

Sports Opinion



Vince D'Adamo

Husker Invite stirs hunger for records

When you go to party, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails are always a good way to get things warmed up. But after awhile, everyone hungers for the main course.

The first three meets of the Nebraska men's and women's track and field seasons have been that appetizer, a prelude for this weekend's showcase event.

The 23rd-annual Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational is the real meal with more than 700 athletes representing 75 teams competing.

Although some Cornhusker athletes have had good early season outings, the intensity of those meets have been short of earthshaking.

But if history is any indication, records could fall at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track this weekend like a boxer hitting the canvas after a right cross from Evander Holyfield. If you attend the meet remember this, records will go down, and they will go down hard.

Since record-breaking feats happen every Husker Invite, this year will be no different. It's only a question of whom and in which event. To prove my point, look no further than last season's invite.

Does UCLA shot putter Valeyta Althouse's name ring a bell? It should. Althouse set the NCAA shot put record at last year's Frank Sevigne.

On NU's side, how about Joe Laster? Laster broke the Husker Invite long jump record. Or Tressa Thompson? She eclipsed the Husker school record in the shot put.

After a toss of 57 feet 5 1/2 inches at the Nebraska Open, Thompson said she planned on setting the NCAA record in two weeks.

So now is her time — that throw was two weeks ago. If Thompson sets the mark, she might as well be proclaimed a prophet.

If you are looking for fraudulent talent, avoid the Devaney Center track.

At last year's Husker Invite, 21 NCAA automatic marks and 88 provisional qualifying times were achieved.

"The main purpose is to bring in teams from across the country to compete at a real high level." NU Coach Gary Pepin said.

If an athlete sets a record this weekend, the accomplishment could be a springboard for the remainder of the season, NU sprinter Tom Fish said.

"I'll look to see where I'm stacked up."

After Saturday, some athletes will earn the right to pack their bags for the NCAA Indoor Championships, March 7 and 8 in Indianapolis. And it won't be to see the famed Indianapolis 500 racetrack.

D'Adamo is a senior broadcasting major and Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Huskers run over at CU

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

BOULDER, Colo. — When Colorado beat Nebraska on Jan. 4 in Lincoln the Buffaloes broke the Cornhuskers nine-game win streak.

Colorado's 73-52 victory over NU Wednesday night in Boulder, Colo., broke the Huskers' hearts this time.

Nebraska Coach Angela Beck said she was very disappointed in the performance of the Huskers (16-2 overall and 6-3 in the Big 12 Conference), whose team has never won at the Coors Event Center.

"I'm really upset with how we played," Beck said. "I'm very disap-

pointed with this loss. We had a chance to come in here and be tied for the Big 12 lead and we just choked. We had a lack of leadership tonight."

With the win and Kansas' loss to Missouri Wednesday night the Buffaloes (13-7 and 7-2) moved into a three-way tie for first in the North Division with the Jayhawks.

The Buffs showed a lot of leadership from their senior posts Raegan Scott and Erin Scholz. Scholz finished

the game with 14 points, 12 of which came in the second half. While Scott scored 13, eight coming in the first half. CU had five players score double figures.

"We never established a post game tonight," Beck said. "The worst about it is this is the worst we ever looked."

The Buffaloes opened the game with a 9-2 run as the Huskers hit just one of their first seven shots.

Nebraska junior Anna DeForge, who led the Huskers with 17 points said the Buffaloes opening run and NU's 10 first half turnovers, killed the team's confidence.

"We couldn't get anything to go our way," DeForge said. "The turnovers really killed us and then we lost

Nebraska	52
Colorado	73

our confidence. Once we lost our confidence it went downhill from there."

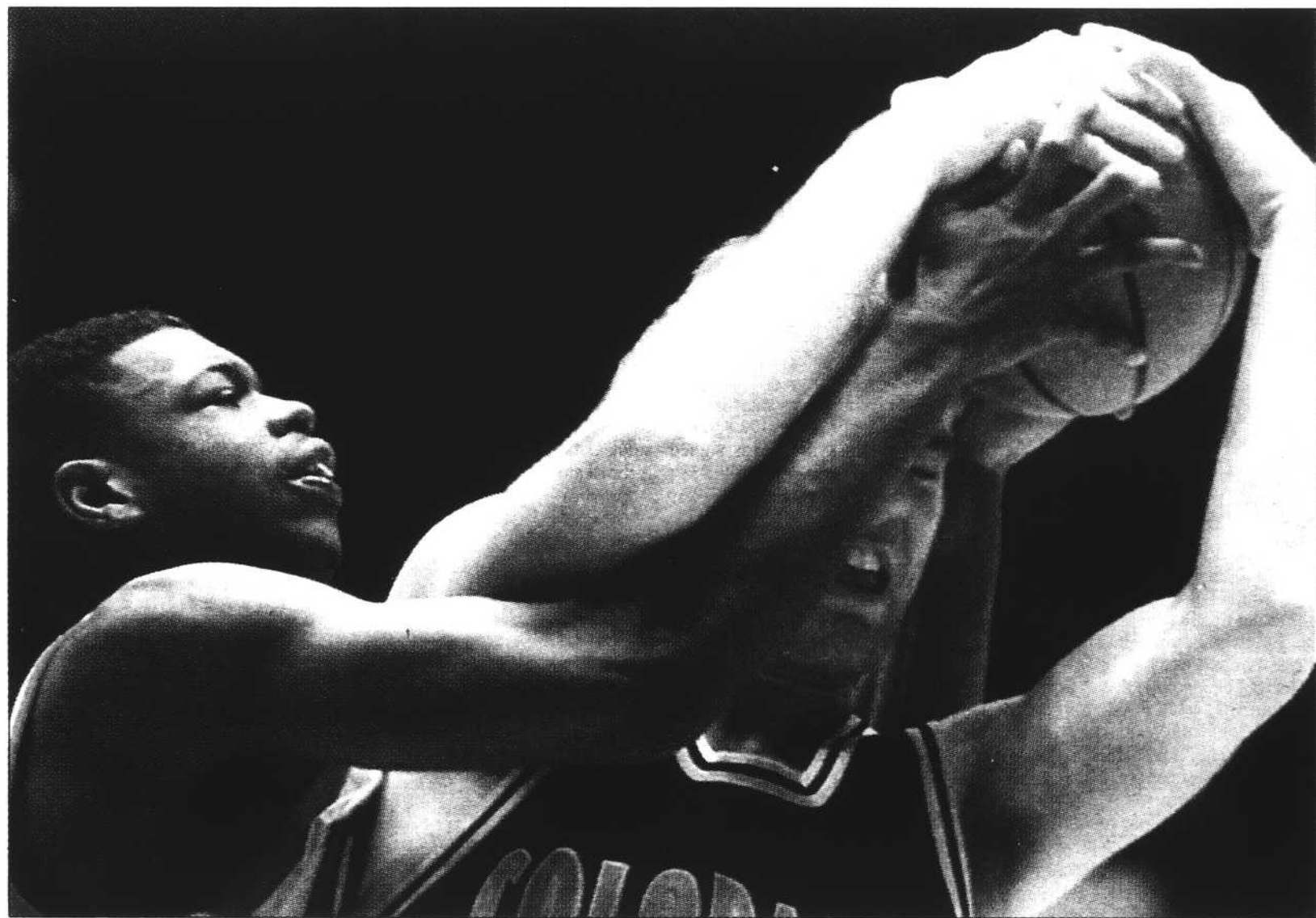
CU Coach Ceal Barry was also disappointed with the Buffaloes turnovers. Colorado finished the game with 20 turnovers, down from the season-high 26 they had last month in Lincoln.

Barry said she was pleased with the way the Buffaloes defense limited the Huskers to making just one of seven 3-point shots.

"Our defensive intensity was really better this game," Barry said. "We're doing a better job of reading situations."



Beck



MATT MILLER/DN

VENSON HAMILTON battles CU's Dennis Griffin for the ball in Nebraska's 77-69 win Wednesday night.

NU snaps skid with 8-point win

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

By turning Saturday's wrong into Wednesday night's right, the Nebraska basketball team reversed its recent fortune and snapped a four-game losing skid at the hands of No. 15 Colorado.

Four days to mull a 28-turnover, overtime loss to No. 1 Kansas left the Cornhuskers with careful hands Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Nebraska committed just four turnovers in first half and 11 for the game — tying a season low — to down Colorado 77-69 before a crowd of 12,398.

"We've really been talking about that for the last two days," Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said. "This is just a good win for us. I felt we had to win this game. We had to start winning at home."

NU (12-9 overall and 4-5 in the Big 12 Conference) equalled its league win total from a year ago and denied the Buffaloes (16-5 and 7-2) a share of Big 12 lead. The victory, Nebraska's first since Jan. 18, gives the Huskers valuable momentum heading into Saturday's visit to No. 23 Texas Tech, the last of four straight ranked opponents.

"It feels good," said Husker center Mikki Moore, who scored 14 points in 36 minutes. "But we know we can't savor it right now, because we're still behind from all the losses that we had. We just use this as motivation and go from here."

Point guard Tyrone Lue scored 20 of his team-high 22 points in the second half — including 11 in the final four minutes — and forward Larry Florence added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

"We took care of the ball a lot bet-

ter tonight," said Lue, who had two turnovers after committing 10 against Kansas on Saturday. "I thought we showed a lot of heart. We stayed strong, and we executed when we had to."

Colorado's Chauncey Billups connected for a career-high 35 points, hitting 7 of 11 3-pointers, but no other Buffalo scored more than nine points. Billups credited Lue for providing the knockout punch Wednesday night.

"He's a great player," Billups said. "There's nobody in the league as fast as him. I feel that they are the second-best team in the Big 12, talent-wise."

NU led 31-27 at intermission and never trailed in the second half. After a Charlie Melvin free throw cut the Husker lead to 64-61, Lue drilled a 3 from the top of the key with 3:23 left.

Despite two long 3-pointers from Billups in the last 90 seconds, CU never came closer than three points.

Colorado	69
Nebraska	77

Two Florence free throws with 12 seconds to play iced the win.

For the last 16 minutes of the games, NU played without guard Cookie Belcher, who left for locker room after Martice Moore accidentally jabbed him in the face.

Nebraska shot 59.3 percent from the field in the second half after a 31.1-percent effort before halftime. For the game, Colorado sank just 40.7 percent of its shots.

NU held the Buffs to just one field goal during a 13 1/2-minute stretch in the first half after CU took an early 10-2 lead.

"Colorado's a really good basketball team," Nee said. "They deserve their ranking. We just needed a win against a quality basketball team, and we got it."