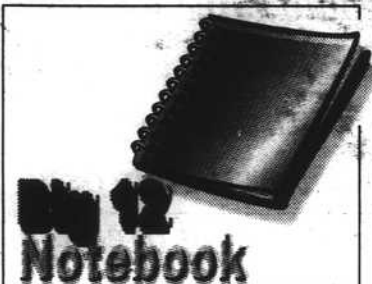


Sports

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1996

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The Colorado men's basketball team got off to a quick start this week with a second-place finish in the Big Island Invitational in Hilo, Hawaii. The Buffaloes beat Virginia Tech and Auburn but lost to Louisville 92-82 Sunday in the championship game of the tournament, which Nebraska won last season.

CU Coach Ricardo Patton said he likes to start the season with a quick spurt of games. "I just think that it is good for the team to have to play that kind of schedule early on," Patton said. "The field of competition was good. It told us a lot about our team."

The first two games of the Big Island Invite and CU's season opener against Drake were played without sophomore star Chauncey Billups. The 3-1 Buffs' leading scorer from last year was serving a three-game suspension. Patton said CU will have to re-adjust its strategy with Billups back in the lineup Thursday against Texas-Arlington.

The Big 12 player of the week is Kansas forward Raef LaFrentz. The 6-foot-11 junior was given the honor for his performance in the Maui Invitational, which the Jayhawks won. LaFrentz also received the tournament's most-valuable-player award. LaFrentz is averaging 17.8 points and 8.6 rebounds per game for the No. 1-ranked Jayhawks.

KU, 5-0, will play preseason No. 1-ranked Cincinnati in the Great Eight Tournament tonight at 8:45 in Detroit.

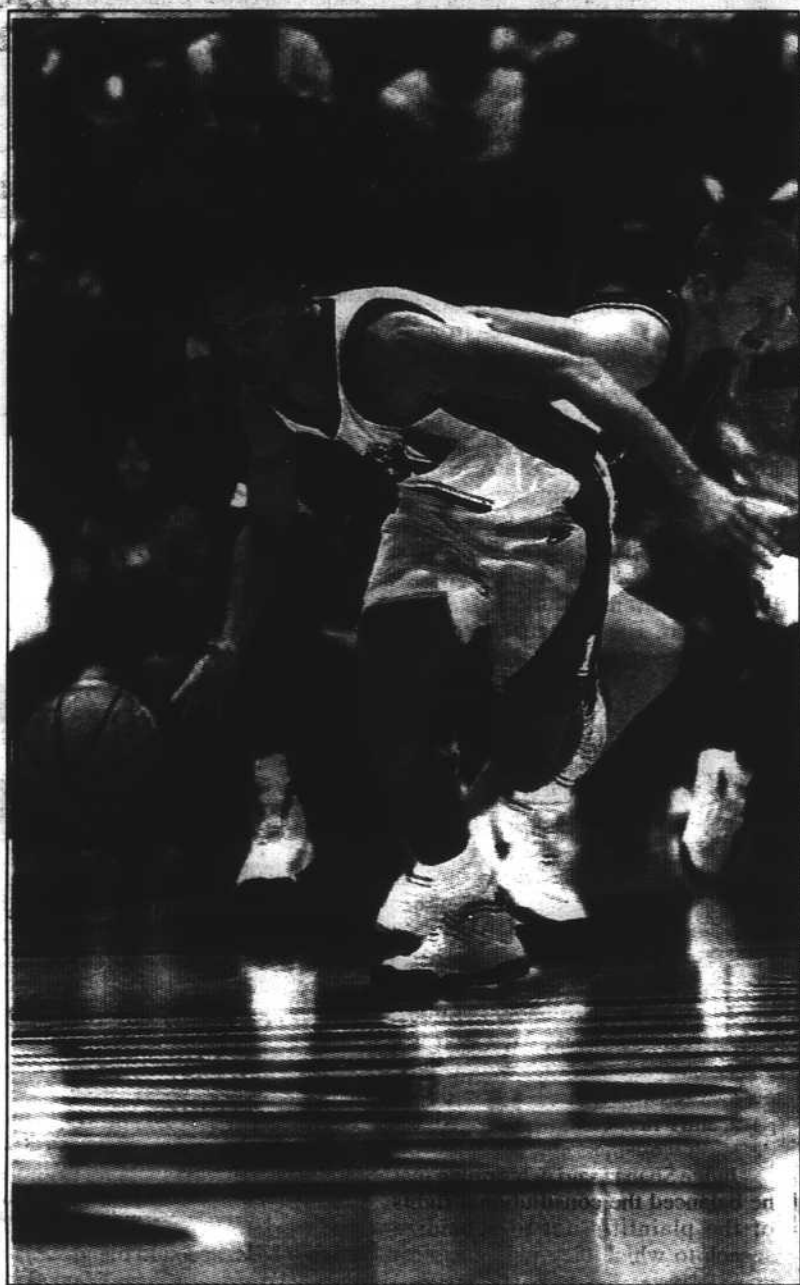
The Big 12 rookie of the week is Texas' Gabe Muoneke. The freshman guard is averaging 13.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game for the Longhorns. Muoneke had a career-high 20 points in 2-0 Texas' 86-69 win over Rhode Island.

The Big 12 football players of the week are Texas quarterback James Brown and Nebraska rush end Grant Wistrom. Brown threw for 336 yards Friday in UT's 51-15 win over Texas A&M. Wistrom became the fourth Husker this year to be named defensive player of the week. Wistrom, the Big 12 defensive player of the year, had 15 tackles and a pair of sacks in NU's 17-12 win over Colorado.

The Big 12 became the first conference in college football history to have six 1,000-yard rushers this season. The group was led by 2,000-yard backs Troy Davis and Byron Hanspard and also included Kansas' June Henley, Oklahoma's DeMont Parker, Texas' Ricky Williams and David Thompson of Oklahoma State.

Nebraska did not have a 1,000-yard rusher this year for the first time since 1990. Sophomore Ahman Green has 917 yards, but he will not play Saturday in the Big 12 championship game.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff reporter Jay Saunders.



JAY CALDERON/DN

TYRONN LUE dribbles upcourt Tuesday night in Nebraska's 79-76 win. Lue led all players with 25 points.

Maser fights through pain, earns praise

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

Stacie Maser has decided to change her attitude after suffering through a devastating knee injury, two surgeries and an endless rehabilitation period.

"I'm just having fun," said Maser, a 6-foot sophomore middle blocker in her second year on the Nebraska volleyball team.

That's not the Maser only difference between Maser's freshman and sophomore seasons. The role she has played for the fourth-ranked Cornhuskers — primarily last weekend in key road victories over Texas and Texas A&M — has changed, too.

Maser was expected to earn significant playing time at middle blocker for the Huskers in 1994, but the highly recruited Lincoln Northeast graduate tore her left anterior cruciate ligament before the season began.

The injury required reconstructive surgery, and she was forced to redshirt.

After extensive rehabilitation, Maser returned for the 1995 season. She had a successful freshman campaign,



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Doage rips Jays for 19 in NU win

BY MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — After watching tape of Nebraska's game with Creighton on Tuesday night, Cornhusker point guard LaToya Doage might learn why her teammates call her "race car."

For the first 10 minutes of the second half, the 5-foot-6 senior raced around the court, harassing the Lady Jays and stealing the basketball.

Once Doage got the steals, she converted them into points to help the Huskers (5-0) dispose of Creighton (0-3) 84-63 before a crowd of 1,101 at Omaha's Civic Auditorium.

Doage finished the game with a career-high 19 points, including 17 in the second half. She also had a career-best seven steals.

"I'm really not a scorer," Doage said. "I'm just a penetrator, and I try to get the assist. If I can get the steal and easy layup, that's my game."

Doage's defense in the second half was crucial. She scored 12 of the Huskers' first 14 points, six of which came on fast-break layups after steals.

"I just told her to worry about her defense at halftime, and everything else would come around," Beck said. "I want her to be a defensive stopper."

NU escapes scare; wins by 3 points

Lue battles a cold to lead the Huskers with 25 points.

BY TREVOR PARKS
Senior Reporter

What awaited the Nebraska basketball team Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center was a team about which the Cornhuskers knew very little.

By the time Darren Webber made a 3-pointer to give Texas-San Antonio a 72-71 lead with 4:10 left, NU knew plenty about the Roadrunners.

But the Huskers (3-1) rallied, outscoring UTSA 8-4 in the final four minutes to beat the Roadrunners (2-2) 79-76 in front of a season-low crowd of 7,693 fans.

"I don't think we overlooked Texas-San Antonio," point guard Tyrone Lue said. "They just came out scrappy, and we came out kind of sluggish."

Lue, who was battling a cold, played well. The 6-foot sophomore didn't spend one minute on the bench, making 10 of 19 shots for a game-high

Texas-San Antonio	76
Nebraska	79

25 points.

Coach Danny Nee said the Huskers were lucky to win despite having an edge in shooting percentage (53.6 to 42.2), grabbing more rebounds (44 to 28) and blocking 10 shots, compared to just two for Texas-San Antonio.

"Tonight's a night that we very easily could have lost the basketball game," Nee said. "I think they outplayed Nebraska in a lot of areas, except the final score."

Mikki Moore, who had 16 points and tied his own school-record with seven blocked shots, said the Huskers woke up just in time.

"We had the word respect up on the board before we went out," Moore said, "but it's just that it is hard to get motivated and psyched up for a game like this."

NU almost got pumped up too late. After Webber — who had a team-high 20 points and nine rebounds for the Roadrunners — put UTSA in front 72-71, Roderic Hall extended the lead to 74-71 with a tip-in.

Please see WIN on 8

NU I-back stable is depleted

Evans may start for the first time Saturday against Texas.

BY MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

With Nebraska's top two I-backs possibly unavailable for Saturday's Big 12 championship game, the Cornhuskers may look to other sources for their yardage.

The third-ranked Huskers play Texas at 12:04 p.m. Saturday in the inaugural conference championship game at the Trans World Dome in St. Louis.

Nebraska will be without the services of sophomore starter Ahman Green, who has a stress fracture in his left foot and will not play.

The Huskers' top backup, senior Damon Benning, sprained his ankle last Friday in NU's 17-12 win over Colorado and didn't practice Monday or Tuesday. Benning also was suffering from the flu on Tuesday.

With the injuries, freshman I-back



Solich

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