

# Sports

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## Sports Opinion



### Almost too late, women athletes earn recognition

This is the way it should be. An entire National Women in Sports Month to shed light on the accomplishments of women athletes.

But for the past 11 years, the first Thursday of February has been set aside as National Girls and Women in Sports Day with this year's event celebrated on Feb. 6.

It's a day when thousands of sports educators, coaches, athletic directors, corporate sponsors and others sponsor events honor the achievements of women in sports, and also look at the issues that face female athletes still in society today.

Now it's an entire month. NGWSD was started in 1987 as a day to honor U.S. Olympic volleyball great Flo Hyman for not only her success on the court, but her work to establish equality for women's athletics.

Hyman was an incredible player who helped lead the U.S. team to a silver medal in the 1984 Olympic games. It was the first time a U.S. women's sports team won any medal in an Olympic games.

She went on to play for a club team in Japan before suffering a fatal heart attack during a match in 1986.

The day originally set aside for one great athlete now honors all women.

Through the years the NGWSD has developed a three-step mission plan. The first step is to call attention to positive influences in sports; the second is to acknowledge past and present sports achievements of women in sports; and third, to advance the struggle for equality and access for women in sports.

In the past 11 years there have been many advancements to help women gain stronger and equal standards in athletics.

Through the court system and government regulation in the form of Title IX — which celebrates its 25th anniversary in June — women's athletics are on a more even playing field with men's sports.

This past year some Nebraska high schools added softball programs to give girls more chances to participate in extracurricular activities.

At Nebraska, soccer has been added to give more opportunities to women athletes. Within the next two years, bowling will be added to help provide even more chances.

NGWSD has helped push these changes to the forefront and make people realize the discrepancies women athletes faced in the past.

One day, we won't need a special day because every day will be a successful reminder that women's sports programs can flourish on their own.

Kluck is a graduate journalism student and a Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter.

# Huskers scrape past UNI

Hamilton scores 16 points and grabs 17 rebounds in NU's win.

By MITCH SHERMAN  
Senior Reporter

CEDAR FALLS, Iowa — Two years ago, Northern Iowa's basketball arena — the UNI-Dome — collapsed. Thursday night when given the chance to do the same, Nebraska did not.

By fighting off a late UNI run to prevail 77-69 on Thursday, the Cornhuskers won on an opponent's floor for the first time since Dec. 11. And although the Missouri Valley Con-

ference Panthers aren't exactly a Big 12 power, a win is a win. Coach Danny Nee said, and Nebraska's happy to take it.

"We just needed a win," Nee said after the game played before a crowd of 3,210 magnified by the UNI-Dome's unorthodox acoustics. "Northern Iowa is a quality basketball team. They played with a lot of confidence and they cause a lot of trouble."

Nebraska improved its record to 13-11 after a one-game conference hiatus, but must quickly focus its attention on Texas, which brings a 14-7 record into Lincoln on Sunday.

"We knew we had to win this game," said Husker forward Venson Hamilton, whose monster first half

carried NU to a 33-31 lead at the break. "I hadn't had a good game in a long time."

Hamilton, who scored 16 points with 17 rebounds, two blocked shots and two steals, notched a double-double in the first half. Hamilton said he was inspired to play well after Nebraska's dismal performance Monday night in an eight-point loss at Kansas State.

"I was so mad," he said, "so I took it out on Northern Iowa."

During a 2½-minute stretch late in the first half that left the Huskers leading 31-24, Hamilton recorded two dunks, a turnaround hook shot in the lane, three rebounds, one steal, one blocked shot and an acrobatic save of

Nebraska	77
Northern Iowa	69

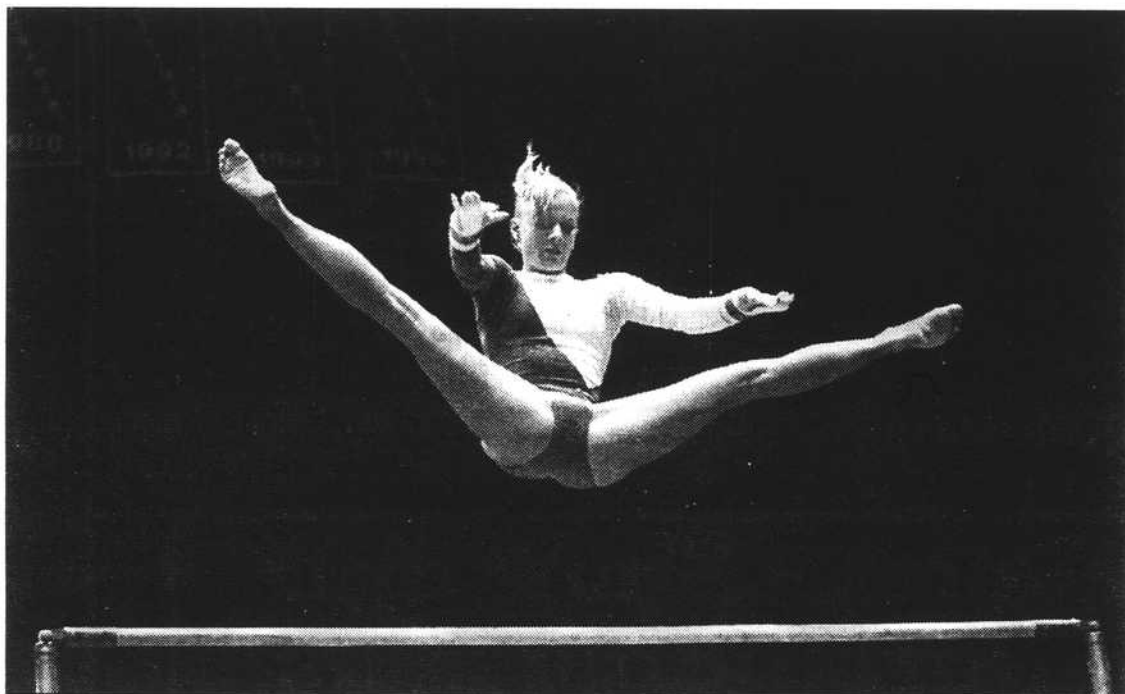
a loose ball falling out of bounds.

But without the torrid 20 minutes from NU's 6-foot-9 sophomore, the Huskers may have been looking at a large deficit heading into the second half. Center Mikki Moore picked up three fouls in four first-half minutes and played only seven minutes the entire night, posting four points and two rebounds.

"Mikki might as well have stayed on the bus," Nee said. "He didn't show up tonight."

Jason Daisy certainly showed up.

Please see UNI on 10



MATT MILLER/DN

KIM DEHAAN competes on the uneven bars earlier this season. NU plays host to Denver Saturday night at 7.

## NU won't overlook Denver

Women gymnasts start three-meet homestand.

By GREGG MADSEN  
Staff Reporter

Even though the University of Denver isn't known as a women's gymnastics powerhouse, the Ne-



Bartlett

braska women's team isn't planning on overlooking the Pioneers Saturday night.

The sixth-ranked Cornhuskers (8-1) play host to Denver (4-1) Saturday night at 7 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in the first meet of a three-meet homestand.

Nebraska Assistant Coach Rob Drass said the Pioneers are not a pushover.

"Denver's got a good team," Drass said. "They scored a 195 at home last weekend, and any time a team can do that, you know they've got some talent."

The Pioneers upset No. 8 Washington in Denver last weekend, scoring a school-record

195.225 to the Huskies' 194.150. Denver also set school bests on the vault (49.025) and the balance beam (49).

Senior Shelly Bartlett said the Huskers can't ignore Denver's success.

"They're going to be a difficult team to beat," Bartlett said. "We'll have to hit on all of our routines and do well to beat them."

The Pioneers are led by sophomore Robyn King and freshman Jennifer White, who placed second and third in the all-around against Washington.

White has won the all-around in two of the Pioneers' five meets this year, and won the floor exercise in their last three.

King scored a 39.3 in the all-around against Washington, a score nearly as high the 39.375 Bartlett scored at Michigan.

Bartlett's score tied her personal best and earned third place against the Wolverines. The Spokane, Wash., native also set a personal best on the vault with a 9.925 and tied senior Kim DeHaan for second on the floor exercise with a 9.9.

The loss to Michigan -- the Huskers' lone loss of the season -- hasn't hurt Nebraska's confidence, Bartlett said.

"Actually, we were pretty proud of how we did," Bartlett said. "I mean, we counted one fall on bars

"They're going to be a difficult team to beat."

SHELLY BARTLETT  
NU women's gymnast

and none on beam. We were pretty excited."

Drass said NU will again rely on a balanced attack Saturday. The Huskers have scored over a 49 or better on each event this season, and Drass said he expects NU's scores to improve.

The Huskers might be without freshman Heather Brink in the all-around, Drass said. Brink injured her foot against the Wolverines, and Drass said she may compete in every event except the floor exercise.

Sophomores Courtney Brown and Amie Dillman will compete Saturday night, but Drass said the two were still are not at 100 percent. Drass said the team is excited about performing at home.

"We're getting healthier," Drass said. "We're not healthy yet, but we're to the point where we can feel a lot more comfortable about where we are."

## Longhorns need win for tourney run

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff Reporter

Texas Men's Basketball Coach Tom Penders knows what his team needs to do to accomplish its goal of reaching the NCAA Tournament.

Penders said his team probably needs to win at least two of its final five regular season games to make the field of 64 for the fourth straight season.

The Longhorns (14-7 overall and 8-3 in the Big 12 Conference) visit Lincoln to take on Nebraska (13-11 and 4-7) in a 1:07 p.m. televised game at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Sunday.

"We feel we need a couple of more wins," Penders said of his team's chances to make the NCAA Tournament. "The faster we can get them the better."

Texas gets its shot at the first win Penders desires Sunday against the Cornhuskers, a team the Longhorns defeated earlier this season.

NU and UT played its season-opener against each other in a non-conference game at Austin, Texas. The Longhorns held off a late NU rally to earn an 83-81 overtime win as Tyrone Lue's 30-foot shot at the buzzer timed out.

Twenty games later, the Longhorns and Huskers have gone in different di-

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## Men's Basketball Starters

Sunday, 1:07 p.m.  
Devaney Center

Nebraska 13-11 (4-7)

F 4	Venson Hamilton	6-9	240	So.
F 5	Larry Florence	6-5	225	So.
C 32	Mikki Moore	6-11	220	Sr.
G 30	Cookie Belcher	6-3	200	Fr.
G 10	Tyrone Lue	6-0	170	So.

Texas 14-6 (8-3)

F 3	Gabe Muoneke	6-7	230	Fr.
F 15	Kris Clack	6-5	205	So.
C 50	Dennis Jordan	6-9	210	Sr.
G 32	Reggie Freeman	6-6	205	Sr.
G 31	DeJuan Vazquez	6-4	210	So.