

# SPORTS

Tuesday, March 5, 1996

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## Big 8 Notebook

Nebraska's Erick Strickland has been voted to the All-Big Eight players' second team. The team is selected by Big Eight players, who can't vote for players from their own teams. Strickland also was selected to the Big Eight defensive team, while teammate Terrance Badgett was named to the Big Eight's all-bench team. Freshman point guard Tyrone Luc was selected to the all-freshmen team.

Iowa State junior forward Kenny Pratt was named the Big Eight player of the week Monday. Pratt averaged 28 points and 7.5 rebounds last week in a Cyclone loss to Kansas State and victory over Colorado. Against Kansas State, he scored a career-high 31 points for the Cyclones, who have posted two consecutive 20-win seasons.

"Why not co-Big Eight players of the year?" Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson asked members of the media Monday, lobbying for Sooners senior forward Ryan Minor to gain the league's top honor along with Jacque Vaughn of Kansas.

"If the award is for most valuable player, then it should be Jacque Vaughn," Sampson said. "But if it's for best player, then Ryan Minor should receive it. And if you have trouble distinguishing between the two, give it to both of them."

Colorado defeated Kansas 75-47 Monday night in the finals of the Big Eight women's tournament in Salina, Kan. Nebraska forward Anna DeForge was named to the all-tournament team.

One of Colorado freshman guard Chauncey Billups' biggest fans will be sitting on the Kansas bench during the Buffaloes' Big Eight Tournament game. Eighth-seeded Colorado and the top-seeded Jayhawks will play in the noon game of the Big Eight Tournament on Friday.

Kansas coach Roy Williams said he was Billups' biggest fan. Billups is seventh in the league in scoring, averaging 16.4 points per game in 14 conference games. He is also fourth in the league in assists with 72 for a 5.1-per-game average.

With less than a week remaining in the Sprint In Touch Fans' All-Big Eight voting, players from Kansas and Iowa State fill nine of the 10 spots on the league's first and second teams. Oklahoma's Ryan Minor, second behind Iowa State's Kenny Pratt at small forward, is the only player among the top 10 who is not a Jayhawk or a Cyclone. Leading the way are Kansas' Jacque Vaughn and Raef LaFrentz and Iowa State's Pratt, Dedric Willoughby and Kelvin Cato.

Tim Floyd of Iowa State leads Kansas' Roy Williams in the coach-of-the-year voting. Fans also can choose the all-time greatest Big Eight player. Danny Manning of Kansas tops the list, followed by Wayman Tisdale of Oklahoma. Other candidates for the all-time player include Cliff Meely of Colorado, Bob Boozer of Kansas State and Steve Stipanovich of Missouri. Fans can vote until March 7 by calling 1-800-428-BIG8 or on the Internet at [www.sprint.com](http://www.sprint.com).

Big Eight Notebook compiled by senior reporter Mike Kluck.

## Tourney bound?



Missouri center Lindsay Thompson and Nebraska guard LaToya Doage battle for a loose ball Saturday. The Huskers hope their 70-64 win was enough to earn them a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Matt Miller/DN

## NU waits for NCAA bid

By Mike Kluck  
Senior Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — Mission accomplished — almost.

When the Nebraska women's basketball team went to Salina, Kan., last weekend to compete in the Big Eight Tournament, it had two goals in mind.

First, the Cornhuskers wanted to win the final Big Eight Tournament, but Kansas dashed those hopes with a 65-61 semifinal victory Sunday at the Bicentennial Center.

On Saturday, however, the 19-9 Huskers accomplished their task of securing a possibility at gaining an NCAA Tournament bid with a 70-64 victory over Missouri. The NCAA selection committee will announce the women's NCAA Tournament bracket at 6:30 p.m. Sunday on ESPN.

"We're in," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said after the game Sunday.

day. "It (the win) puts us in. If we're not in, I will be shocked."

"I think the 19 wins solidify us and puts this team on the map. This is an unbelievably great team, and I really enjoy coaching them this year."

Beck wasn't the only coach at the tournament who felt Nebraska deserved a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

After Sunday's game against the Jayhawks — in which Nebraska fought back from a nine-point deficit and took a five-point lead with eight minutes remaining — Kansas coach Marian Washington said the Huskers should get an NCAA Tournament bid.

"They are definitely a team that deserves to go to the NCAA Tournament," Washington said. "We are certainly hopeful that the NCAA committee recognizes that and gives them the opportunity they have earned."

In the past three years, four different Big Eight teams have received NCAA Tournament invitations.

In 1994, Nebraska finished fourth in the conference with a 7-7 record and won its first-round Big Eight Tournament game. But the Huskers were denied an NCAA bid. Missouri, which finished seventh in

the league in 1994, won the conference tournament and received the Big Eight's automatic bid.

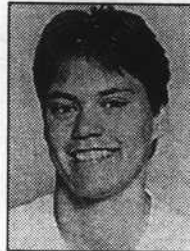
Nebraska turned down a National Women's Invitational Tournament bid that season.

The Huskers have been to the NCAA Tournament twice since its formation in 1982. During Beck's second season in 1988, the Huskers lost to Southern California 100-82 in the first round. In 1993, Nebraska defeated San Diego 81-58 before losing to Southern California 78-60 in the second round.

## Swimmer shatters record

From Staff Reports

Nebraska senior swimmer Penny Heyns made the return trip to her home country of South Africa a memorable one, swimming her way to a world record Monday.



Heyns

Heyns, a native of Amanzimtoti, South Africa, set a world record in the 100-meter breaststroke. Her time of 1 minute, 7.49

seconds came in preliminaries of the South African Olympic Trials in Durban, South Africa. Heyns went on to win the finals Monday afternoon, securing her a spot on the 1996 South African Olympic Team.

The previous record of 1:07.69 was set in 1994 by Samantha Riley of Australia.

Before the trials, Heyns' career-best time in the 100-meter breaststroke was 1:07.84 at the World University Games in Fukuoka, Japan, in September 1995.

Heyns has made a habit out of setting records this year. At the Big Eight Championships, Feb. 14-17 in Oklahoma City, Okla., she eclipsed the U.S. Open and NCAA record in the 200-meter breaststroke with a time of 2:08.9.

Heyns will return to compete with her Cornhusker teammates at the NCAA Championships, March 21-23 in Ann Arbor, Mich., after the South African Olympic Trials.

## NU players win game for seniors

By Andrew Strnad  
Staff Reporter

It's hard to feel good when things aren't going your way, but when things change for the better, it's even more difficult to not feel relieved.

Just ask the five seniors on the Nebraska basketball team.

The Cornhuskers ended a nine-game losing streak Sunday, defeating Kansas State 70-66. More importantly, Erick Strickland, Jaron Boone, Terrance Badgett, Tom Wald and Ja-

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## Freshman jumper flying high for Nebraska

By Andrew Strnad  
Staff Reporter

If there were any people who doubted freshmen could compete at the national level, they were once again left speechless after Nebraska high jumper



Lavy

Lavy has silenced critics all season, establishing himself as one of the top high jumpers in the nation. As a freshman, he will be one of the Cornhuskers' top performers Friday

and Saturday at the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis.

Petar Malesev, last year's indoor high jump national champion, finished up his eligibility after last season, leaving Lavy with large shoes to fill.

The three-time high school state champion from Glasco, Kan., has been one of Nebraska's brightest stars this season. His 7-5 jump at the Husker Invite last month tied him with Chris Oleson-O'Neil of Stephen F. Austin for the highest collegiate leap this season.

With the NCAA Indoor Championships less than a week away, Lavy and the Huskers, he said, are looking to prove that they're among the top track teams in the country.

"We're looking forward to nationals," Lavy said. "We teams did very

well at the conference meet, but I know we can do better."

The Husker men and women coasted to easy victories Feb. 23-24 to win the final Big Eight indoor championships.

At the Big Eight Championships, Lavy jumped 6-11, just behind teammate Brian Schwartz and Itai Margalit of Kansas State, who won the event with a jump of 7-1.

Despite finishing third in the Big Eight, Lavy said he was starting with a clean slate at nationals.

"The great thing about track and field is that every meet you get a fresh start and a chance to jump higher than before," Lavy said.

Even though he holds the nation's highest jump of the year, Lavy said he expected his jump to be eclipsed

soon.

"I'm happy right now with this mark," he said, "but hey, somebody might come along next week and go even higher."

Husker coach Gary Pepin said he had been pleased with Lavy's performance, but Pepin said he knew Lavy had the talent to be among the nation's elite, even as a freshman.

"I'm not surprised with Shane," Pepin said. "He's cleared this height before, and I knew he'd do it again this year."

Lavy said he was eagerly awaiting the start of the outdoor season, but he also wants to rub shoulders with the rest of the nation's elite high jumpers in Indianapolis.