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HARDER

Dateless for the Dance

Root of Huskers' woes lies in the hands of coach



ATTENTION HUSKER FOOTBALL FANS: If you haven't checked your calendars, the Red/White game is only 45 days away! It's only 171 days 'til the Big Red Machine makes its official debut in a forecast annihilation of the Zips of Akron. Get ready to break out the red sweat shirts and face paint: Football Saturdays will be here before you know it.

What's that? Was that a quiet voice from the back of the room? Did you say NEBRASKETBALL? Oh, there's a good laugh. Come on, Nebraska is a football school. Pay no attention to the March Madness that is ready to consume the nation. We just need to sit quietly and wait for our boys to head to the gridiron.

Whoa, hold up, Nebraska basketball is for real — we're the NIT champs, baby! Please. I almost had to vomit earlier this year when we raised the banner in the Bob Devaney Sports Center for winning a "national championship." Way to go Huskers, 65th in the nation, maybe next year.

Well, this year has come and gone, and our inconsistent, roller-coaster season has left all of the true basketball fans disappointed once again. We did pull off impressive wins against Colorado, at Iowa State and took Kansas to overtime, but choked against K-State, Bowling Green and Baylor. In a season built up almost as much as the Tyson-Holyfield fight, we were let down again and are headed to defend our

title as the champions of the "little dance." The question that should be coming to everyone's minds: "Why is the basketball team continually sub-par?"

Regardless of what some think, the players are not the problem. Sure, we don't have the talent of Kansas or Kentucky — our reputation is not esteemed enough for recruits to give our school a chance. However, our present players are, at the very least, adequate.

Tyrone Lue is arguably one of the best point guards in the nation. Cookie Belcher has not only made the transition from high school to college well, but has stepped up into a starting role. Troy Piatkowski is certainly not his brother, but he does have skills.

For all of you Freddie Freethrows and Rickie Rebounds out there who actually know our team, it is easy to see that most of our players do, in fact, have the capability to help take us to the next level. But what about Bernard Garner, the 1994-95 Junior College Player of the Year? We managed to recruit him, but he hasn't played up to his potential by any means.

The players have the ability, but obviously have not come together as a team. After scoring only 24 first-half points against below-.500 Missouri in the opening round of the Big 12 Tournament, we should have warmed up the bus and gotten a head start on hyping up the NIT.

I heard the mascot for the men's basketball team will be changed permanently next year. No longer will we be called the Huskers, but we will be known as the Nebraska Feces because that's what we've been looking like on the court. I can see the opposing crowd's signs now: "Down with the human excrement," or better yet "Beat the CRAP out of 'em, really!" So why haven't we used our talent productively and



MATT HANEY/DN

made a respectable name for our school in regard to college hoops? One name answers the question completely: Danny Nee.

The Nebraska head coach is the source of our basketball woes. He is not a scapegoat for a frustrated, excuse-minded writer, but has been around for too long and has taken us nowhere. Four NCAA Tournament berths have gone to waste and we know the ins and outs of the NIT all too well. A quality win around here is a victory against the dominating force Weber State or, my personal favorite, Marathon Oil. Nee has just not been able to get it done when it counts.

Nee's recruiting is decent, but he doesn't increase the value of the players. Our team could easily be in the NCAA Tourney this year if Nee would have buckled down and tried to eliminate our countless flaws. Some of the players don't realize that we aren't on the playground and that this is a team sport. If they are running the offense well as a whole, some of the players are still looking lazy and sluggish. This leads directly to Nee's lack of discipline.

Forget about that little stint with the suspension of Alvin Mitchell and Larry Florence. Nee was just trying to please the public and appear to be a strict coach, rather than one who cannot control his own players. Too bad he can't! I'm sure most of you remember the previous disciplinary extravaganza with the rebellious Erick Strickland, Jaron Boone and a late-season walk-out. It seems that Nee brings out the worst in his players, no matter their talent or attitude. Nee didn't have discipline when he came to Nebraska, and he still doesn't today.

In truth, Nee has taken this program from the depths of D-1 to mediocrity but has managed to have teams that remain constantly stagnant. I don't criticize Nee's personality or knowledge of the game, but centrally his lack of discipline. It's time to send Danny Nee back to the East Coast where he belongs and bring in someone who can get this school a real championship.

Harder is a sophomore broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan columnist.

Guest
VIEW

Imagine a place ...

CPU's, bytes, multimedia ... journey into the unknown

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (U-WIRE) — There are times lately when I feel like I have entered the Twilight Zone. Actually, it is more like the microchip zone. I am in a place where paper ceases to exist, everything is networked and anyone can retrieve information electronically.

Even writing something as simple as an essay is not so simple anymore. Many programs such as WordPerfect and Microsoft Word exist to accomplish the task, each with its own set of rules and applications. We have now entered the epoch of technology known as the information age. I personally call it the "I have no idea what I'm doing era." It has caused words like hypertext, link, multimedia and web browser to be mainstays in society.

But how many students know exactly what these words mean?

Of course, there are those techies who thrive in the computer labs all hours of the day putting up web pages and transferring files all over the place. These are the same people who delve into PC Magazine with the fervor and analytical depth usually designated for such novels as "War and Peace."

Sometimes I think that the average computer user is slowly

losing touch with a fast-growing era. Every day new computers come on the market which are faster and better than the old versions. Some say that five minutes after buying a computer, it has already become outdated. For instance, a computer bought five years ago for a few thousand dollars can now be purchased for a few hundred because it no longer has the cutting-edge technology consumers are willing to pay so much money for.

What I am trying to describe is a computer era in which many people like me do not feel quite comfortable yet. I realize that while many computer programs are out there, getting to use them is another ball game. When I got my brand new Pentium 120 MHz with an 8X CD ROM Drive and 1.2 GB computer at the beginning of the year, I thought that I was a real computer user.

I was ready to take on the Internet, learn to create web pages and make my own graphics — all in one hour.

What I ended up doing in those first weeks was playing pinball, using WordPerfect and learning how to insert the CD in the CD slot. I came to the conclusion that I was not yet ready to conquer all of these advanced features as a new com-

puter user. And I know that there are other technology novices like me out there wondering what to do with their advanced machines.

So I made it my mission to become one of those highly-intelligent computer users. I realized it is important to sit down at the computer and handle it like a relationship — by getting to know each other first. Search the features of the computer and keep in mind the No. 1 rule — you can't break it!

Once you see what the computer is all about, play around with the important applications. I am a writer, so I sat down with Word and WordPerfect to learn the programs inside and out. I did not only want to type, but to use other word processing features as well, such as setting templates and aligning text.

After fooling around a little with your new partner, you have probably eased into the comfortable part of the relationship, but no one is an expert at this point. Buy a book to learn more. The dummy books are perfect for learning about applications within the computer. These bright yellow books contain information ranging from starting the computer to putting up web pages.

I have also found that the university offers a course that

supplies all of the basic knowledge. Computer Science 110 is an introductory course that teaches the basics of the computer, word processing, graphics, spreadsheets and BASIC programming.

A course like this, although not always interesting, provides the basics for anyone interested in the field. Beginners can always choose to stop at this introductory point, but I feel the need to move onward. If this is going to be the wave of the future, then I want to dive right into it.

I went on to learn basic elements of the web language called HTML and ways to search the web effectively, as well as the difference between the World Wide Web and the Internet.

I will never be one of those all-night computer techies who have their own seat in the lab or who spend 15 hours a day surfing the web, but I have found that does not matter. Computers are all about learning and exploring, and all who make the effort to do this will have begun traveling on their own path through the information superhighway.

— Valerie Shaw
Daily Targum (Rutgers U.)

Guest
VIEW

Truth is hard

Thirty years ago the government of the Divided States of America began a series of programs, laws and initiatives known collectively as affirmative action.

The initial explanation for the necessity of this program was to correct the discrepancies in opportunities between the races which came about through past discrimination. *This is not truth.*

The true purpose of affirmative action is to correct present discrimination.

Affirmative action was created when this country realized that since its inception, the Divided States of America has been infiltrated with racism, sexism, classism, prejudice, bigotry, discrimination, oppression and systematic, institutionalized, pervasive inequality — and still is today.

Pundits of affirmative action say that it is an entitlement program, that it inhibits a meritocracy, that it polarizes the racial groups and that it unfairly rewards under-qualified ethnic minorities and women — that it is injurious to white men. *This is not truth.*

The truth is that the Divided States of America was never a meritocracy. The truth is that the Divided States of America was never unified. The truth is that the Divided States of America has never given a single job, scholarship, admittance, contract or loan to an under-qualified individual *unless that individual was a white man.*

Central to the debate on affirmative action is this notion of qualifications.

Affirmative action was created because highly qualified — indeed, overqualified — blacks and women were being passed over for less talented white men; because the racial caste system of the Divided States of America denied even the best and the brightest racial minorities and women any access into the circle of higher education and higher economics — and still does today.

All persons who benefited from affirmative action had the qualifications to merit their positions; those who did not dropped out of school or were fired or were kicked out of their apartment just like an under-qualified white man would (only sooner), and their positions were given to some other overqualified individual.

Keep in mind that qualifications mean talent, organizational ability, intelligence, problem solving skills and responsibility.

What is the truth? No resource is limited, and the number of people competing for jobs and scholarships and contracts is growing every day. For whatever reason, white men gained the upper hand and subsequently created institutions and practices collectively called racism to maintain their high position and eliminate their "competition."

Affirmative action is a program created to do the opposite.

W.E.B. DuBois aptly named the 20th century the century of the color line. Affirmative action — and similar programs like welfare — are necessary to finally end the discrepancies of the Divided States of America. If we take them away, then we have not changed the problem of 100 years ago and the next 100 will regrettably become the century of the color war.

And that is truth.

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