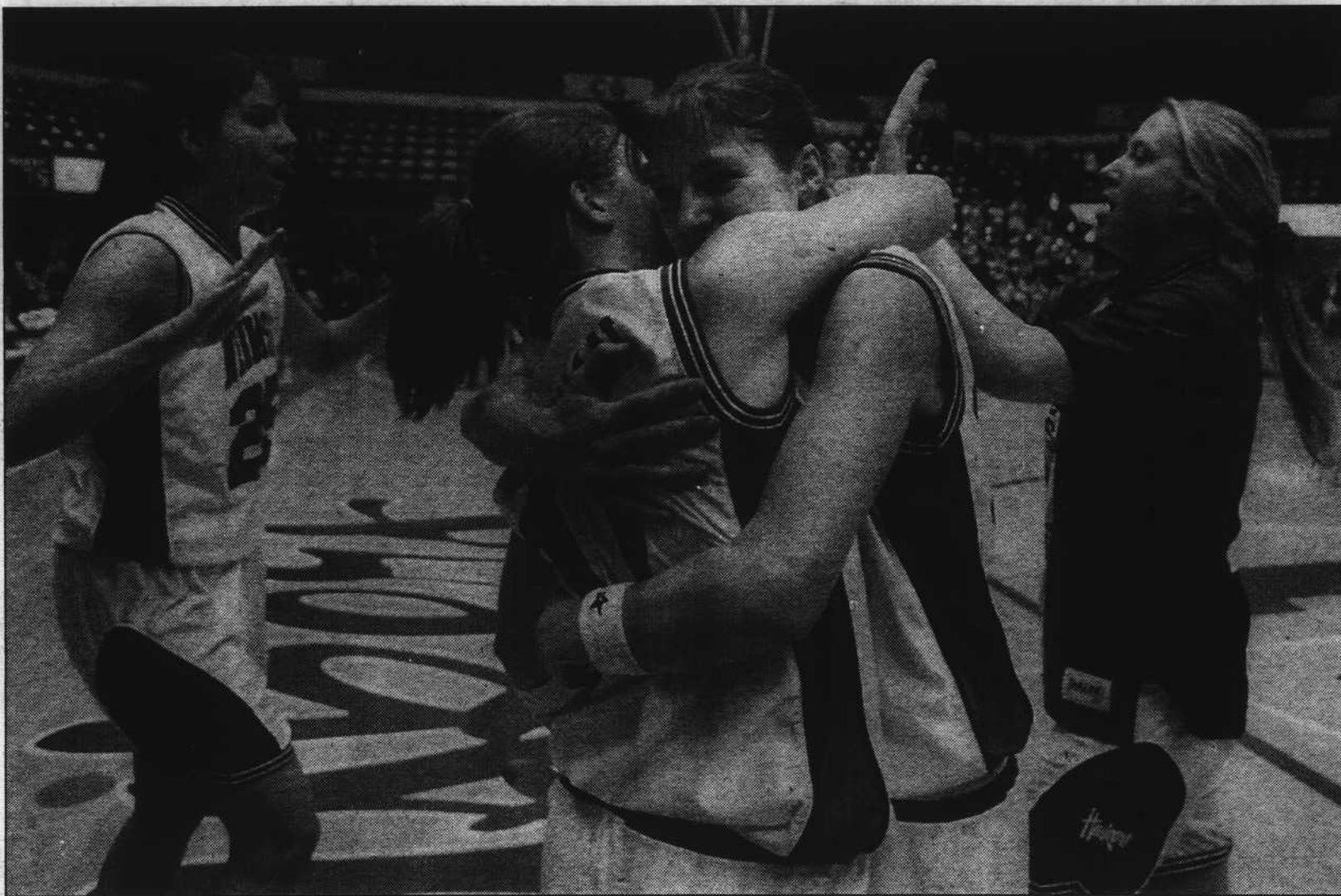
I would imagine they were told to start playing like a team and to start standing by the coach.

Many people are saying Nee should be fired. Unfortunately, if he gets fired, the players will remain the same.

It's time for the players to grow up, regardless of the coaching quality. They shouldn't be playing for the coach. They should be trying to win for themselves.

If they can get it together, the Huskers can make an exciting late-season run. But if they don't, Nebraska will not win another game this year.

Walkenhorst is a senior broadcasting and advertising major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska basketball players (from left) Emily Thompson, Kate Galligan, Anna DeForge and Cori McDill celebrate the Huskers' win over No. 18 Colorado Wednesday night.

Huskers take down Missouri

By Antone Oseka
Staff Reporter

To Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann, this entire season has seemed like one of those days.

The top Cornhusker lineup hasn't been intact for a single dual meet. Wednesday night was no exception.

But the Huskers, without several of their top wrestlers, still defeated Missouri 27-9. The Tigers started quickly.

Nebraska's Darin Giese lost to Brooks Travis 7-5 at 118 pounds. At 126, Matt Infranca dropped a 7-3 decision to Missouri's Donnie Mitchell, giving the Tigers a 6-0 team lead. Ninth-rated Tony DeAnda scored the first team points for Nebraska at 134 pounds, winning a major decision over Brent Tanney 14-6.

Missouri went up 9-4 behind a Matt Webster win at 142. He defeated Nebraska freshman Jake Roe 7-3.

"We wanted to go out and dominate the third period in of all the matches," Neumann said.

Those were the final team points the Tigers scored. Nebraska won the next six matches and picked up the dual victory 27-9. Eighth-ranked Jason Kraft came out on fire for Nebraska at 150 pounds, defeating Al Fonzo Castelucci 18-8 and cutting the Tiger lead to one point at 9-8.

Temoer Terry returned to the mat for Nebraska after a two-week absence because of a slight knee injury. Terry, who is

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NU tops Buffs in double OT

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

Valentine's Day dates of Nebraska women's basketball players were out of luck on Wednesday night, because the Cornhuskers left their hearts on the court of the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers played an emotion-filled game, defeating No. 18 Colorado 83-75 in double-overtime and improving their record to 16-8 overall and 6-6 in Big Eight play.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said she was pleased with the way the Huskers played after losing two games over the weekend to Kansas State and Kansas.

"The team played with tremendous heart," Beck said. "I never felt that we weren't going to have enough energy to finish this game. Our defense was tremendous, but our offense was pretty dang good, too."

But it was the Buffaloes (20-7 and 7-4) who almost stole the hearts of Husker fans at the end of regulation.

With Nebraska holding a one-point

lead, Colorado's senior guard DeCelle Thomas missed a shot with 1.8 seconds remaining. But while fighting for position, Nebraska junior Tina McClain committed her fifth foul, sending Buffalo sophomore Jen Terry to the line for a one-and-one opportunity.

Terry, who was a perfect 3-of-3 from the line, swished her first attempt, but after a Husker timeout, her second shot rimmed out. The Buffaloes were able to control the rebound, but they were unable to get a shot off.

However, the officials called a foul on Nebraska's Kate Galligan as the final buzzer sounded. But after a conference it was determined the foul occurred after the horn blew.

Galligan, who scored 18 points, said she fouled Colorado junior Raegan Scott, but knew it happened after the buzzer.

Both Colorado and Nebraska had opportunities to win the game in the first overtime. Nebraska sophomore Anna DeForge's shot with 34 seconds remaining was blocked by Colorado's Erin Scholz. Buffalo sophomore LaShena Graham also missed a 3-pointer with two seconds remaining.

As Nebraska headed into its first

double-overtime game since a 98-88 win over Notre Dame on Feb. 25, 1982, DeForge took control. She accounted for 10 of the Huskers' 13 points and scored the first bucket of the second overtime, making a layup just seven seconds into the period.

After Colorado tied the score at 72, DeForge found sophomore Jami Kubik with 2:02 left to give the Huskers a 74-72 lead, which they never relinquished.

DeForge finished the game with a season-high 25 points and made 10-of-11 free throws. In the two overtime periods, DeForge was 8-of-9 from the line.

The Nebraska win snapped a seven-game Buffalo winning streak over the Huskers. Nebraska had not defeated Colorado since a 62-50 Husker win on Jan. 22, 1993 in Lincoln.

Galligan said the Huskers could gain a lot from the victory.

"I mean it's Colorado," she said, "and there's no reason you can't have emotion for Colorado because that's just a big rivalry anyway. To have them ranked and coming into your place, if you're not playing with emotion, then you shouldn't be playing."

Nee makes peace with players

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

After two days of turmoil, the atmosphere surrounding the Nebraska basketball team returned to normal Wednesday.

"We've been talking so much," Coach Danny Nee said. "I feel we've got everything resolved as far as we can go."

The Cornhuskers, 15-9 after losing five straight games for the first time since 1990, have had anything but a normal week.

On Monday, junior forward Ber-

"They want to play basketball. If they don't want to play basketball, they can get the hell out."

DANNY NEE

Nebraska basketball coach

nard Garner and freshman guard Tyrone Lue were the only two players to show up for a shoot-around. It was later determined that the coaches had canceled the shoot-around at the request of the players.

On Tuesday, the Huskers started practice more than an hour late after

nine team members met with Athletic Director Bill Byrne. Practice began around 5 p.m. and lasted about an hour.

Nee said the players got a chance to vent each of their frustrations to

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