

## Sports Opinion



**David Wilson**

### Missouri shows weather can't hamper results

Baseball wasn't meant to be played in 30-degree temperatures. But teams in the north don't have much of a choice.

Nebraska and Missouri braved the elements on Saturday at Buck Beltzer Field in an attempt to play ball. Of course, southern schools have been playing and practicing outside since January.

It's not a coincidence that Wichita State is the northernmost ranked team. Not one school above the Mason-Dixon Line ranks among the nation's Top 25.

"They definitely have an advantage," MU Coach Tim Jamieson said of the teams in the south. "They get to be outside preparing for their season. They can spread their games out over a long period of time and they play more games at home. It's a big-time advantage for the southern schools."

Despite the jump-start the south teams have had, Jamieson has done a good job keeping the Tigers competitive in a southern dominated sport.

After losing two of three to the Cornhuskers, the Tigers fell to 6-3 in the Big 12 Conference. Baylor took two of three from Texas last weekend to take sole possession of the conference lead at 7-2.

The other northern schools in the conference, with the exception of Kansas, rank last in the league.

"I think it will take time before we know if there is a balance in the league," Jamieson said.

Jamieson said his team, along with most northern schools, has become accustomed to playing in cold weather.

"Our guys are used to it," Jamieson said. "Things we get nervous about are pulled muscles — not performance as much as potential for injuries."

When will the insanity of playing in bone-chilling temperatures stop?

NU Coach John Sanders said earlier this season that the NCAA is reviewing the possibility of pushing the season start into March or April. If it passes, the change could go into effect within a few years, Sanders said.

Jamieson also likes the idea of bumping opening day back.

"We could be playing in April, May and June instead of February, March and April," Jamieson said. "We play 10 games in the month of February. That's ridiculous."

Missouri, which began the season ranked in the Top 25 after winning the final regular season Big Eight title last year, played its first 13 games on the road this year and has played just four home games.

"We're not playing good baseball this year," Jamieson said. "We just haven't been able to consistently play good."

But his squad is still the best team above the Mason-Dixon Line.

Wilson is a sophomore news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

**BRIANT HUNT** slides into home as Missouri's Ryan Jamison awaits the ball. Hunt scored as NU won 10-6 Sunday.

## Huskers snap skid

By **DAVID WILSON**  
Staff Reporter

The losing streak is over. Powered by 45 hits, Nebraska won two of three games against Missouri this weekend at Buck Beltzer Field. The Cornhuskers snapped a 13-game losing skid and earned their first two conference wins of the season.

NU improved to 7-14 overall and 2-6 in the conference after a 10-6 win against the Tigers on Sunday in front of 185 fans. Missouri fell to 10-12 and 6-3.

On Saturday, the Huskers downed Missouri 12-3 in the first game of a doubleheader before losing the nightcap 13-7.

"We've battled through a lot here," NU Coach John Sanders said. "We've stuck together. We've hung together and no one has fallen apart. The wheels have not come off — they've wobbled."

The Huskers jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first inning Sunday when designated hitter Craig Moore singled home first baseman Todd Sears. Tiger staff ace Jeremy Callier left the game after one inning because of soreness in his el-



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

**GABE GARCIA** slides into third around MU's Griffin Moore on Saturday.

bow.

"When your No. 1 pitcher goes down in the first inning — we were scrambling from that point on," MU Coach Tim Jamieson said. "He's had some elbow problems. It's too early to take a chance on it."

Missouri designated hitter Mike

Rallo responded in the second with a 390-foot home run to left-center that scored two. The Tigers finished the weekend with seven home runs — including three by shortstop Griffin Moore.

"They've got some bangers,"

Please see **WINS** on 7

## Tournament continues to surprise

Three Big 12 teams still alive in the NCAA Tournament.

### NCAA Tournament

From The Associated Press

With two rounds complete in the NCAA tournament, the Pacific-10 Conference and the selection committee are nearly perfect.

Four of the tournament's final 16 teams are from the Pac 10, with one in each of the tournament's four regions. And all four of the selection committee's top seeds have advanced to the regional semifinals.

Stanford became the fourth Pac 10 team to reach the Sweet 16, beating third-seed Wake Forest 72-66 Sunday in the West Region. The Cardinal will be joined in the regional semifinals by Arizona, UCLA and California, which all advanced on Saturday.

"For a long time, a lot of people have been down on the Pac 10 and said we couldn't win big games," Stanford's Brevin Knight said. "And we're showing we deserve the number of teams we got in."

Minnesota completed the sweep by the top seeds Sunday, ripping Temple 76-57 in the Midwest Region at Kansas City and joined other top seeds North Carolina, Kansas and Kentucky in the next round.

The Sweet 16 has a Big 12 flavor as well. The Jayhawks, — with a win over Purdue — Iowa State — on the strength of a win over Cincinnati — and No. 10-seed Texas with a 82-81 win over 15th-seeded Coppin State at Pittsburgh on Sunday have all advanced.

In other action Sunday, Louisville held off New Mexico 64-63 in the East Region. Providence shocked Duke 98-87 and No. 14-seed Tennessee-Chatanooga became just the second 14th seed ever to make the final 16 with a 75-63 win over Illinois in the Southeast.

In the West Region, Clemson beat Tulsa 65-59 and No. 2-seed Utah defeated North Carolina Charlotte 77-58.

On Saturday, St. Joseph's, Arizona, Kansas, North Carolina, California, UCLA, the Cyclones and Kentucky all picked up wins to advance.

## Seniors go out in style with win over PSU

By **GREGG MADSEN**  
Staff Reporter

With tears in their eyes, two Nebraska women's gymnasts waved goodbye to the crowd at the Bob Devaney Sports Center for the last time Sunday.

In their final meet in Lincoln, seniors Shelly Bartlett and Kim DeHaan — two of the most successful Cornhusker gymnasts in school history — guided Nebraska to a 195.675-194.725 victory over Penn State.

Bartlett and DeHaan agreed that

defeating the Nittany Lions — whom the Huskers trailed heading into the final rotation — was much easier than saying goodbye.

"It hurt my heart," Bartlett said. "I mean, I love this team so much and you just love the sport."

Through the tears, both athletes went out in style.

Bartlett broke her own school record in the all-around with a 39.5. The Spokane, Wash., native won the vault with a 9.9 and tied her school record in the uneven bars at 9.95.

DeHaan finished third on the bars (9.9) and fifth in the floor exercise (9.875).

NU Coach Dan Kendig said the Huskers' win shows what DeHaan and Bartlett have brought to the program.

"They've meant so much," he said. "But you know, it's part of progress. You have to take that and maintain what

they've worked on for four years."

For a brief while, it looked as if their careers may have ended with a loss. After counting two falls on the uneven bars and a mediocre beam performance, the eighth-ranked Huskers trailed Penn State 146.775-146.175 heading into the final rotation.

Penn State Coach Steve Shephard said his team could have pulled off the upset with a good performance on the balance beam.

"I thought we were in a real good position at that point," Shephard said. "I think they just let the pressure get to them a little bit."

NU — which was on the floor exercise — prevented the upset with a school-record score of 49.5, while Penn State struggled to a 47.95 on the beam.

Bartlett and sophomore Amie Dillman tied for third, both scoring

career-best 9.925s. But the floor performance of the day went to sophomore Misty Oxford, who tied the school-record with a 9.95.

"What a floor day," Kendig said. "A couple of the girls gave me goose bumps out there."

Oxford, who is recovering from the flu, said she used a new floor routine to tie the record set by DeHaan in 1995.

"I was nervous to do it," said Oxford who competing in the all-around for the first time this year scored a 38.6. "But even when you're sick you still have that adrenaline."

Freshman Nicole Wilkinson had a career day of her own, also. Wilkinson, a native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, was second on the beam (9.875) and tied Nebraska freshman Heather Brink for second on the vault (9.85). She also set a personal best in the all-around at 39.2.



**Bartlett**