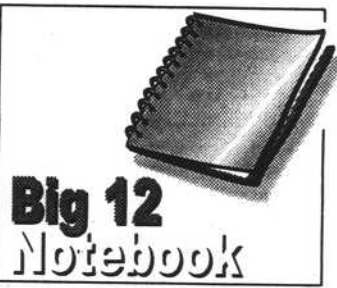


# Sports

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1997

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## Big 12 Notebook

Nebraska Track Coach Gary Pepin was named the Big 12 Conference's men's and women's indoor track and field coach of the year. Pepin's Cornhuskers each won the first-ever indoor conference crown last month.

Also, NU's Dahila Ingram was named the Big 12 women's outstanding freshman. Ingram finished as the runner-up in the triple jump at the conference meet.

The World League of American Football held its annual draft last week and 28 former players from Big 12 teams were selected.

Former Husker Barron Miles was selected by the Frankfurt Galaxy. Miles was previously drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers of the NFL in 1995.

Other Big 12 players selected were former Kansas State quarterback Chad May, who also went to Frankfurt, and Colorado linebacker Ronnie Woolfolk who went to Amsterdam.

All standing-room-only tickets for this week's men's Big 12 tournament in Kansas City, Mo., have been sold. Tickets for the women's tournament, which starts today, still remain and can be purchased at the Municipal Auditorium ticket office.

If Oklahoma State (15-13 overall and 7-9 in the Big 12) does not win the conference tournament to earn an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament, Coach Eddie Sutton will leave the decision of accepting a National Invitation Tournament bid up to his three seniors — Maurice Robinson, Chianti Roberts and Marlon Dorsey.

Last season the Cowboys finished the year with a 17-10 overall record and 7-7 conference mark, but after losing to Kansas State in the Big Eight Tournament they were not an at-large selection and declined a bid to the tournament.

"We play to get into the NCAA's," Sutton said of turning down last year's offer.

Baylor, OSU and Nebraska may represent the league in the NIT if neither wins the tournament title this weekend.

Colorado Men's Coach Ricardo Patton is apparently asking for a \$50,000 contract to remain as the Buffaloes' leader for next season. Patton, who has most likely led CU to its first NCAA Tournament berth since 1969, is the leading candidate to replace Larry Finch at Memphis. Patton's name has also been linked to moving just south to coach the Denver Nuggets.

Another hang-up in his re-signing with Colorado is a state law that says all state employees cannot be given a contract for more than a year. Patton wants a long-term deal to stay in Boulder.

Big 12 Notebook was compiled by staff reporter Pete Marhoefer.

## NU hopes history repeats

### Huskers bring 15-game win streak over Tigers into tournament.

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Senior Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Nebraska women's basketball team is not using its first-round game against Missouri in the Big 12 Tournament as a history lesson.

Instead, the Cornhuskers (18-8 overall and 8-8 in the Big 12 Conference) are looking to make a little history of their own when the two teams square off tonight at 6 at the Municipal Auditorium.

"We don't look in the history books when we play Missouri," NU Coach

Angela Beck said. "We really look at the present and I would say Missouri is probably playing better than we are right now. So they scare me."

The history books show that the Huskers have won 15 consecutive games over the Tigers (10-19 and 3-13), including two wins this season — an 84-46 victory on Jan. 22 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and an 82-66 win in Columbia, Mo., four days earlier.

The Huskers also ended the Tigers' season last year with a 70-64 victory in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament at Salina, Kan.

However, the books also show a Missouri team that entered the league tournament in 1994 as a seventh seed and won three games to earn a spot in the NCAA Tournament.

This year, the Tigers enter the tour-

namment as the No. 10 seed while NU is the seventh. The winner of tonight's game will face second-seeded Texas (20-6, 12-4) at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Beck's fears stem from the way NU has played down the stretch. Nebraska finished the season with a 2-7 mark in its last nine games, losing three straight.

Those three final games were played without senior point guard LaToya Doage who is still nursing a sore right knee.

Doage practiced Sunday and Monday, but Beck said Doage will not start against MU.

"She's questionable to play," Beck said. "I would like to see what she has but it will depend on the flow of the

Please see **TIGERS** on 10

## Women's Basketball Starters

Big 12 Tournament  
Today, 6 p.m.  
Municipal Auditorium

### Nebraska 18-8 (8-8)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	24 Jami Kubik	5-11	Jr.
G	32 Nicole Kubik	5-10	Fr.
C	33 Charlie Rogers	6-2	Fr.
F	22 Tina McClain	5-10	Sr.
F	30 Anna DeForge	5-11	Jr.

### Missouri 10-19 (3-13)

Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	12 Tanisha Johnson	5-8	Jr.
G	21 Debra Williams	5-8	Jr.
C	50 Susan Dixon	6-3	Sr.
F	31 Keshia Bonds	6-1	So.
F	44 Julie Helm	5-11	Fr.

## Nelson's hard work pays off

By **GREGG MADSEN**  
Staff Reporter

If cloning human life became a reality in the near future, Nebraska Men's Gymnastics Coach Francis Allen would probably be one of the first users.

Allen would be turning out copies of the prototype men's gymnast with sophomore Marshall Nelson as the model.

"I tell you what," Allen said, "if I had 12 more like him, I'd just go get my national championship trophy right now. I wouldn't even go to the meet."

In his second year as a Cornhusker, Nelson has emerged as one of the top gymnasts in the nation.

Allen said Nelson's success has been a direct result of his competitive nature, which comes as a surprise to most people.

"He's so easy going and laid-back. But boy, when you turn the lights on he's a tough sucker," Allen said.

Nelson, a native of Greeley, Colo., has sprained both ankles in practice this season. But he hasn't allowed the injuries to hinder his performance.

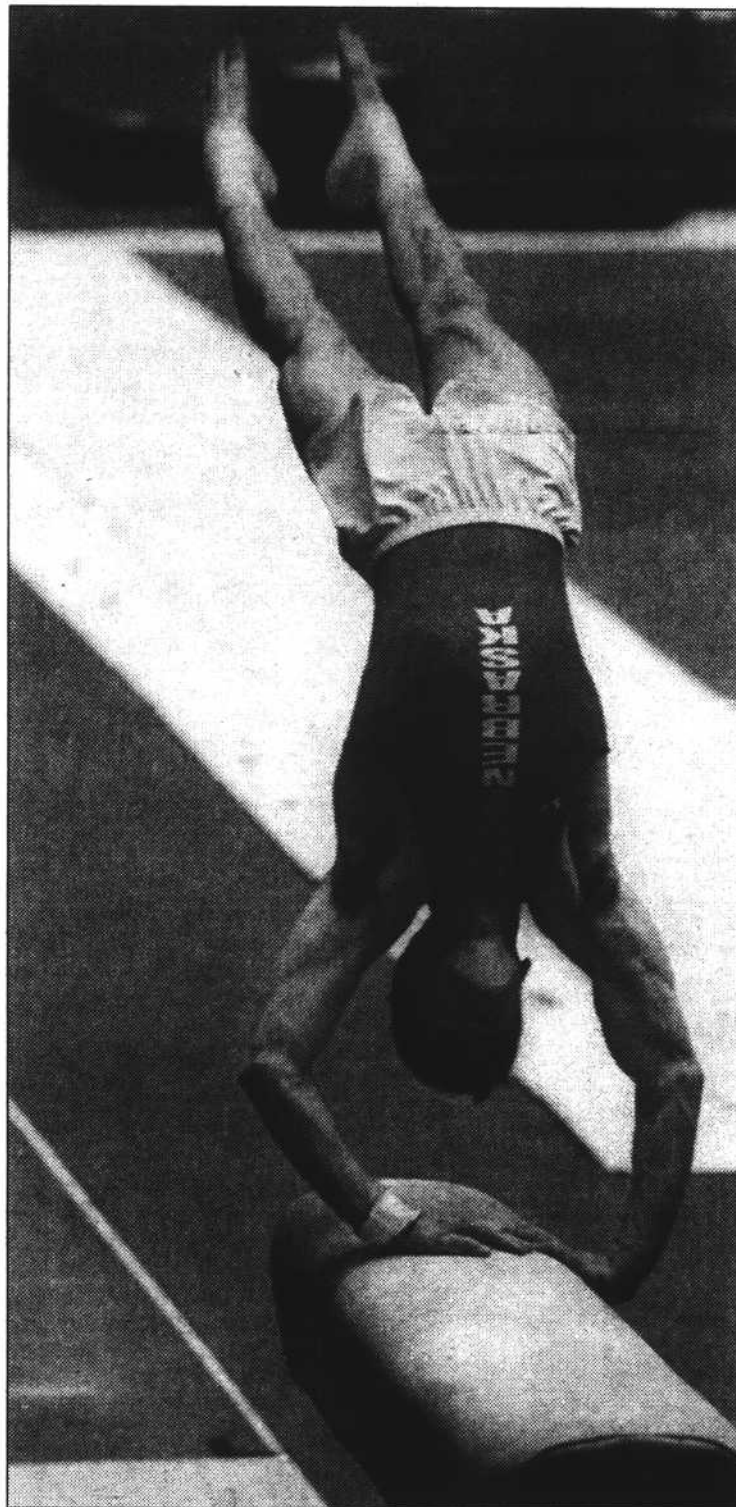
Against fourth-ranked Iowa on Saturday, Nelson led the Huskers to a season high 231.7-229.7 victory. He walked away with the high bar title (9.875) and also won the floor exercise (9.825).

With athletic tape wrapped up to his shins to provide extra support for his weakened ankles, he still managed his best performance of the year against the Hawkeyes.

"I started off on floor and was concentrating on all my landings and just doing what I could do and letting the judges decide where I stood," Nelson said. "I just had an 'on' day. It was great."

Against Iowa, Nelson was fifth on the vault (9.5) and the parallel bars (9.75) and second on the pommel horse (9.85).

The meet was more of a team triumph than an individual one,



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

**MARSHALL NELSON competes on the vault Saturday. Nelson has emerged as one of NU's best gymnasts this season.**

he said.

"I knew we had the potential since the beginning of the season to score well," he said. "We finally came out here and relaxed and did our jobs."

Nelson said just being able to compete this season was a change

from last year. As a freshman, his performances were hampered by a knee injury for the first half of the season.

He still managed to finish third on the pommel horse at the NCAA

Please see **NELSON** on 10

## Lue named second-team All-Big 12

From Staff Reports

Nebraska point guard Tyrone Lue earned second-team All-Big 12 honors from The Associated Press and the league's basketball coaches Monday.

Lue, a 6-foot sophomore from Mexico, Mo., who leads the Cornhuskers and ranks seventh in the conference with an 18.9 points-per-game average, is one of only two sophomores on the first or second team.

Lue ranks sixth in the league in shooting percentage (46.2 percent), fourth in assists (4.4 per game), 15th in steals (1.3 per game) and fifth in free-throw percentage (82.3 percent). Entering the Big 12 Tournament Thursday, Lue ranks eighth on NU's single-season scoring charts with 529 points this year.

Junior Raef LaFrentz of Kansas earned the league's player-of-the-year award from the coaches, and KU Coach Roy Williams was named the Big 12 coach of the year. LaFrentz, a 6-11 forward, averages 19 points and 9.0 rebounds per game and led Kansas to the Big 12 championship with a 15-1 league record.

Colorado guard Chauncey Billups, Iowa State guard Dedric Willoughby, Texas guard Reggie Freeman and Texas Tech center Tony Battie also earned first-team recognition from the coaches and the news media.

Joining Lue on the second team are: Baylor center Brian Skinner and guards Jacque Vaughn of Kansas, Nate Erdmann of Oklahoma and Cory Carr of Texas Tech.

The AP's third team consists of Iowa State center Kelvin Cato and forward Kenny Pratt, Kansas forward Paul Pierce and guard Jerod Haase and Oklahoma guard Corey Brewer.

Missouri forward Kelly Thames and Oklahoma State swingman Chianti Roberts also earned third-team recognition from the coaches, along with Cato, Pratt and Pierce. Nebraska center Mikki Moore was one of 14 players named honorable mention by the coaches.

The Big 12 also announced its specialty teams Monday, selected by a panel of sportswriters.

Lue was named to the all-improved team; Nebraska forward Bernard Garner was named to the all-bench team and Husker guard Cookie Belcher earned all-freshman honors.