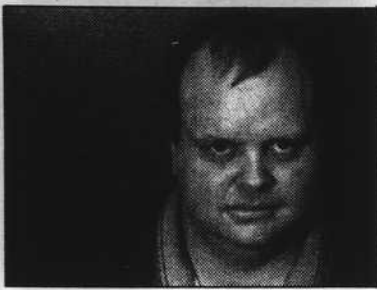


SPORTS OPINION



Mike Kluck

Season goes right for NU women's team

Angela Beck stood in the locker room last Saturday and spoke to her Nebraska women's basketball team the same way she has before 26 previous contests this season.

She talked one more time about matchups, what needed to be accomplished on the first offensive series and what was at stake for the Huskers in their first-round game against Missouri in this final Big Eight Tournament.

A win against the Tigers, and the Huskers were virtually assured of a spot in the NCAA Tournament. A loss and the hopes and dreams of this season were over.

But then something different happened — something that hasn't happened in her 10 years as the Cornhusker coach.

As tears filled her eyes, she started talking about what this team has meant to her this season. And then she said it.

"You guys are my all-time favorite squad."

I'd bet the same scene won't be evident today in Danny Nee's locker room.

And the only question is why. Both teams were very similar at the beginning of the season.

They both came off of disappointing seasons last year. Both had high hopes for this season. And both had quality seniors and returning players with experience.

With a balanced conference, both teams had a strong opportunity to finish in the upper echelon of the Big Eight race. Only one of them did.

On Sunday afternoon, the women will be sitting around the Hewitt Center waiting to find out where they will be going in the NCAA Tournament. Barring a miracle in Kansas City (which is possible), Nee will be hoping for a phone call to learn his team made it into the NIT.

Why have these two teams taken different paths? Why did the Kansas women need an outstanding performance to deny the Huskers a championship contest, while the Nebraska men needed a win against Kansas State to avoid a finish in the cellar?

What went right for the women this season?

Total commitment, according to senior Lis Brenden. Sophomore Jami Kubik said it was a total acceptance of roles by everybody on the team. Senior Kate Galligan said unity and loyalty between the coaches and players helped, while sophomore Anna DeForge said a 100 percent effort from every player on every night made a difference.

With all the differences, maybe Beck said it best.

"Discipline was the foundation of our squad's moral and team unity," she said.

Without that foundation, the walls or the whole season crumble.

Kluck is a graduate student in journalism and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

Track teams set sights on titles

By Andrew Strnad
Staff Reporter



The Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams will try to add to the Cornhusker collection of national championship hardware this weekend.

Competition begins today at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Cham-

pionships at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. Nebraska is sending 23 athletes.

The Husker women won the indoor title in 1983 and 1984. They will be chasing their first championship.

Coming off their dominating performance at the Big Eight Championships last month, the Husker women are listed among the favorites in Indianapolis. Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said this year's team might be his finest in his 16 years as the Husker coach.

"We have an extremely strong team with a lot of good athletes," he said,

"Some good jumpers and some throwers are sprinkled in there, too."

The Huskers have their strongest teams since the early 1980s, said Pepin, who was selected as indoor men's and women's Big Eight coach of the year this season. He said both teams were capable of a high finish.

"We have everybody healthy going into the meet," Pepin said, "and I think we have a chance for certainly a top 10 finish or higher."

The Huskers are sending five indoor All-Americans from a year ago. Pepin said experience would be a fac-

tor in the meet, which will run until Saturday afternoon.

"We have a lot of people on both sides that have been to the meet before," Pepin said. "I think that will be a big help to us as well."

Individually, the Husker men have two of the top three long jumpers in the nation, Joe Laster and Robert Thomas, and the country's fastest distance medley relay team of Alex Lamme, Miklos Roth, Jonah Kiptarus and Balazs Tolgyesi.

See TRACK on 8



Nebraska senior guard Kate Galligan and the rest of the Cornhuskers will find out their fate Sunday at 5:30 p.m., when the pairings for the NCAA Tournament are announced.

Huskers want NCAA bid

By Jason Brunz
Staff Reporter

Sunday is judgment day for the Nebraska women's basketball team.

The Cornhuskers, 19-9, have a good chance of making the NCAA tournament after finishing fourth at the Big Eight Tournament last weekend in Salina, Kan. The Huskers will meet Sunday at 5:30 p.m. to discover their fate.

Nebraska has played in two NCAA Tournaments, 1988 and 1993. The Huskers lost in the first round in 1988 and the second round in 1993.

Nebraska coach Angela Beck said at least three Big Eight teams, and possibly four, would be selected. Colorado, 25-8, and 20-9 Kansas are sure bets.

And even if only three conference teams are selected, Oklahoma State, also 19-9, won't necessarily be the third pick, Beck said. The Cowboys and the Huskers were both 8-6 in league play, but Oklahoma State won a tie-breaker over the Huskers and earned the third seed in the Big Eight Tournament.

"Our last seven games, we've played better than Oklahoma State," Beck said. "We have identical records."

"We'd obviously be disappointed in not making the NCAA Tournament," she said. "But we'd accept an NWIT bid if that were to occur."

Senior guard Kate Galligan said the team was confident it would get into the tournament because of its ranking in a tough conference.

"I really think that our record speaks for itself in the conference that we play in," Galligan said. "We've beaten some quality teams."

Galligan agreed with Beck that no matter what happened Sunday, the Huskers would continue to play hard in the postseason.

"If we don't get into the NCAA Tournament, we will definitely get invited to the NWIT," Galligan said. "That's a tournament we can definitely go down and win."

Beck commended her players for their desire to go out and win games. She said Nebraska needed to combine that heart with execution and cut down on its turnovers to be successful in the postseason.

See NCAA on 8

Frazier is treated for blood clot

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Former Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier left Bryan Memorial Hospital on Thursday with his NFL career on hold after being treated for a blood clot in his right leg.

Dr. Deepak Gangahar, a cardiovascular surgeon at Bryan, said it was determined shortly after Frazier entered the hospital Feb. 26 that a clot had formed behind the football player's right knee.

Gangahar treated Frazier in October 1994 when he had surgery to remove a blood clot in his right leg and missed seven games of his junior season.

Frazier will be restricted from any contact for at least three months, leaving his future in football questionable.

"Once the clot has disappeared and it is healed and there is no sign of it coming back, we'll evaluate that question at that time," Gangahar said. "Today, he cannot play pro football. I will tell you that."

Gangahar said 10 percent of the blood clot remained. Frazier will be treated with blood thinning medicine for at least three months. Before entering the hospital for a sinus infection, Frazier told his doctors his calf had hurt for two or three days, Gangahar said.

"I called for a test, and it showed that a clot had occurred," Gangahar said, "not in the same place as before, but nevertheless the clot had come

See FRAZIER on 8

Healthy NU primed for Iowa State

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

After the Nebraska basketball team practiced at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Wednesday afternoon, the Cornhuskers broke their post-practice huddle with a new chant.

"Big Eight champs," they shouted.

Wednesday's practice was the team's last in the Bob Devaney Sports Center before the Huskers headed to the Big Eight Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. Nebraska, 16-13, plays No. 23 Iowa State, 20-8, at 6:10 tonight at Kemper Arena.

The Huskers believe they can win the final conference tournament ever, senior guard Erick Strickland said.

"It's a lot of fun staying three days down there and playing against those high caliber teams," Strickland said. "It's March Madness, and that makes

it more exciting. We just want to get down there, have a little more fun and win it the last time."

If Nebraska gets by Iowa State, the Huskers will face the winner of the Oklahoma-Missouri game. The Huskers are a combined 1-3 against the Sooners and the Tigers this season. But two of those three losses came by a total of four points, and the other game was a triple-overtime defeat at Oklahoma.

Against the Cyclones, however, Nebraska hasn't had much success. Iowa State has beaten the Huskers twice this season, 75-65 in Lincoln and 74-59 in Ames, Iowa.

But Cyclone coach Tim Floyd said it was difficult to beat any team three times in a season.

"Certainly it's difficult, but I would

See ISU on 8

Basketball Starters					Kemper Arena Kansas City, Mo. Friday, 6:10 p.m.	
Nebraska (16-13)	Ht.	Wt.	Class	PPG	RPG	
G Tyrone Lue	6-0	165	Fr.	8.5	3.0	
G Jaron Boone	6-6	195	Sr.	14.3	2.8	
F Erick Strickland	6-3	210	Sr.	14.6	4.5	
F Bernard Garner	6-7	225	Jr.	10.6	6.3	
C Mikki Moore	6-9	220	Fr.	8.8	5.5	
Iowa St. (20-8)						
G Jacy Holloway	6-0	160	Jr.	4.3	2.4	
G Dedric Willoughby	6-3	180	Jr.	20.2	4.4	
F Shawn Bankhead	6-6	215	Jr.	8.3	3.0	
F Kenny Pratt	6-4	215	Jr.	15.3	6.0	
C Kelvin Cato	6-11	290	Fr.	5.5	3.0	