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# McClain leads Nebraska rout

Huskers start slow in 24-point win over Central Michigan.

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

When Tina McClain finally relaxed, she realized she could be a major contributor to the Nebraska women's basketball team again.



Last season, McClain was NU's second-leading scorer, averaging 13.8 points per game. But through the Cornhuskers' first seven games this season, the senior from Montrose, Mo., was averaging only 8 points per game.

On Saturday, though — with the Huskers suffering from a Hawaii hangover — McClain scored a team-high 14 points, leading the Huskers to a 72-48 win over 0-4 Central Michigan.

At 8-0, Nebraska tied its best starting mark since the 1992-93 season, when the Huskers lost to LaSalle 92-88 in their ninth game. That team finished 23-8 and won a first-round game in the NCAA Tournament.

"I just felt really good," McClain said. "I haven't had this feeling in a long time. Coach (Angela) Beck just kept telling me to play hard and your offense will come."

"I felt very relaxed," she said. "I have been putting a lot of pressure on myself because I haven't been scoring or producing offensively. I just relaxed and worked hard in the first couple of practices before the game."

More important than McClain's scoring was her rebounding. The 5-foot-10 forward grabbed a game-high 12 rebounds, even though she was often battling players 6-feet or taller.

"I told her (McClain) the two things she needed to do was play defense and rebound, and I thought she really responded," Beck said. "I thought she was the player of the game. I thought our rebounding was very, very strong."

But McClain didn't do it all herself. The Huskers grabbed a season-high 55 rebounds, including 22 offensive boards.

## SU rolls to Cleveland

CARDINAL from page 8

All-Pac-10 team and made the West Regional all-tournament team.

Folk, a 6-2 outside hitter, was the final player cut from the U.S. National Team prior to the Summer Olympics. She has averaged 4.5 kills per game and is hitting .308.

Sharpley, the team's setter, has had to adjust this season to a new offense. With 1995 co-national player of the year Cary Wendell in the lineup the last two seasons along with Sharpley, Shaw had implemented a 6-2 offense — in which two setters are used.

This year, Sharpley, a junior, has directed a traditional 5-1 offense.

"We've played pretty well in our three matches," Shaw said. "This team has a lot of experience being in this position. At the end of the year our conference got to be a little bit of a drag, but now we have cranked it up a notch."

Both NU and the Cardinal enter the match on hot streaks. Nebraska has won 13 straight matches with its last lost coming Oct. 26 at Texas Tech. Stanford has won 12 consecutive matches since losing at Washington State Oct. 27.

Shaw said he admires the job NU Coach Terry Pettit has done this fall.

"He is my pick for coach of the year," Shaw said. "They lost four start-

"We felt the pressure to improve, and I didn't see a great deal of improvement in this game."

**ANGELA BECK**  
NU women's basketball coach

Central Michigan	48
Nebraska	72

Nebraska also held the Chippewas to a season-low 35.1 field-goal percentage. The Huskers, who defeated Iowa, then ranked No. 9, on Dec. 8 in Kona, Hawaii, shot a season-low 34 percent from the field and turned the ball over 25 times.

"Our feeling before this game was we didn't really feel the pressure to win," Beck said. "We felt the pressure to improve, and I didn't see a great deal of improvement in this game."

Central Michigan took an early 10-8 lead, but the Huskers went on a 21-9 run to lead 29-19 when forward Anna DeForge made two free throws.

The Chippewas cut the lead to six and had a chance to make it a four-point game with three minutes remaining in the first half.

But Central Michigan's Tracy Renken missed two free throws and the Huskers went on a 7-0 run to close out the half.

"We needed that," Beck said. "At that point, I felt like we were able to wear them down and we got the ball out. We just kind of played in spurts. We played outstanding basketball for a couple minutes and then sluffed off."

Central Michigan never cut the lead to less than 10 points in the second half.

NU point guard LaToya Doage added 13 points, DeForge had 11 and Charlie Rogers scored 10 points. Husker freshman Brooke Schwartz left the game in the first half with a concussion and did not return.

The Huskers will play host to Southwest Texas State Saturday at 6:05 p.m. and then open the Big 12 Conference season Jan. 4 against Colorado at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

ers, and he has done a great job of putting that team together."

Nebraska enters the match hitting an impressive .306 in its three NCAA tournament matches. As a team, the Huskers are hitting .262. Lisa Reitsma has led NU in the postseason, averaging 6.5 kills per game.

Stanford is making its 10th appearance in the Final Four, but has won the national championship only twice — 1994 and 1992. The Cardinal have played in the title match five times.

The Huskers are making their fourth Final-Four appearance in the last eight years and fifth in school history. NU and Stanford have played seven times with the Cardinal winning five, including the last two matches. Stanford is one of only 14 teams in the nation to own a winning record against Nebraska.

Florida has won 37 straight matches since losing to Hawaii in August at the State Farm/NACWAA Classic. Hawaii won its region on Friday by defeating Brigham Young, which handed the Rainbow Wahine its second loss of the season in the Western Athletic Conference title match.

"All four teams earned their way here by beating good teams," Shaw said. "This is going to be a great Final Four."

# Huskers to battle Gophers

By **DAVID WILSON**  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team will put its six-game winning streak on the line Saturday, when No. 17 Minnesota travels to Lincoln to take on the Cornhuskers at 8:05 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Golden Gophers (6-1) destroyed St. John's 77-39 Sunday, holding the Johnnies to their lowest point total in 33 years.

Last season, Minnesota defeated the Huskers 91-80 in Minneapolis and took a 43-11 lead in the all-time series.

Since the 1994-95 season, Nebraska is 4-13 against ranked opponents and the Huskers have lost each of their last five games to ranked teams, including a season-opening 83-81 loss in overtime at Texas, then ranked 17th.

But Minnesota will not be the end of the Huskers' worries. Nebraska (6-1) will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico, Dec. 30 to play in the San Juan Classic, where they could possibly meet two more ranked foes.

Seventh-ranked Cincinnati, or its first-round opponent, Southeast Missouri State, will play the winner of the Huskers' first-round game against Old Dominion.

Old Dominion is coming off a 18-13 season in the Colonial Athletic Association and will meet Nebraska for the first time in the history of the two schools. The Monarchs are 4-0 this season.

Other first-round San Juan pairings include: Mississippi State against Bowling Green State and 16th-ranked Fresno State against Southwest Missouri State.

Win or lose, each team will play three games, with the championship on Jan. 1 at 7:45 p.m. Nebraska will then finish its four-game road trip in Boulder, Colo., where the Huskers will open Big 12 Conference play against Colorado on Jan. 4.

The Huskers return to Lincoln to play Creighton on Jan. 8 and Texas A&M on Jan. 11.

## NU outlasts Penn State in game five

PSU from page 8

NU to a minus-.088 hitting percentage in game two. For the match, Penn State hit .259, while Nebraska hit just .196. PSU also set a coliseum-record with 40 block assists to the Huskers' 18.

Five Nittany Lions recorded more than 10 kills. In addition to Zemaitis' 19, Cochran had 11, Kammer had 15, Schonveld added 14 and Cacciamani hammered 16 kills.

Nebraska won the first game behind eight kills apiece from Crnich and Reitsma. Crnich finished the match with 15 kills and Reitsma had a match-high 26. Korver had a season-high 18 kills with a .324 hitting percentage.

In game three, NU and PSU were tied at 13 when Lion setter Bonnie Bremner was called for a back row block, a call with which Rose disagreed. On the next play, Cacciamani hit long.

"The first thing I said to my team afterwards was we're blessed," Pettit said.

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