## PAGE 12 DAILY NEBRASKAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1997

1





foot a couple of times," Stewart said. "They were where they were supposed to be, and they made good plays."

NU scored on each of its first seven possessions and put up 348 yards of total offense in the first half.

Aggie inside linebacker Dat Nguyen, a Butkus Award semifinalsaid field position gave the Nebraska offense a big advantage. I'm kind of embarrassed." Nguyen led Texas A&M with nine tackles. "We always had our back to the wall," Nguyen said. "And we made a lot of mistakes that hurt us." Despite trailing 37-3 at halftime,

touchdown.

But even with a solid second half, Stewart said, the Aggies felt they let down the entire South Division of the Big 12.

'We are here and we are representing all the teams in the South," Stewart said. "We're a reflection of the strongest team this year, and we didn't do a good job of showing that.

"We knew we couldn't just line up and run right at them," Slocum said. "If we could have gotten to a mode where we could hit some passes, maybe we could have run more. I thought we'd run more effective.

You just have to get more physical on the offensive line. We've got to get bigger guys."

Saturday's score wasn't indicative of how far the Aggies are from playing at Nebraska's level, Slocum said. And that's the direction they re heading.

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A failure to gain significant yardage on first down forced Texas A&M to pass more. So the Aggie running game never really got going. Texas A&M finished with 13 yards on the ground, led by running

"It just takes time," Slocum said. "I don't think we're that far away.

"I think it's fair to say we were thoroughly beaten by a good football team. But it doesn't mean we've had a bad season."

## tourney final Arizona cools

## LOSS from page 10

ball team," NU Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We took away some inside stuff early, did a nice job on the boards. We just couldn't get the ball in the basket."

NU's Jami Kubik and her sister Nicole were a combined two-of-27 shooting in the championship game, while the Huskers' leading scorer, senior Anna DeForge, scored just 13 points on five-of-17 shooting. Forward Charlie Rogers, the only

Husker on the all-tournament team, scored 21 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Arizona senior forward Adia Barnes, named the most valuable player, scored eight of the Wildcats' first 13 points and finished with a game-high 23 points.

Arizona Coach Joan Bonvincini said her team's quickness and defensive pressure were enough to make up for the Huskers' size advantage.

"I knew our pressure would get to them," Bonvincini said. "I feel fortunate that we won this game."

A bright spot for the Huskers came on the glass. The more physical NU team outrebounded the Wildcats 51-39, including a 24-10 offensiverebounding edge. "Thank God, they weren't scor-

ing a lot," Bonivincini said. Jami Kubik agreed.

"I feel, and I know the coaches feel we're better than Arizona,"

Kubik said. "If they're a top-10 team than I feel we should be right up there."

But there was no explanation for the cold shooting, she said.

'Some nights the ball goes in, and some nights the ball doesn't," Kubik said. "We were getting good looks at the basket. We were getting layups.'

The Huskers (7-2) opened the game with a 4-0 lead but never led after that and trailed by as many as seven before intermission.

In Friday night's game against the Shockers, junior forward Cori McDill hit two free throws with 17 seconds remaining to give the Huskers a 71-69 victory.