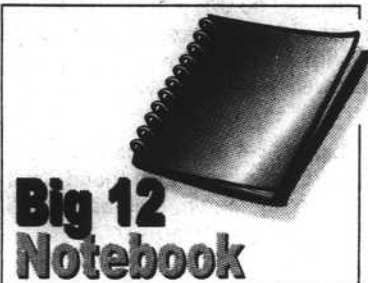


Sports

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1997

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The Nebraska women's basketball team dropped out of The Associated Press Top 25 poll after losing at Kansas State last Wednesday. NU, which was ranked 23rd, received 59 votes — the most of any unranked team. Other Big 12 Conference teams that are ranked include No. 9 Texas, 12th-ranked Kansas and No. 14 Texas Tech.

Missouri is raising funds to build a new basketball arena by the 1999-2000 season. The 13,343-seat Hearnes Center opened in 1972 but is inadequate for the Tigers' needs.

The arena has locker room facilities that are too small, and does not feature luxury boxes. The estimated price tag for the new facility, which will feature a larger seating capacity and luxury boxes, is \$40-50 million.

A \$10 million donation by Bill and Nancy Laurie has sped up plans for the opening of the arena.

Former Texas Tech running back Byron Hanspard is reported to have had a 0.00 grade-point average for the 1996 fall semester. Hanspard, who rushed for more than 2,000 yards last season as a junior, declared himself eligible for the National Football League draft.

NU Coach Danny Nee will go for his 200th win as the Cornhuskers coach against Baylor on Wednesday. Nee, who holds the second longest tenure of Big 12 Conference coaches behind Missouri's Norm Stewart, said winning 200 games is no big deal.

"They're (wins) getting harder and harder to get," Nee said, "but if you stay around long enough, even a blind squirrel can find a nut."

The Big 12 lost a team from The Associated Press Top 25 men's basketball poll. Texas Tech, which was ranked 22nd, dropped out following a 77-76 overtime loss at Baylor. Kansas continued to hold down the No. 1 spot with 68 of a possible 70 first-place votes. Monday night, KU avenged its only loss by beating Missouri 79-67 in Lawrence. Iowa State moved from ninth to seventh, and Colorado dropped from 15th to 21st.

Baylor's Patrick Hunter, who scored a career-high 26 points in the Bears' upset over Texas Tech, was named the Big 12 men's basketball player of the week. Melissa Rollerson of Texas A&M earned the women's honor with a 30-point, five blocked shot effort in the Aggies' first road league win of the season at Oklahoma State. Rollerson tied the school record with her five blocks.

Big 12 Notebook was compiled by staff reporter Pete Marhoefer.

NU pushes Texas to limit

Husker women lose in overtime to No. 9 Longhorns.

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

AUSTIN, Texas — The Nebraska women's basketball team knew Texas doesn't extend much Texas-style hospitality at the Frank Erwin Events Center.

After all, the Longhorns had won nine of their 10 games at the Erwin Center this season with the lone loss coming in overtime to No. 8 Tennessee.

But Nebraska proved to be the guest who wouldn't leave before falling 71-70 in overtime to the ninth-ranked Longhorns Monday night before a crowd of 6,762 at the Erwin Center in Austin.

"I'm really proud of them," NU Coach Angela Beck said. "We weren't intimidated of them and our attitude was great. This is one of the toughest places in the country to play and Tennessee had to go to

overtime to beat them. If we are up there with them, I guess I'll take it."

Texas Coach Jody Conradt said she was pleased with the Longhorns' performance, but she was equally impressed with the Huskers' composure.

"My congratulations go to Nebraska," Conradt said. "I really commend them on how they played. This is not one of the easier places to play and they came in here and weren't intimidated."

The Huskers (17-5 overall and 7-5 in the Big 12 Conference) gave themselves a good opportunity to win in overtime.

Nebraska built a 68-63 lead in the extra period when forward Anna

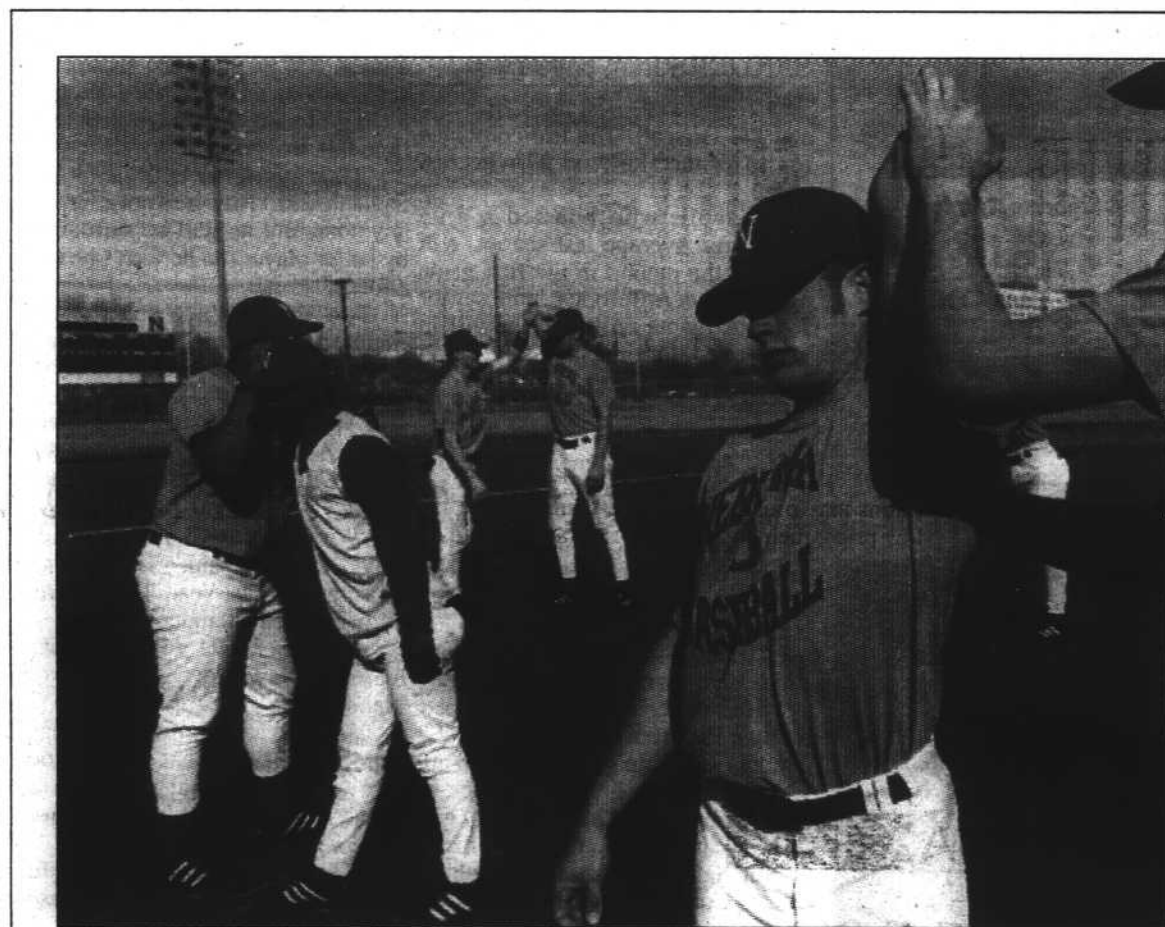
DeForge hit a 3-pointer with 2:17 remaining.

The Longhorns answered back scoring four straight points to close within 68-67 with 1:01 left. But the Huskers went up by three again when DeForge converted two free throws with 34 seconds remaining.

On the Longhorns' next possession, Texas center Angela Jackson missed a jumper but rebounded her own miss and made a follow shot to bring Texas within one with 26 seconds left.

DeForge was fouled on NU's next possession, but missed the front end

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FRANCIS COLLINS (right) and Clifton Durham stretch before baseball practice Monday. NU plays UNK this afternoon at Buck Beltzer Field.

Huskers swing into season

By David Wilson
Staff Reporter

A last place finish in the final season of the Big Eight Conference won't haunt the Nebraska baseball team this season.

"We weren't very pleased with last year," said NU Coach John Sanders of the Cornhuskers 27-27-1 performance last year. "It wasn't a good year and it wasn't a lot of fun. That's not typical for us. The new guys don't want to hear about last year."

The Cornhuskers, who defeated Wayne State 6-5 on Feb. 1 in their season opener, take the field for the first time in more than two weeks for a 1 p.m. double-header at Buck Beltzer Field against the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

NU's pitching staff, Sanders said, will be the key to the Huskers' survival in the first year of Big 12 baseball.

"This league is known as what I call a nose-to-toes league," Sanders said. "It's unbutton your shirts and rip and score runs, and who's

Baseball
Today 1 p.m. (DH)
Buck Beltzer Field
Nebraska (1-0) vs. UNK (0-0)

NU Starting Pitchers

No.	Name	Rec.
25	Pete Dineen	(0-0)
27	Jonas Armenta	(0-0)

ever left standing wins. And we're short — big-time short. We've been short for a few years as far as depth of pitching.

"We need more pitching depth than we've ever needed."

Nebraska returns 10 pitchers with experience, including five seniors, and welcomes 12 new arms to the staff.

Highlighting the first-year Husker pitchers are transfers Kerrick Jackson, from Bethune Cookman and South Alabama's Derek Adair. Both have just one year of eligibility left.

Sanders said NU's three-man starting rotation will likely include seniors Peter Lythgoe, Steve Fish

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Nebraska Baseball Roster

No.	Name	Pos.
2	Clifton Durham	IF
3	Jay Stramm	P
4	Kevin Harrington	2B
5	Bryan Schmidt	SS
6	Robby Butler	3B/OF
7	Steve Lythgoe	C
8	Francis Collins	OF
10	Eric Johnson	OF
12	Jason Fry	P/OF
13	Steve Lythgoe	P
17	Craig Moore	INF
18	Timothy Johnson	P
19	Jared Bearinger	P/UT
20	Steve Fish	P
21	Seth Williams	P
22	Damon Sandoval	P
24	Gabe Garcia	1B/OF
26	Scott Schultz	OF
27	Jonas Armenta	P
28	Brian Zuber	P
30	Derek Adair	P
34	Peter Lythgoe	P
43	Todd Sears	1B

Huskers show stuff at combine

By Sam McKewon
Staff Reporter

The off-season has seen its share of good and bad for former Nebraska football players preparing for April's National Football League draft.

The good came in the form of Mike Minter, who posted a strong showing at the Feb. 7 and 8 NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis. Minter said he improved his draft status,

and may be in line to become a low first-round or high second-round pick.

The bad came for All-America rush end Jared Tomich, who suffered a stress fracture in his ankle while practicing at middle linebacker last month for the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala.

Nine NU players worked out for the scouts at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis: Minter, Tomich, Damon Benning, Michael Booker, Jon Hesse, Eric Stokes, Adam Treu, Chris Dishman and Jamel Williams. Booker, a cornerback, is the only Husker projected as a probable first-round selection.

Minter, a 5-foot-10, 190-pounder who played rover at Nebraska, said he was pleased with his performance at the scouting combine. Scouts mainly looked at him as someone who will play in the secondary.

"I think I did a good job and helped myself out, considering the conditions," Minter said.

Minter said Seattle and Dallas expressed the most interest in him. The New York Giants and New York Jets also took a liking to Minter, he said.

"I want to go where the coaching wants to win and the players want to put that together."

Benning, a running back who attended the combine but didn't perform in the physical testing, said he hoped an MVP performance in the Orange Bowl improved his stock.

"The Orange Bowl showed some teams what I was capable of and some things they haven't seen out of me in the past," Benning said. "It did a lot for me."

Benning said he has spoken with

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