

# SPORTS WEEKEND

Friday, February 16, 1996

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## SPORTS HUMOR



**Beau Finley**

### Nee shouldn't get fired for society's woes

The winds of change have been blowin' — and so has the Husker basketball team.

The Cornhumpers have been racked with disciplinary actions, dissension, self doubt, defeats, double dribbling and dissentary. Um, wait — forget that last one.

Suffice to say that Cornhugger basketball is at its lowest point in some time.

To compound matters, following the Cornhookers' fifth straight defeat at the hands of the Iowa State Cylons (Battlestar Galactica — cool), the call for the head of Coach Danny Nee was more prominent then ever.

On the Sunday after the game, I went to Taco Bell with former ASUN president and sun-tanning expert, Andy Massey. Massey was in office during Nee's hiring and personally endorsed it.

I asked Massey what prevented Nebraska from firing this Coach Nee?

"Dude, don't you know? He makes \$53 million a year. We'd have to pay him that for 26 years if we canned him," Massey explained.

I was a bit skeptical. I decided to check things out with Athletic Director Bill "rug" Byrnes. I figured he'd let me see the contract, and things would get straightened out.

I walked into Byrnes's office and asked his secretary for a meeting with the big shooter. She refused me because I didn't have an appointment.

I then quite comprehensively explained to this impudent hag that I paid her salary and, in fact, funded this entire friggin' athletic department through my tuition payments, parking fines and hot dog purchases.

She then slapped me pretty hard with some sort of meat sandwich.

When I got up off the floor, she was standing over me with her dukes up, singing, "I am woman, hear me roar."

Needless to say, I took off. I've learned not to screw with Helen Reddy fans.

Well, for now Danny has a job. Maybe that's O.K.

You see, I no longer blame Coach Knee for the problems that have befallen the Cornbumpers.

I blame society. And my mother.

**Husker Bobber Update:** Nebraska swimming and diving coach Cal Bentz allegedly reported that he would lift the ban of no freshmen in the deep end of the pool.

On a more negative note, however, Bentz did suspend diver Kevin Gregory for doing cannonballs and splashing him during practice. Allegedly, Bentz said he would allow Gregory back on the team if he taught Bentz how to twirl his whistle in that real cool way that lifeguards do.

Finley is a third-year law student and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.

## Huskers to meet match with OSU

**By Trevor Parks**  
Senior Reporter

The two most problem-plagued basketball teams in the Big Eight will meet Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska, 15-9 overall and in sixth place in the conference with a 3-6 record, plays host to Oklahoma State, the last-place team in the Big Eight. The Cowboys bring a 12-9 and 2-7 record into Saturday's 8:05 p.m. game.

The Cornhuskers have lost five straight games for the first time since 1990. The Nebraska players asked their coaches to call off practice Monday. On Tuesday, the team began practice more than an hour late after meeting with Athletic Director Bill Byrne concerning differences between the players and Coach Danny Nee.

Nebraska was 15-4 just three weeks ago. Earlier this week, Nee said his team was close to returning to that level despite its 15-point loss last Saturday to Iowa State.

"I really feel this team has the char-

acter to recover," Nee said. "I can just tell by the body language of people that the worst is over."

The Cowboys have lost five of their past seven games.

Like the Huskers, Oklahoma State started the season well. The Cowboys were 8-1 before losing to Tulsa, starting a streak in which they dropped eight of their next 12 games.

They are coming off a 62-59 loss to Missouri on Wednesday night in Stillwater, Okla. In that game, Oklahoma State made 12-of-34 free throws. They were 4 of 19 from the line in the second half. For the season, the Cowboys are shooting 57.7 percent from the line.

In the Huskers' 66-57 win on Jan. 20 in Stillwater, Nebraska committed 25 turnovers and scored only five field goals in the second half, but still managed to pick up its first win in Stillwater since 1987. Nebraska swept the series that season, but finished fifth in the Big Eight and went to the National Invitation Tournament.

Nee said turnovers would be a key

### Basketball Starters

Devaney Center  
Saturday, 8:05 p.m.

Nebraska 15-9, 3-6	HL	WL	Class	PPG	RPG
G Tyronn Lue	6-0	165	Fr.	8.5	3.0
G Jaron Boone	6-6	195	Sr.	15.4	2.7
F Erick Strickland	6-3	210	Sr.	14.8	4.5
F Bernard Garner	6-7	225	Jr.	10.9	6.3
C Mikki Moore	6-11	205	Jr.	8.0	5.2

### Oklahoma State 12-9, 2-7

G Adrian Peterson	6-4	190	Fr.	11.7	2.7
G Andre Owens	5-11	180	Sr.	7.2	3.5
F Chianti Roberts	6-6	222	Jr.	11.7	5.1
F Jason Skaer	6-7	215	So.	8.5	5.8
F Jerome Lambert	6-8	215	Sr.	12.3	6.4

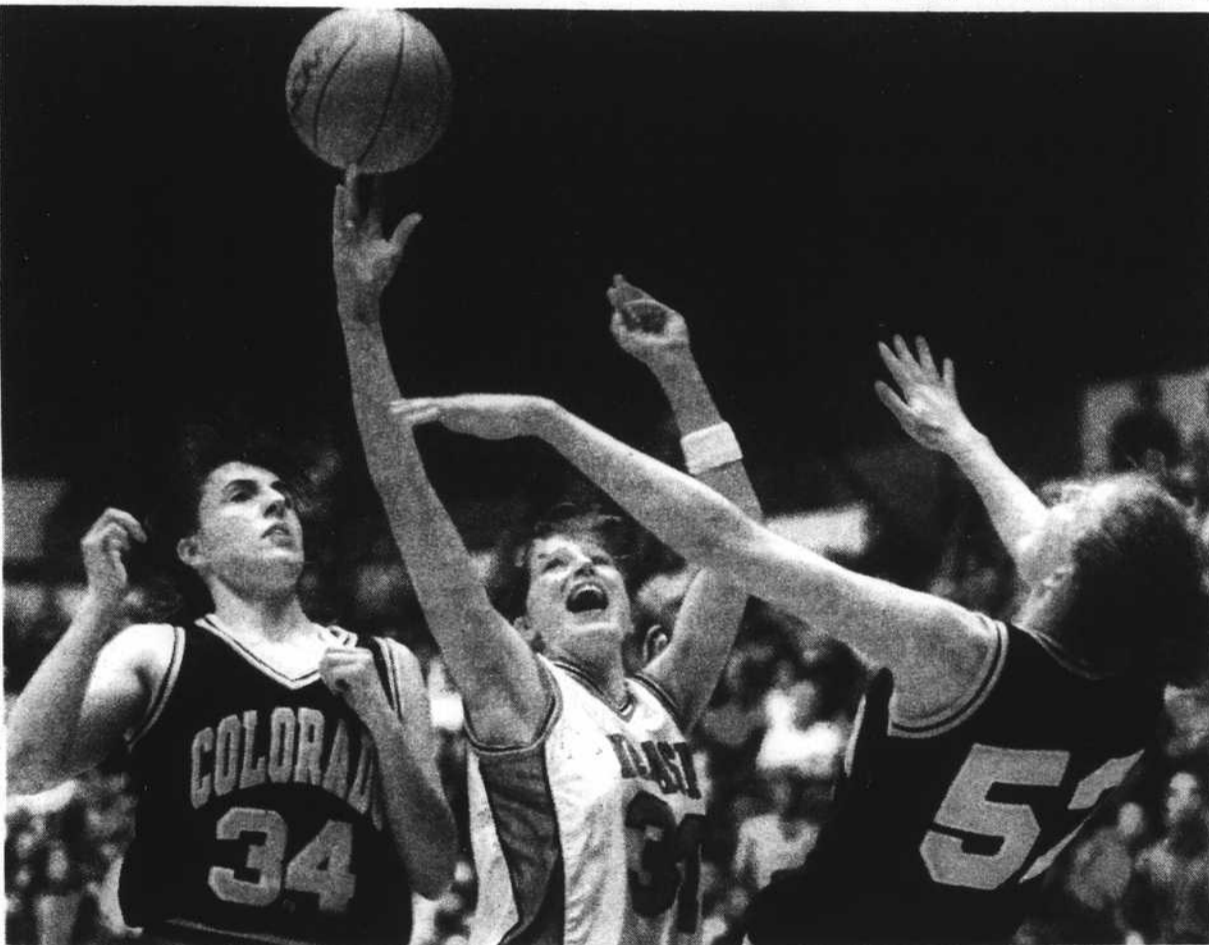
to the game Saturday.

"(Oklahoma State coach) Eddie Sutton is going to bring a team in here that is very strong, that's very aggressive, and they are going to cause a lot of turnovers," Nee said. "If we cut that

down to 10 to 15, our chances of winning drastically improves."

**NOTE:**

— Because of the state wrestling tournament, gates at the Devaney Center will not open until 7 p.m.



Scott Bruhn/DN

Cornhusker sophomore guard Anna DeForge launches a shot between Colorado's Jen Terry and Raegan Scott during overtime of Wednesday night's 83-75 Nebraska win. Nebraska will play host to Missouri on Sunday.

### Huskers motivated after win

**By Mike Kluck**  
Senior Reporter

Kate Galligan knows the Nebraska women's basketball team probably won't play with the same emotion Sunday against Missouri as it did on Wednesday night.

But Galligan also knows the Cornhuskers will have the proper dedication in their 2 p.m. game with the Tigers on Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

On Wednesday, the Huskers played an emotional game, defeating conference rival Colorado 83-75 in double overtime to improve their record to 16-8 overall and 6-6 in the Big Eight.

Galligan, a senior from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, said the Tigers, who are 13-9 and 4-6, would present the Huskers with a challenge.

"Missouri is a very scary team because you never know what they're going to do except play basketball hard," Galligan said. "We'll take different strategies to play as hard as we did Wednesday night and have the same emotion."

See TIGERS on 8

## Husker gymnasts hope to improve

### Christie, Koziol to lead NU men

**By Gregg Madsen**  
Staff Reporter

After starting the season with two meets on the road, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team will play host to New Mexico in the Cornhuskers' first home meet of the season.

The fourth-ranked Cornhuskers will face the No. 2 Lobos at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska coach Francis Allen said he was excited about having two home-grown gymnasts, senior Jason Christie and sophomore Jim Koziol, leading this year's team.

The key to success this year, Allen said, will be how the young talent on the team blends with the veterans.

"If we can get them to gel together," Allen said, "we can beat New Mexico at home, and that will be a good start for us."

Christie, a graduate of Lincoln High, and Koziol, from Millard South, are two of five Nebraskans on this year's Husker team.

Christie and Koziol tied for the all-around title last week in the Huskers' 223.175-222.25 victory over Oklahoma. Koziol's 55.85 mark was a career best, and Christie's was a season high.

Allen said the Huskers' matchup with New Mexico's senior all-around star, Blaz Puljic, would be exciting. Lincoln Southeast graduate Tim Gergen also will compete for the Lobos.

Another Nebraskan on this year's Husker team is junior Ryan McEwen, a Lincoln Christian graduate. Allen said McEwen had a tremendous per-

See MEN on 8

### Women to face 2 ranked teams

**By Gregg Madsen**  
Staff Reporter

Improvement has become the norm for the eighth-ranked Nebraska women's gymnastics team this season.

Since posting a season-low 189.450 score against No. 2 Alabama on Jan. 19, the Cornhuskers have improved every week, winning at Oklahoma on Feb. 4 and at home over Missouri and Boise State.

Last week's season-high 194.250-point effort against Boise State tied the third-best team score in school history. Tonight at 7, Nebraska has a chance to improve again.

The 6-2 Huskers will face No. 11 Utah State, No. 16 Cal-Berkeley and preseason No. 10 Arizona State in the Southwest Cup Quadrangular at the

University Activity Center in Tempe, Ariz.

Nebraska coach Dan Kendig said the meet would provide his team with good experience away from home after last week's record-setting performance at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Huskers scored season-high marks in vault (48.650) and floor exercise (49.050) against Boise State.

Six Nebraska gymnasts had personal bests against the Broncos, but Kendig said he was confident the team would improve when additional requirements were added to routines.

"We're hoping to do the same thing, really," Kendig said. "If we are able to keep taking care of our requirements, then we'll continue to improve."

Senior Joy Taylor, juniors Shelly Bartlett and Kim DeHaan, and fresh-

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