

LaFrentz grows from injuries Tournament fields set

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Besides being ranked No. 1, which means getting every opponent's best shot, the Kansas basketball team has had many other obstacles to overcome this season.



LaFrentz

The Jayhawks played the first 10 games of the season without point guard Jacque Vaughn, who suffered a broken right wrist over the summer. Kansas did not miss a beat without its senior leader and picked up wins against No. 9 Cincinnati and at No. 10 UCLA.

Then nine games after Vaughn's return senior center Scott Pollard broke his foot and missed eight games. Despite losing in double overtime to Missouri without Pollard, the Jayhawks still kept their No. 1 ranking.

Now with the team healthy, Kansas is prepared to make a run at its season-long goal of winning the NCAA Tournament.

But if the Jayhawks make it to the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis — the sight of this year's Final Four — KU may look back at those injuries as a key ingredient to its run.

For it was Pollard's injury that awakened the real ability of Raef LaFrentz. In LaFrentz's first game against Nebraska this year the junior forward scored 20 points — 11 in the

overtime period to lead Kansas to a 82-77 win.

"Raef has always had the skills," Pollard said. "When I was out there I probably distracted him. He has developed a confidence in the last few games now that he has played without me. He's had to step up, and the numbers just came up because I wasn't taking away his numbers."

In the first 19 games with Pollard and LaFrentz both in the KU lineup, LaFrentz, a native of Monona, Iowa, averaged 17.2 points per game. Since Pollard's injury LaFrentz averages 22.1 points and nine rebounds per game.

Sunday in the Jayhawks' 85-65 victory at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, LaFrentz scored 16 points and grabbed six boards by halftime as KU built a 13-point lead. LaFrentz finished the game with 23 points and 10 rebounds, picking up his 17th double-double of the season and fourth in the last five games.

Vaughn said the Jayhawks wanted to get the ball to the 6-foot-11, 235-pound LaFrentz in the first half. On the game's very first play LaFrentz scored on an alley-oop jam to start KU's momentum.

"That was a definite concentrated effort on our part," Vaughn said. "We definitely wanted to get the ball inside. We watched the tape from the last game and saw we did better inside. We're a fairly intelligent ball club, so we said why not try and get the ball to a 60-percent shooter inside."

KU Coach Roy Williams said the Jayhawks goal going into the NU game was to control the rebounds. In

"We definitely wanted to get the ball inside."

JACQUE VAUGHN
Kansas guard

the first game, the Huskers out-rebounded Kansas 46-33. On Sunday, Kansas dominated the boards 52-24, including 20 offensive rebounds.

"We spent most of the time this week in practice emphasizing rebounding and emphasizing boxing out because we kind of got away from that," LaFrentz said.

Pollard, who played seven minutes and didn't score in Kansas's 70-68 win at Oklahoma on Monday night, led the Jayhawks grabbing 12 rebounds. He also scored 14 points.

NU Coach Danny Nee said the combination of Pollard and LaFrentz down low makes the Jayhawks a team that has a chance to go far in the NCAA Tournament.

"Both Pollard and LaFrentz in the middle, they are really a great force," Nee said. "He's (Pollard) a space heater. He does really make a positive difference. Raef LaFrentz improved tremendously with Pollard out."

"I really hope they do well in the tournament. They have that type of team. They have a really darn good chance."

NU's DeForge makes first-team All-Big 12

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas guard Tamecka Dixon was named the Big 12 Conference women's basketball player of the year, and Nebraska's Anna DeForge made the first-ever All-Big 12 team that was announced on Sunday.

Also, Jayhawk Coach Marian Washington was honored as the conference's coach of the year.

Dixon was player of the year in the Big Eight last year when KU won the league's final crown.

DeForge, who started every game for NU this season, averaged 17 points and six rebounds per game for the 18-8 Cornhuskers.

DeForge said she was surprised by the honor after only receiving all-Big Eight honorable mention her freshman and sophomore seasons.

"With four extra teams in the conference I didn't think about it," DeForge said. "It means a lot. It's a big honor and it's a reflection of the season we have had. We've had a great season and the team is getting a lot of respect."



DeForge

AP Women's All-Big 12 Team

Pos	Name	School	Yr.
G	Tamecka Dixon	Kansas	Sr.
F	Anna DeForge	Nebraska	Jr.
G	Alicia Thompson	Texas Tech	Jr.
F	Andria Jones	Kansas St.	Sr.
F	Jayne Olson	Iowa St.	Jr.

She said this year's honor was earned because of the stability she has shown for the Huskers throughout the season.

"I've been much more consistent in my play this season," DeForge said. "I also understand the mental part of the game more and I know what has to be done."

The 5-11 junior from Niagara, Wis., is joined on the first team by Dixon, Alicia Thompson of Texas Tech, Kansas State's Andria Jones and Jayne Olson of Iowa State.

NU's LaToya Doage was a third-team selection

Senior reporter Mike Kluck contributed to this report.

Voss tosses no-hitter in NU win

From Staff Reports

Jenny Voss tossed a no-hitter on Sunday to lead the Nebraska softball team to an 8-0 win over No. 25 Nicholls State.

It was the first no-hitter by a Cornhusker pitcher since Stacie Stafford tossed a gem against Texas Tech April 26, 1996.

In the nightcap of the silver medal finals at the NFCA Lead Off Classic at Columbus, Ga., the right-handed freshman from Ankeny, Iowa, was the loser in NU's 4-0 loss to fifth-ranked Michigan. Voss, who pitched five of Nebraska's six tournament games, suffered her fifth loss of the season in losing to the Wolverines.

The Huskers were 3-3 in the tournament, which featured teams that made the NCAA Regionals last season. All of NU's (4-8) wins have come against Top 25 teams.

Nebraska has two weeks off before competing in the Cowgirl Spring Classic on March 14-15 in Stillwater, Okla.

Is Life Overwhelming You? We Can Help!

- Family Issues? • Feeling Down?
- Trouble Sleeping? • Work Stress?

Dr. Matthew B.F. Nessett, Ph.D., FPPR
Director, Psychologist/Neuropsychologist

Nebraska Mental Health Centers, P.C.

Real-Life Solutions for the Heartland
Treatment for: Depression, Eating Disorders, Anxiety, Marital Relationships, Women's Issues, Emotional & Behavioral Problems in children, ADHD, Psychological/Neuropsychological Evaluations, Anger Alternatives Program, Trauma/Abuse & Other Issues

25% off 1st visit with Student I.D.
Weekday, Evening, & Saturday Appts.
New Patients Welcome

NMHC 423-6990
6001 S. 58th • Suite E (At the Trade Center)

ALOHA TANNING SALON

New Ownership!
Completely Remodeled
Brand New Bulbs in All Beds

- 9 WOLFF SYSTEM BEDS
- 10 & 20 MINUTE BEDS
- WALK-INS WELCOME

Perfect Before Spring Break!
5 Tans for \$18
10 Tans for \$25
1 Month Unlimited for \$35
EXPIRES 12-31-97

48th & HIGHWAY 2
423-2134

Tired of chains?

VINCENZO'S
ristorante

We offer Authentic Italian dining featuring Pasta, Chicken, veal and Seafood. We also have great inexpensive lunches and a large vegetarian selection. Just minutes from UNL campus in the Historic Haymarket District.

808 'P' Street ■ 435-3889

1997 Summer Reading Courses

Are you someone who:

- Finds it difficult to fit everything into your busy summer?
- Likes to study at your own pace?
- Wants to add hours to your campus-based schedule?
- Wants to transfer UNL credit to another institution?

If so, UNL's Summer Reading Course Program is for you!

- Look for the Summer Reading Course ad in the Daily Nebraskan on March 6 for the list of courses and spring meeting dates.
- A complete Summer Reading Course brochure with course descriptions and registration form is available.

University of Nebraska Lincoln
Division of Continuing Studies
Evening Programs and Lifelong Learning Services

Call 472-1392

UNL is a nondiscriminatory institution.

Got 10 minutes? File your taxes.

This year, millions will file their tax returns by phone — using TeleFile, a free service from the IRS. The call is easy and refunds are fast. Check your mail for a TeleFile booklet.

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>

TeleFile
It's free. It's fast. It works.