

Sports Opinion



David Wilson

Sutherland's style too rough for Nebraska

COLUMBIA, Mo. — To say the least, Missouri's Jason Sutherland is always intense on the court. But Wednesday night against Nebraska, the 6-foot-1 guard took his intensity a little too far.

Take his two fouls in the first seven minutes of the game. Both intentional and both committed on NU guard Cookie Belcher.

"I think he's a hard player and he's a physical player," Belcher said, "but some of the stuff he does is just stupid. It's uncalled for."

Sutherland's style of play has earned him a reputation from opposing teams and opposing fans.

In Lincoln last Saturday, Sutherland was booed by continually by Cornhusker fans.

Belcher, from Mexico, Mo. — just 30 miles north of Columbia — said he was not surprised he was intentionally fouled by Sutherland.

"I knew as soon as I got the ball what he was going to do," Belcher said. "So I just tried to take it to the hole as hard as I could. I knew he was going to foul me hard."

But Missouri Coach Norm Stewart said he didn't think that Sutherland earned his reputation by playing dirty.

"Jason Sutherland has established himself a reputation," Stewart said. "And that reputation wasn't gathered by cheap shots. That reputation was gathered by diving on the floor."

After playing just five minutes in the first half, Sutherland finished the game with four points in 17 minutes.

But he made the shot that counted the most.

With 11 seconds left, and NU leading 74-73, Husker forward Larry Florence fouled out of the game sending forward Tyron Lee to the free-throw line.

Lee tied the game making his first free throw, but he had to leave the game with blood on his arm.

With the game on the line, Stewart looked to his gritty player who leads the Big 12 Conference in free-throw shooting. Sutherland sank the shot giving Missouri a 75-74 lead that would become a final when Belcher missed a free throw.

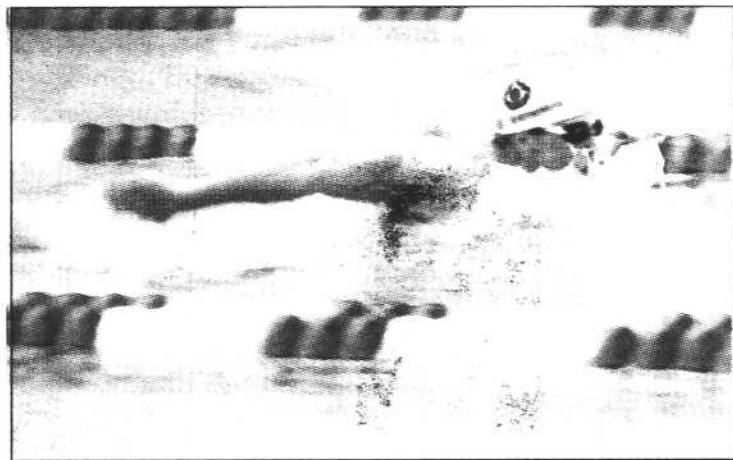
In the second half, Sutherland controlled himself fouling just once. It came 20 seconds after he was fouled by Florence. The two became entangled, resulting in a scuffle between the two teams — including the coaches.

Stewart stood up for Sutherland. "It's really unfortunate and unfair," Stewart said. "But I can tell you one thing: He can take it."

For the record, Sutherland refused to talk with reporters after the game.

Wilson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Ne-

Pine flies into Husker record book



MATT MILLER

NEBRASKA SWIMMER Adam Pine practices his butterfly. Pine holds the nation's fastest time in the 100-yard butterfly this season.

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

Adam Pine was so close to qualifying for the 1996 Summer Olympics he could almost taste it.

But when Pine's hand touched the edge of the pool at the end of the 100-meter butterfly, a time of 54.02 seconds flashed on the scoreboard. That left him in third place, one spot shy of making the Australian Olympic team.

The native of Ballina, Australia, was left wondering what went wrong.

"I was really disappointed after missing the Olympics," Pine said, "especially because I was only off by about a tenth of a second."

"That's when I started looking at

my other options, and it's what brought me to the United States."

A need for intense competition and training and a desire to further his education is what brought him to Lincoln, he said. Once Pine arrived, it took him only three months to begin to rewrite the men's swimming record book.

Last month at the Texas Invite, Pine broke the NU school record in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 47.47, a time that currently leads all NCAA swimmers. In fact, no one has bettered the 48 second mark this year.

Assistant Coach Keith Moore — who coaches the Cornhuskers' sprinters — said he expects nothing less from Pine.

Please see **PINE** on 11

Huskies make point against MU

Nebraska women beat Missouri for second-straight time.

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team beat Missouri by 16 at Columbia, Mo., just four days ago. So what happened Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center was hardly the unexpected.

Although a letdown was feasible, Coach Angela Beck warned the Cornhuskers that beating the Tigers twice this week wasn't enough. NU needed to win, and it needed to win big.

Despite owning the seventh-highest winning percentage in the nation and the best overall record in the Big 12 Conference, unranked Nebraska has been shunned from the top 25.

"I told the players we wouldn't be measured by if we won, but by how we won," Beck said. "We knew that was the most important thing."

"We need to continue to impress upon people how good we are capable of being."

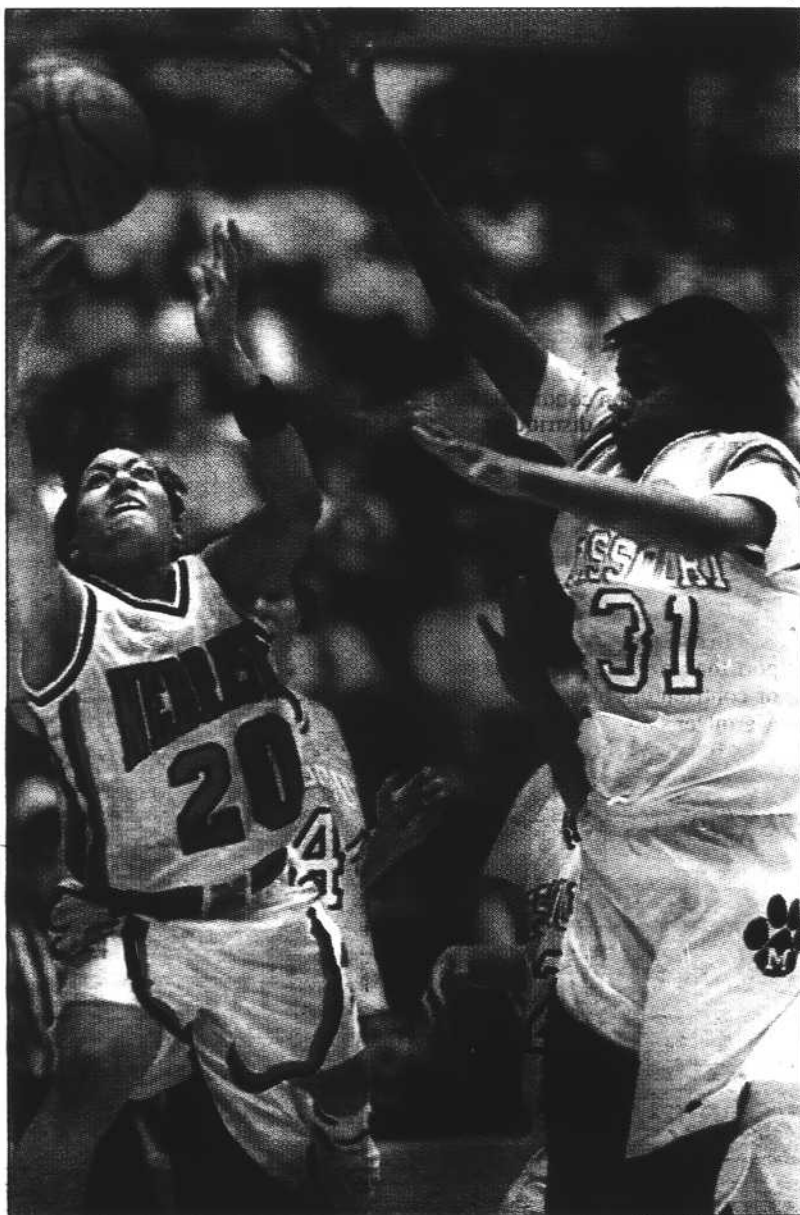
The Huskers took those words to heart, blasting Missouri 84-46 in front of 1,468 fans at the Devaney Center Wednesday night. NU (14-1 overall and 4-1 in the Big 12 Conference) dominated Missouri (7-12 and 0-6) in nearly every statistical category.

NU, winners of five straight games, established season highs in field-goal percentage (57.6) and blocked shots (7). And although the Tigers won the battle of the boards 42-35, they converted just 21 of 62 field-goal attempts.

Forward Anna DeForge, who was named the conference player of the week after exploding for 31 points in NU's 82-66 victory over Missouri last week, said the Huskers accomplished their goal of wasting MU.

"This game was just perfect," said DeForge, who scored a game-high 18 points and grabbed five rebounds. "We wanted to keep them under 55 points and we did that. We kept them under 40 percent shooting and that's another thing we wanted to do."

NU's full-court press defense limited the Tigers to only four points in



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NEBRASKA GUARD LaToya Doage goes up for a shot against Missouri's Keshia Bonds. Doage scored 12 points as NU beat the Tigers for the second time in four nights.

the first 12 minutes of the game. Missouri scored on consecutive buckets for the first time in half with 2:30 remaining as the Huskers carried a 34-12 lead into the locker room.

Missouri made only six field goals and didn't attempt a free throw in the first 20 minutes.

"We had a really good focus in the first half," DeForge said. "We came out fast and created steals right away and that led to some easy shots."

The Tigers attempted to make things interesting after the break.

After NU gained possession on a disputed out-of-bounds call, Missouri chipped went on a 9-0 run to chip away at the Huskers' 20-point lead. The Tigers cut the lead to 11 and Beck called timeout.

"I told the team we were starting to play right into their hands," Beck said. "It was a methodical style. I told them

"I told them they were putting me to sleep."

ANGELA BECK
NU women's basketball coach

they were putting me to sleep."

The Huskers responded with a 12-0 run to extend their lead to 53-30. NU outscored the Tigers 31-16 as 14 different Husker players saw action.

Five Huskers scored in double figures. After DeForge's 18, Tina McClain had 14, LaToya Doage added 12, Jami Kubik scored 10 and freshman Brooke Schwartz came off the bench to score 14 points and grab six rebounds.

NU comes up short; Mizzou holds on

Cookie Belcher's miss from the free-throw line seals the Tigers' win.

By MITCH SHERMAN
Senior Reporter

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Hounded all night by an unforgiving crowd, Cookie Belcher held in his hands a perfect chance to silence the Hearnes Center on Wednesday with one free throw.

One simple free throw.

But in the same arena at which the true freshman on the Nebraska basketball team won a **Lue** state title less than two years ago, Belcher missed the front end of one-and-one opportunity, sealing Missouri's 75-74 win.

With 1.7 seconds to play in a see-saw battle before a seemingly angry crowd of 13,300, MU's Danny Allouche fouled Belcher in a scramble to rebound a missed tip of Tyronn Lue's errant 15-foot jumper.

After two full timeouts with the Tigers up by one point, Belcher stepped to the line and the crowd rose to its feet.

"It left my hands and it felt good," said the 6-foot-3 guard from Mexico, Mo., who has converted a team-low 45 percent of his free-throw attempts this season. "But when I saw it hit the back of the rim, I just wished one of my teammates got the rebound."

Before either team controlled the ball, the game clock expired, spoiling the Huskers' chance to sweep MU for the first time in four seasons.

"I didn't think the game was lost on the last free throw," said Nebraska

Please see **TIGERS** on 11