

Big 12 Notebook

Nebraska senior rush end Grant Wistrom was named the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year by the Big 12 coaches. It is the second straight year that Wistrom has won the award.

The Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year was Texas running back Ricky Williams, and the Big 12 Coach of the Year was Oklahoma State's Bob Simmons.

The Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year was Kansas State quarterback Michael Bishop, and the Defensive Newcomer of the Year was KSU linebacker Jeff Kelly. The Big 12 Offensive Freshman of the Year was Oklahoma State quarterback Tony Lindsay, while the Defensive Freshman of the Year was Colorado defensive back Ben Kelly.

Six Huskers were selected to the Coaches' First Team All Big 12 Saturday. Heading the list were Wistrom and senior defensive lineman Jason Peter. Joining them on the defense was sophomore defensive back Ralph Brown. On offense, junior I-back Ahman Green joined Williams at running back, while senior guard Aaron Taylor and senior tackle Eric Anderson were named to the first-team offensive line.

Junior linebacker Brian Shaw heads a list of 12 Huskers named to the Big 12 All-Academic team. Shaw was one of four players to receive special honors for having a cumulative 4.0 GPA.

Other Huskers on the list were Wistrom, senior quarterback Scott Frost, junior fullback Joel Makovicka, senior spilt end Jeff Lake, senior wingback Lance Brown, senior offensive linemen Eric Anderson, Jon Zatechka and Matt Hoskinson, sophomore Chad Kelsay, sophomore rover Mike Brown and junior place-kicker Kris Brown.

Nebraska became the third team in the history of college football to score at least 500 points in three consecutive seasons, a feat accomplished from 1995-1997. The Huskers had 511 points this season, and have 1,828 points over three seasons. The other two teams to complete the task were Florida from 1993-1995, and Yale from 1887-1889.

For the second season in a row, the Big 12 will have the nation's top two rushers. Ricky Williams of Texas is first in the nation with 1,893 yards, while Nebraska's Ahman Green has 1,698 yards. Green needs 196 yards against Texas A&M in the Big 12 Championship to overtake Williams for first.

Big 12 Notebook compiled by staff reporter Sam McKewon.

Huskers blown away in second half

By DAVID WILSON
Senior Reporter

Men's Basketball

Tulsa	85
Nebraska	68

Supported by Nebraska's lowest-scoring half of the season, Tulsa handed the Cornhuskers their first loss Monday night before 6,723 fans at the Tulsa Convention Center.

Nebraska, which fell to 5-1, made just six of 30 shots in the second half as the Golden Hurricane (4-2) downed the Huskers 85-68.

NU committed a season-high 24 turnovers - including 14 in the second half - and had no assists in the second

half.

"We just didn't play with as high of intensity in the second half," NU center Venson Hamilton said. "We just came out flat."

Hamilton finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds - his fifth double-double of the season - but said he was not satisfied with his performance. Tulsa center Michael Ruffin, who matched up with Hamilton for a good part of the

game, entered the contest averaging 6.6 points per game and finished with 20.

"I still can play better," Hamilton said. "My man shouldn't have scored so many points on me. I let my team down by letting him score 20 points."

The Golden Hurricane were led by guard Rod Thompson, who scored a game-high 25 points. Thompson helped close Nebraska's lead to six at halftime, scoring Tulsa's final four points.

In the second half, Thompson scored eight points in the first seven minutes as the Golden Hurricane outscored the Huskers 47-24. NU lost the ball seven times in the first eight

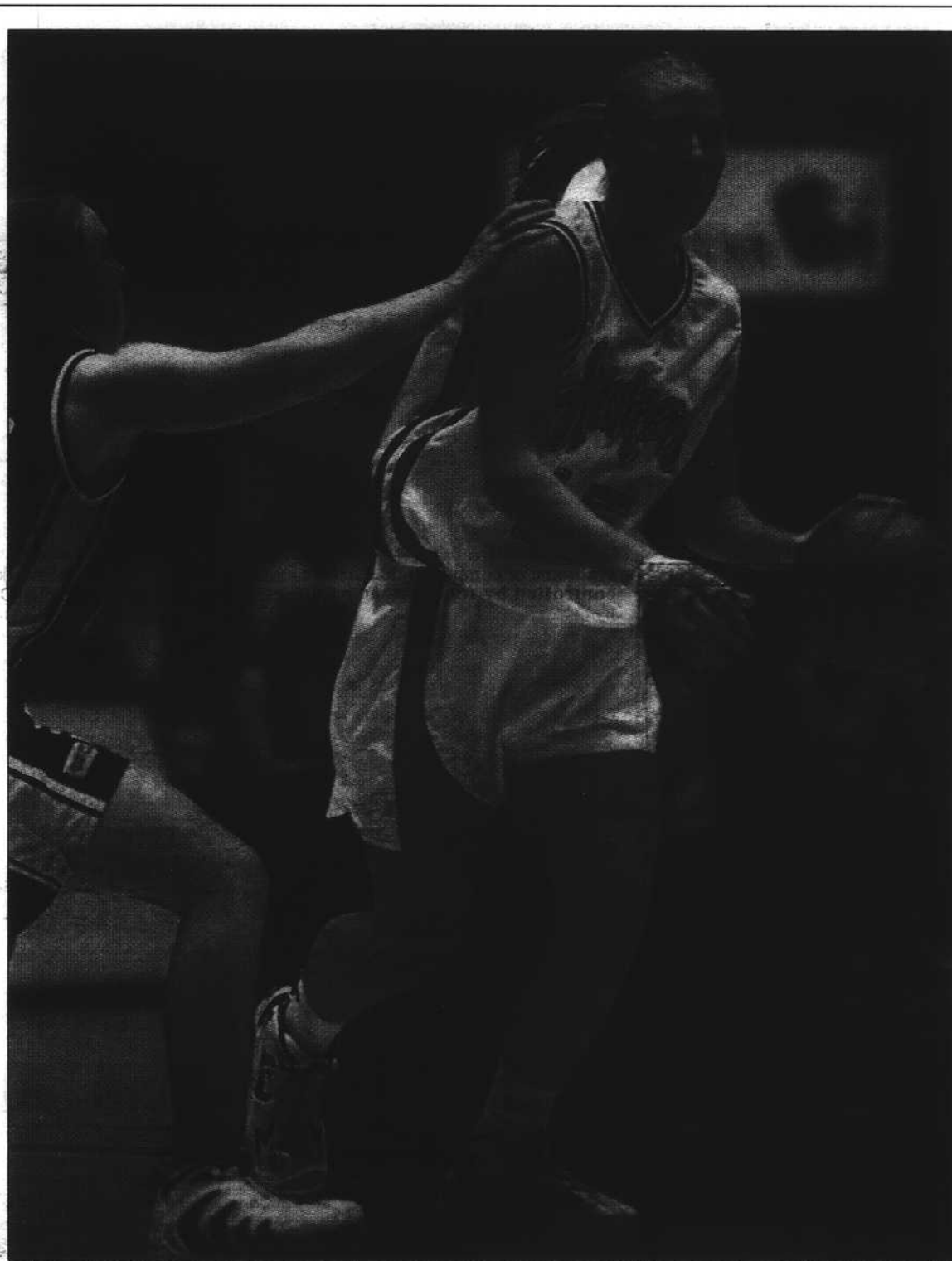
minutes of the second half and were held to just seven points in the first 10 minutes.

But the first half was a different story for Nebraska.

After the Huskers jumped to a 9-1 lead, Tulsa battled back to take an 18-16 advantage with just under 13 minutes remaining in the first half. But NU followed with a 14-0 run and took a 44-38 lead into the locker room at halftime.

True freshman Chad Johnson provided a bright spot off the bench for Nebraska, as the forward scored eight

Please see LOSS on 8



NU FORWARD CORI MCDILL drives to the basket. The junior from Gillette, Wyo., has become a more aggressive rebounder this season and has increased her playing time. MATT MILLER/DN

McDill does NU's dirty work

Effort lands forward on starting lineup

By SHANNON HEFFELFINGER
Assignment Reporter

Cori McDill never wanted to be the star of the Nebraska women's basketball team.

She never really cared if she was the leading scorer or if she received the loudest applause or spent the most time in the spotlight.

McDill only wanted to contribute.

But during her first two years at Nebraska, she never received the chance.

The 6-foot-1-inch forward spent most of her time on the bench last season, feeling confused about her part on the team and questioning her abilities.

"The past two years, I've hated basketball," McDill said. "It was frustrating, and I never knew my role. Nobody told me what it was, and I was always trying to find one.

I wasn't happy at all. I just couldn't get into it.

"But this year, I love basketball. I have a part now."

After averaging four minutes per game last year, McDill has earned a spot in the Cornhuskers' starting lineup in her junior season, playing an important, if sometimes unnoticed, role.

NU Coach Paul Sanderford

Please see McDILL on 8

UT begins search for next coach

Northwestern's Gary Barnett is among about 30 candidates to become Texas' next leader.

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - The search for the next Darrell Royal is on - again.

Minutes after announcing that John Mackovic was out as head football coach, UT Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said the manhunt for a successor is already underway.

Dodds said he has drawn up a list of about 30 potential replacements, but declined to provide any specific names. The list will be presented to a small screening committee, headed by Dodds, for discussion as early as Monday.

The committee will consist of no more than 10 people, including Waneen Spirduso, chairwoman of the Men's Athletics Council; ex-players Doug English, Alfred Jackson and Bob Moses; representatives from the Longhorn Foundation and the Ex-Students' Association; Regent Tom Hicks of Dallas; at-large selection Professor Charles Alan Wright of the UT School of Law; and the legendary Coach Royal himself.

The selection of a new coach, the school's fourth since Royal's resignation in 1976, should be announced within the next two weeks, Dodds said.

"Timeliness is important for many reasons, recruiting being one of them," Dodds said. "We're going to do it just as quickly as we can and still be sure we've got the right person. But it takes time - you can't force it."

Northwestern Coach Gary Barnett has been the most oft-mentioned replacement for Mackovic in recent weeks, while the names of North Carolina's Mack Brown, Miami's Butch Davis and 1997 Big 12 Coach of the Year Bob Simmons of Oklahoma State have also been cited with high frequency.

Dodds said neither he nor any other UT official has yet contacted anyone about the opening, though "some people have called saying 'such-and-such' is interested in the job, but it's all been third- and fourth-hand."

All signs, though, seem to point to Barnett, a 51-year-old former Colorado assistant who turned around the Northwestern football program in four years.

Barnett earned National Coach of the Year honors from a handful of

Please see TEXAS on 8