

# SPORTS

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## SPORTS OPINION



### Derek Samson

## Coach offers another side of NU sports

After a winter filled with sports headlines like "Huskers lose eighth straight" and "Team boycotts practice," it is refreshing to see the job done by the Nebraska softball team, especially Coach Rhonda Revelle.

Revelle, in her fourth season as the Cornhusker skipper, inherited a program in 1993 that hadn't finished in the upper half of the Big Eight since 1989.

She struggled through her first two years, posting an 18-23 record in 1993 and a 25-33 mark in 1994.

But last year, it all started to come together.

"When you start a program," Revelle said, "it takes three or four years to get your system in, your staff meshed and a program that really feels like it's yours."

"These last couple of years, it's turned into a program where the goals and visions are shared by everyone, instead of being something I just brought to the table."

After a 15-1 fall in 1994, Revelle said she knew the Huskers were about to turn the corner.

That happened last spring when Nebraska completely turned things around with a 43-20 finish.

"Last spring, we knew we were getting better," Revelle said. "But the success was so new, and it was kind of like cement that was just poured. We had a lot of highs and lows."

So far in this young season, the Huskers have reached many more highs than lows. Nebraska jumped out to a 7-1 start after its sweep of Creighton on Saturday afternoon in Omaha.

"We must remain consistent in what we do," she said. "We can't hang on to a loss too long, and we can't gloat over a win too long. We have to take it one game at a time."

Revelle knows what it takes to win at Nebraska. As a pitcher from 1981-83, she was a part of the 1982 squad that was the first Nebraska team to ever win the Big Eight and qualify for the College World Series.

She is still in Nebraska's record books, ranking among the top 10 in career strikeouts, shutouts, saves, complete games and earned-run average.

As a player, Revelle knew what it took to get Nebraska softball on the map for the first time in school history.

Now, as a coach, she is helping Nebraska climb back on that map.

"We're trying to build some tradition," she said. "We don't want this to be a fluky thing. We need to build year-to-year success."

So far, Revelle has found the key to rebuilding a successful program. Maybe now she could let some other coaches in on the secret to her success.

Samson is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.

# Huskers finish long month at CU

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team has one last chance to pick up a win in February.

That final opportunity comes tonight at 8 when the Cornhuskers travel to Boulder, Colo., to play Colorado at the Coors Events Center.

Despite losing eight straight games, Nebraska, 15-12 overall and 3-9 in the Big Eight, is one game in front of the last-place Buffaloes. A win over Colorado tonight would keep Nebraska from finishing in the cellar for the first time since 1960.

Colorado, 8-16 and 2-10, enters the game on a four-game losing streak. The Buffaloes last won on Feb. 10, when they defeated Missouri-Kansas City 84-55.

If the Huskers can't stop their skid, they will have gone an entire month without winning for the first time since January 1963. Nebraska's last win was Jan. 24, a 77-58 win over Missouri.

"What we have to do is put two halves of basketball together," Ne-

braska coach Danny Nec said. "Keys to the game would be not to beat ourselves, to keep our confidence, work the ball and turn down that first quick shot."

Nec said Venson Hamilton, Bernard Garner and Mikki Moore needed to play well in the post. Hamilton, Garner and Moore have combined to average 27.2 points and 18.2 rebounds per game over the Huskers' last three contests.

Hamilton made his first career start Sunday against Oklahoma and scored four points in the 80-76 overtime loss. Moore came off the bench to score a career-high 17 points and grab 10 rebounds. Nec said Hamilton would start again tonight.

Colorado is led by freshman Chauncey Billups and juniors Mack Tuck and Martice Moore. The trio is averaging 50.8 of Colorado's 77.1 points per game.

"We have to find a way of controlling and guarding them," Nec said. "If we play good defense on them, that's the key. Everything else should take care of itself."

In the two teams' first meeting this

## Basketball Starters

Coors Event Center  
Wednesday 8pm.

Nebraska (15-12, 3-9)	HTL	WL	Class	PPG	RPG
G Tyrone Lae	6-0	165	Fr.	8.7	3.0
G Jaron Boone	6-6	195	Sr.	14.5	2.7
F Erick Strickland	6-3	210	Sr.	14.7	4.8
F Bernard Garner	6-7	225	Jr.	10.7	6.4
C Venson Hamilton	6-9	220	Fr.	6.3	5.0

### Colorado (8-16, 2-10)

G Chauncey Billups	6-3	191	Fr.	18.5	6.3
G Mack Tuck	6-6	190	Jr.	17.2	5.2
F Martice Moore	6-8	234	Jr.	15.1	7.7
F Greg Jensen	6-7	210	Jr.	4.3	3.2
C Dennis Griffin	6-9	247	Jr.	2.2	2.6

year, Nebraska beat Colorado 79-74 in the Huskers' conference opener on Jan. 10.

But now the Buffaloes have a new coach in Ricardo Patton. Patton took over when Joe Harrington resigned Jan. 16 following Colorado's 82-80

overtime loss to Southern Utah. The Buffs are 3-7 under Patton.

Sophomore forward Ted Kritza, the Buffs' fifth-leading scorer, hurt his left shoulder Feb. 19, leaving Colorado with only eight players available for tonight's game.

## Tourney game worries Beck

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

Having won 12 consecutive games against your first-round opponent in the women's Big Eight basketball tournament would thrill any coach.

But after the initial excitement of learning the Cornhuskers were going to play Missouri in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament, Nebraska coach Angela Beck said she soon felt ill.

The fourth-seeded Huskers, who are 18-8 overall and 8-6 in conference play, will face Missouri, 15-11 and 6-8, at noon Saturday in the first game of the Big Eight Tournament at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan.

The Huskers notched their 11th and 12th consecutive victories over the Tigers this season with a 73-68 overtime win in Columbia, Mo., on Jan. 19, and then a 92-72 victory in Lincoln on Feb. 18.

"I don't think it matters who you play," Beck said. "I was happy because we had beaten them several times and had a lot of success against them. But you are always worried about that first time."

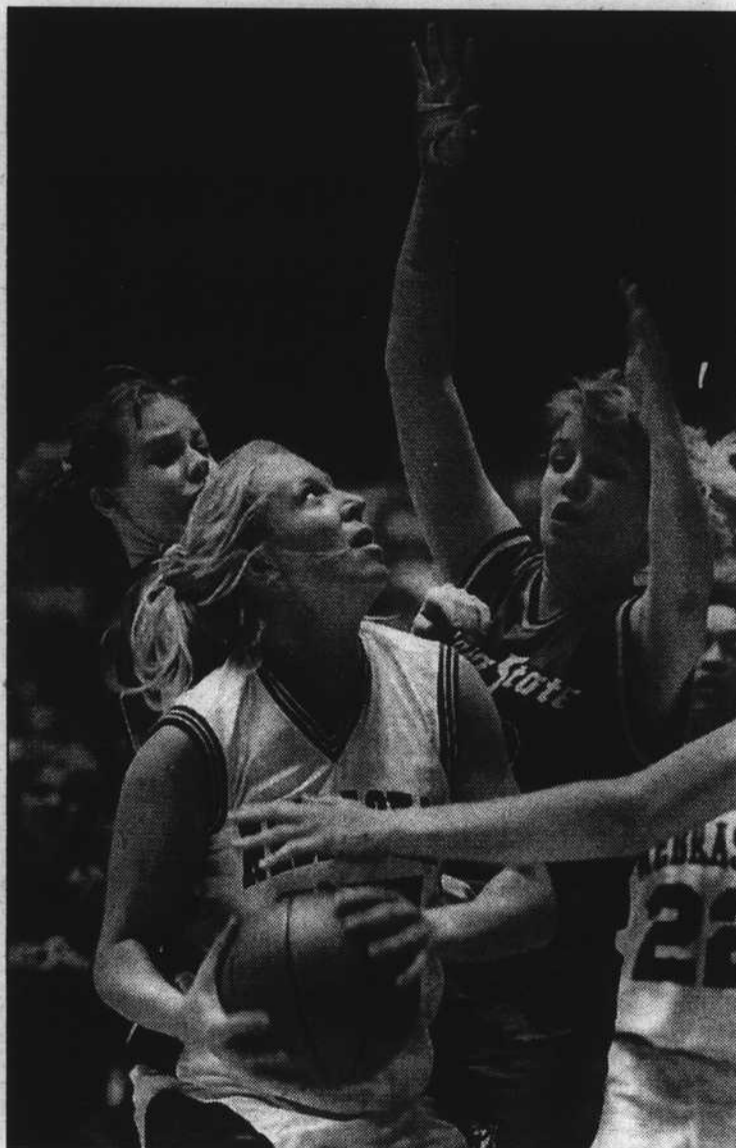
The Huskers know they can't take Missouri lightly, Beck said. In 1994, the Tigers won the conference tournament after finishing regular-season play with a 9-16 record.

The game is important for the Huskers' NCAA Tournament hopes. A loss in the first round probably would knock the Huskers out of tournament consideration, Beck said.

"We have a lot of things riding on this game," Beck said. "It's the biggest game that we have had all year. It's the biggest game ever in our history. We really need to win this one. If we can get into the semifinals, we have a legitimate shot at getting into the NCAA Tournament."

If the Huskers are able to defeat Missouri and win the tournament, Beck said, they probably would play host to an NCAA first-round game. The winner of the Nebraska-Missouri game will face the winner of Sunday's 2 p.m. game between Kansas and Kansas State.

"We put ourselves in a really good position," Beck said. "Now, we just have to have the focus and mentality to go in there and win the



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska freshman forward Cori McDill attempts a shot last Friday during the Huskers' 72-69 win over Iowa State. Nebraska has won three straight games heading into the Big Eight Tournament.

first-round game and do as well as we possibly can in the tournament."

The Huskers are entering the tournament in good shape both physically and mentally, Beck said. Having won three games in a row for the first time since December also has given the Huskers momentum, she said.

Nebraska defeated Colorado 83-75 in double overtime on Feb. 14, Missouri on Feb. 18 and Iowa State on Feb. 23.

"I really can't ask for a better scenario than what we have right

now," Beck said. "Our attitude is tremendously good. The kids are still having fun playing. They have a lot of inner drive."

"We are at an all-time high emotionally, and our enthusiasm is as good as you could ever want going into the Big Eight Tournament."

The only thing hindering the Huskers right now is experience, Beck said. In her 10 years as Nebraska's coach, the Huskers have won only six Big Eight Tournament games.

## Buffaloes storm court with Patton

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

When Ricardo Patton took over head coaching responsibilities for the Colorado basketball team last month, he brought a style that reminded many Colorado fans of another famous Patton — Army Gen. George Patton.

After former Buffalo coach Joe Harrington's impromptu resignation on Jan. 16, Patton was named the interim head coach.

Before his first game, he ordered his players to spend the night on the floor of the Coors Event Center to protect their homecourt advantage.

Although Colorado lost 80-78 to Kansas, the young Buffaloes have used Patton's new style to their advantage. But heading into tonight's game against Nebraska, the Buffs are struggling to field a full team.

Since the beginning of the season, junior Fred Edmonds and sophomore Leroy Carter have been declared academically ineligible. Freshmen Devon Gilchrist and Charles Thompson are sitting out as redshirts and Ted Kritza, Martice Moore and Matt Daniel have missed time because of injuries.

"Our team has responded well," Patton said. "We just have to go out and continue to play hard and give ourselves a chance to win."

"Tonight's game will be a battle of two teams who are trying to escape the cellar, and the winner will be determined by the team that plays the hardest."

Colorado Athletic Director Bill Marolt said he would wait until the end of the season to make a decision on next year's coach. Patton, who is a candidate, said he wasn't letting the changes affect him this season.

Patton has received the support of his players, who said he should be the new head coach.

"I just really appreciate what they have done for me," Patton said. "These are just guys who enjoy working hard and know good things are going to happen to them."