

**Sports Opinion**



## Andrew Strnad Basketball at NU lacks popularity

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

College basketball is right around the corner, and frankly, I don't care. Apparently, neither does the rest of the student body.

Students have the opportunity to buy tickets to Nebraska men's basketball games for \$3.50 a piece. However the tickets are only offered in two separate packages. Each package costs just under \$30.

Only 720 packages have been sold so far.

At the most, 720 students out of about 24,000 have purchased season tickets. I assume some students bought both packages, while some may have only bought the package with Kansas.

Buying tickets for eight games to see a Division I team play basketball in one of the premier conferences in the nation is not a bad deal at all. It is a conference slate which includes Kansas, not to mention two non-conference games vs. schools from North Carolina.

Here's the problem: These games aren't against the Tar Heels and the Duke Blue Devils, but the Seahawks (UNC-Wilmington) and the Spartans (UNC-Greensboro).

If those games aren't scintillating enough, buy the package that includes Western Illinois. Who knows, perhaps Brian Knuckles will show up wearing the purple and gold of the Leathernecks.

I highly doubt the reason for low student interest is completely related to the home schedule. The overall interest in basketball in the state of Nebraska just can't match the support of Husker Football.

We all know about the 218 consecutive sellouts at Memorial Stadium. What we might not know about is that the Huskers have only sold out the Bob Devaney Sports Center two times in the last 36 home games, both times against Kansas.

There has to be some logical explanation for this.

Nebraska has a successful basketball program. Danny Nee wins 58 percent of his games. He has taken the Huskers to the big dance four times more than any other coach in NU history, and fans still don't come.

Husker fans are spoiled. They demand an unreasonable level of success in every sport or they refuse to attend. The standard applies to each and every sport at NU.

So what's the team's solution to its decline in attendance? A billboard on Normal Boulevard crying out, "Fans wanted." And a schedule of who's who in college basketball.

I think I'll keep my \$3.50 and go see "Boogie Nights."

Strnad is a junior broadcast major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

# Colorado hammers Huskers again

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

Colorado did it again. The Buffaloes proved their five-game victory over Nebraska on Oct. 8 was no fluke as CU defeated the Huskers in three games 15-4, 15-13, 15-12 before 1,623 fans in the Coors Events Center in Boulder, Colo.

No. 23 Colorado (11-7, 7-3) came into Wednesday's contest on a three-match losing streak after falling to Texas, Texas A&M and Texas Tech. But the Buffaloes wasted no time in putting away No. 11 Nebraska (15-6,

**Volleyball Score**

Colorado	15	15	15
Nebraska	4	13	12



6-4) as they never trailed in the match.

Colorado jumped out to a 3-0 lead and hammered the Huskers throughout the first game as NU never got closer than 7-4, before allowing eight straight points to CU.

In the second game, the Huskers again fell in a hole early and could never recover.

After trailing 10-4, NU managed to battle back to 14-13, but Colorado sophomore Kristin Dorsch's spike

gave the Buffaloes match point. On the next serve, NU's Mandy Monson hit the ball out of bounds giving CU a 15-13 victory in game two.

Dorsch, normally a bench player, started the match and was a major weapon in defeating the Huskers. She finished the match with 10 kills.

The Buffaloes hit .231 for the match, the highest hitting percentage allowed by Nebraska in a three-game match all season. The Huskers hit a mere .150.

Game three was very similar to game two, with Colorado controlling the Huskers from the beginning, racing to a 13-6 lead. But NU battled

back to 14-12 before giving in to CU on the Buffs sixth match point.

Junior outside hitter Sarah Lodge, who haunted the Huskers on October 8th with 27 kills, added 16 in the second meeting between the two schools to lead the Buffaloes.

With the win, Colorado becomes the first-ever conference team to sweep the season series against the Huskers.

NU is now tied for fifth place in the Big 12 and will play Oklahoma Saturday night at the NU Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. in a match to be televised (tape delay) by the Fox Sports Network.

**Big 12 XII**

## Young teams not disturbed over their lack of experience

BY SARAH DOSE  
Staff Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - If experience is one key to a successful women's basketball team in the Big 12 conference this year, then some teams might have to take a trip to the locksmith.

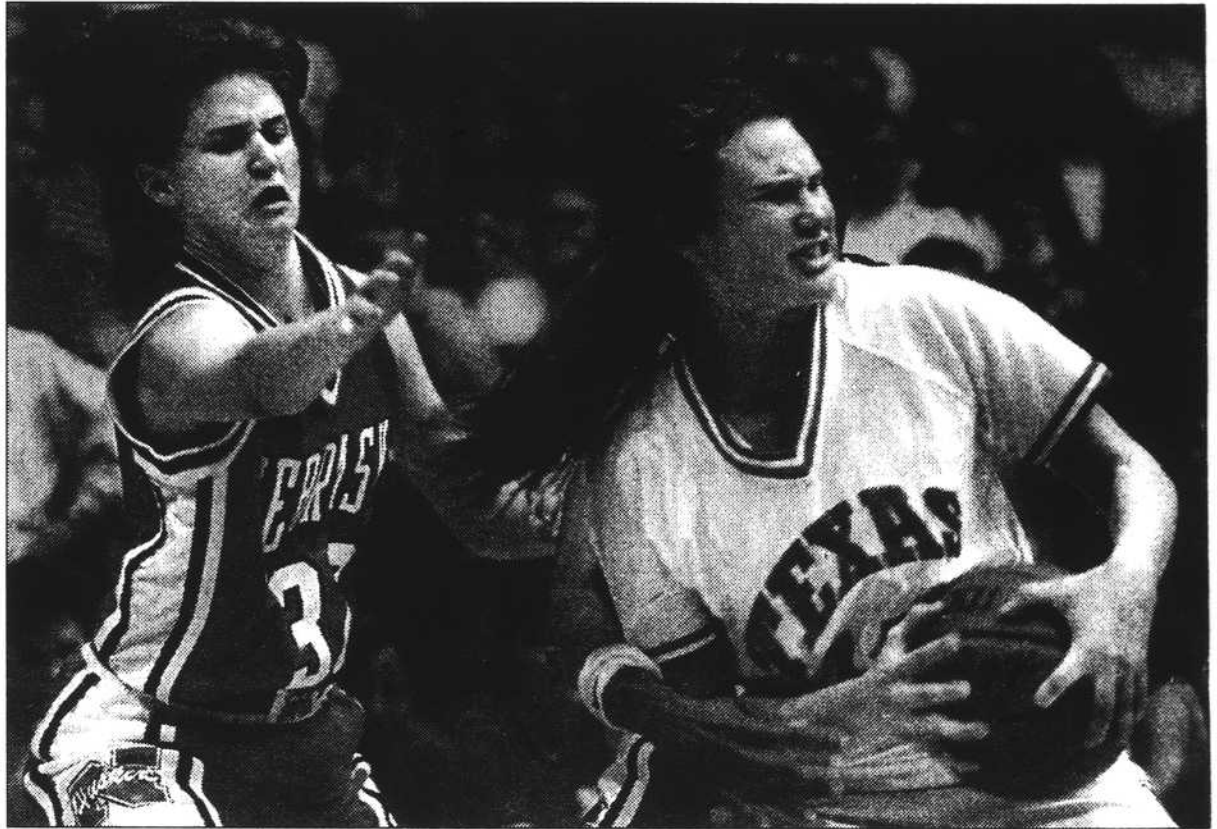
Colorado, Kansas, and Kansas State all return young teams, but at Wednesday's Big 12 Women's Basketball Media Day, neither the coaches nor the players said they were ready to give up.

Colorado, which ended last year's season at 23-9 overall and 12-4 in the conference while winning the inaugural Big 12 Conference Tournament, enters this season No. 2 in the preseason media poll behind Texas Tech. The Buffaloes return senior point guard LaShena Graham, who has realized her purpose in leading the team.

"I need to do whatever I can to help the team be successful in every way this year," she said. "But I'm not just a leader, I'm a teammate, and I want to help build confidence."

Along with senior leadership, Coach Ceal Barry has to work with six true freshmen. Barry still sees some promise, but she also sees some caution.

"We don't want to be too patient,



NEBRASKA'S NICOLE KUBIK tries to knock the ball away from a Texas player during last season's Big 12 Tournament. The Big 12 Conference begins its second season when the Huskers play in the National Invitational Tournament on Nov. 14.

too methodical, too teaching," she said. "That could be a hazard."

Kansas, which was picked to finish fourth in the conference, doesn't discount itself, either. The Jayhawks lost five seniors, including point guard Tamicka Dixon, from last year's squad, which finished the season 25-6 overall and 14-2 in the conference.

"We not only lost a senior class, but we also lost a senior class who contributed," KU Coach Marian Washington said. "But the new players are working hard, and in one more year we'll be back in the hunt."

Washington also said she is impressed with the optimistic attitude of everyone on the team.

"We have nothing to lose, and everything to gain," she said.

Kansas State Coach Deb Patterson also said her team has nothing to lose this season.

The Wildcats, which earned the No. 7 preseason seed after qualifying last year for the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 10 years, return five letter winners and welcome seven new players.

"I'm very happy with the young players' work ethic," Patterson said.

"but from a basketball perspective, we have a long way to go."

Patterson said the most important thing is to teach the new players how to return to the fundamentals of basketball.

Colorado, Kansas and Kansas State are all looking at a year that could produce many surprises in just the second season of the Big 12 Conference.

"We have some young posts, who have to assume scoring responsibility," Patterson said. "But I think they'll scrap and fight to win."

# Osborne goes for 250

## Missed field goal sealed championship loss

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne goes for his 250th win this Saturday against Oklahoma. This week the Daily Nebraskan highlights Osborne's five most memorable games.

Nebraska entered the 1994 Orange Bowl undefeated and ranked No. 2 in The Associated Press, but was a 17½ point underdog to No. 1 Florida State.

Before the game, Osborne said he didn't put much stock into point spreads, and his words proved prophetic as the Huskers were in a position to win their coach his first national championship until Byron Bennett's 45-yard field goal sailed

wide left as time ran out with 1 second remaining, giving the Seminoles an 18-16 victory.

Nebraska appeared to win the game when Bennett kicked a 27-yard field goal with 1:16 remaining.

But FSU quarterback Charlie Ward orchestrated a 60-yard drive to set up Scott Bentley's 22-yard game-winning field goal with 21 seconds remaining. The win gave Florida State Head Coach Bobby Bowden his first national championship.

Except for the scoreboard, Nebraska won every other battle, out-yarding the Seminoles 389-333, and holding the nation's No. 1 offense to just one conversion on 12 third-down attempts.

# The Ends Rivalry

## NU goes to Orange Bowl after close OU win

After Saturday's game against Oklahoma, the NU/OU rivalry will take a two-year hiatus. This week the Daily Nebraskan reviews the top five games that have made this an intriguing rivalry.

Nebraska had possibly its greatest goal-line stand in years to preserve its No. 1 ranking and national title hopes in NU's 28-21 victory over Oklahoma in 1983.

Behind Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier's 205 yards, Nebraska's "scoring explosion" offense overcame a 21-14 third-quarter deficit to take a 28-21 lead late in the third with Mark Schellen's 17-yard run.

In the last minute of the game, OU moved to the Nebraska 1-yard line and had a second and goal before being hit with an illegal procedure penalty and a sack to move the ball back to the NU 9-yard line for third down.

Then, NU cornerback Neil Harris knocked away two consecutive Danny Bradley passes to secure the win. The fourth down pass, intended for Buster Rhymes, was a controversial one, as OU Coach Barry Switzer screamed for a pass interference call against Harris, but to no avail.

NU went on to play in the Orange Bowl, where they lost 31-30 to Miami for the national championship.