



Texas' 37-27 upset of Nebraska in Saturday's Big 12 championship game did not come as a complete shock to Big 12 coaches, even though the Huskers were a 20-point favorite.

"Is the door open?" Kansas State Coach Bill Snyder said. "That's hard to say. A team wins back-to-back national championships and wins nine games the next year and people think it's falling apart. They're still a fine football team."

"I'm not surprised at all," Colorado Coach Rick Neuheisel said. "Not to take anything away from Texas, but the whole country was looking past them. They had everything to gain."

"It was a setup," Neuheisel quipped.

Kansas State's All-American cornerback, Chris Canty, was arrested early Tuesday on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol. Canty, 20, a junior, was stopped by campus police near the KSU student union at 2:53 a.m. for speeding — 32 mph in a 20 mph zone — and for driving with a burned-out taillight.

Iowa State's Heisman Trophy finalist Troy Davis and Texas Tech's Doak Walker Award winner Byron Hanspard finished the season as the nation's two leading rushers. The last time two running backs from the same conference finished 1-2 in the nation in rushing was 1990, when Oklahoma State's Gerald Hudson and Colorado's Eric Bieniemy performed the feat.

Four Big 12 women's basketball teams open this week in The Associated Press Top 25, and Nebraska is knocking at the door, ranked No. 26. The Cornhuskers were last ranked in 1993. Texas Tech is ranked eighth, Texas is 16th, Kansas is No. 18 and Colorado is ranked 21st.

On the men's side, top-ranked KU is 7-0 after beating No. 17 UCLA 96-83 on Saturday. It marks the third time in eight years that the Jayhawks have begun the season with at least seven straight victories. Iowa State is ranked sixth, Texas is No. 13 and Texas Tech is No. 18. Nebraska received two votes.

Nebraska freshman guard Cookie Belcher was named Big 12 rookie of the week after averaging 16 points per game last week in three NU wins. The Mexico, Mo., native's best game was a 22-point outing in an 88-72 win over Coppin State last Friday.

Texas Tech's Cory Carr was named Big 12 player of the week. Carr had a pair of 25-point games, both in Red Raider victories. Carr won the honor in a split vote over Kansas forward Raef LaFrentz.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff reporter Vince D'Adamo.



MATT MILLER/DN

LISA REITSMA (No. 15) and Fiona Nepo celebrate during Nebraska's four-game win over Arkansas last Saturday. The Huskers will play host to the NCAA Tournament's East Regional Friday and Saturday.

NU wary of regional foes

Reitsma and Crnich say inexperience showed in second-round win

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

Two experienced members of the Nebraska volleyball team know the difficulty of advancing to the Final Four of the NCAA Tournament.

And NU's effort Saturday night in a four-game win over Arkansas isn't going to cut it, they said.

Senior Kate Crnich and junior All-American Lisa Reitsma said the Cornhuskers, who play host to

the East Regional tournament this weekend at the NU Coliseum, will need to be more mentally prepared if they are to reach Cleveland and the Dec. 19 through 21 Final Four.

"We should have beat Arkansas in three games," Crnich said. "We're not going to win matches against great teams if we play the way we did."

If NU (28-3) defeats 26-4 Louisville Friday, the Huskers will face either Penn State (30-2) or Wisconsin (25-7) Saturday in match that will determine one Final Four representative.

Nebraska, which is playing host to its seventh regional in the 11 years, owns a 19-1 NCAA Tournament record at the coliseum. The lone loss came two years ago to Penn

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KATE CRNICH
NU outside hitter

State in the finals of the Midwest Regional.

Husker Coach Terry Pettit expressed concerns about a possible matchup with Penn State, which lost to Nebraska last season in regional semifinals.

"It's the best Penn State team I've seen," Pettit said.

Penn State, coached by former

NU assistant Russ Rose, will be making its third straight regional appearance in Lincoln and seventh tournament trip to Nebraska since 1982.

But for Nebraska is to get past Louisville, which is making its sixth straight tournament appearance,

Please see VOLLEY on 8

Bowl shuffle puzzles league coaches

BY TREVOR PARKS
Senior Reporter

Two Bowl Alliance teams.

Another team playing in its first-ever New Year's Day game. Still another team headed to a bowl in which it did not want to play only days ago, and another team playing in its own state.

That's the story of the Big 12 Conference, which has sent Texas Tech, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas State and Texas to postseason games after a disappointing inaugural season.

The Bowl Alliance has placed No. 20 Texas in the Fiesta Bowl against seventh-ranked Penn State on Jan. 1, and sixth-ranked Nebraska in the Or-

ange Bowl against No. 10 Virginia Tech on Dec. 31.

Outside of the Bowl Alliance, three Big 12 teams face difficult matchups.

Texas Tech (7-4) begins the Big 12 bowl season Dec. 29 in the Alamo Bowl against Iowa (8-3) in San Antonio, Texas.

"Without a doubt, the Alamo Bowl is a shot in the arm for our program," Tech Coach Spike Dykes said.

"We thought we were going to the Aloha Bowl, and we were excited. But this game is more

applicable for everybody involved."

Meanwhile, Kansas State Coach Bill Snyder is thrilled to direct the Wildcats into the first Jan. 1 game in school history. KSU, 9-2, will play 13-1 Brigham Young in the Cotton Bowl. KSU played in the Holiday Bowl last season, after playing in the Aloha and Copper bowls the previous two years.

"I've been a great fan of the Cotton Bowl for many years," Snyder said. The Wildcats face an excellent team in Brigham Young, which enters the game with a chance to win an NCAA-record 14 games. The Cougars' lone loss came at Washington. BYU was ranked fifth in the final polls, but Nebraska and Penn State were selected as the at-large teams for the alliance.

"They have all the tools to prove

they should belong," Snyder said. "It will be a motivational factor for them."

Another motivated team is Colorado, which plays 8-3 Washington in the Holiday Bowl on Dec. 30. The Buffs beat KSU 12-0 this year, have more conference wins than KSU and are ranked higher than the Wildcats.

"I'm disappointed in the process," CU Coach Rick Neuheisel said.

Neuheisel is upset because the Cotton Bowl is the unofficial spot for the No. 2 Big 12 team. Last year, CU beat Oregon 38-6 in Dallas, and the Cotton Bowl shied away from a repeat selection.

"We did everything asked of us," Neuheisel said. "For them to bring Kansas State makes economic sense, not Big 12 sense."