

Big 12 Notebook

Nebraska's 54-15 win over Texas A&M represents the largest margin of victory over two ranked teams this season at 39. Second is UCLA's 34-point victory over Washington. NU also has another victory in the top five - 30 points in the 56-26 win over Kansas State. The worst loss that a ranked team suffered is the 63-point loss Texas had against UCLA.

NU junior I-back Ahman Green finished with 1,877 yards this season, second best in Husker history. In 1983, Mike Rozier won the Heisman Trophy with 2,148 yards over 12 games, which stands as the best single-season rushing total in NU history.

Senior quarterback Scott Frost fell 1 yard short of Nebraska's single-season total yardage record by accumulating 2,332 yards - 1,095 of it rushing, 1,237 passing. Jerry Tagge had 2,333 yards in 1971, with 2,019 passing yards, and 314 rushing yards.

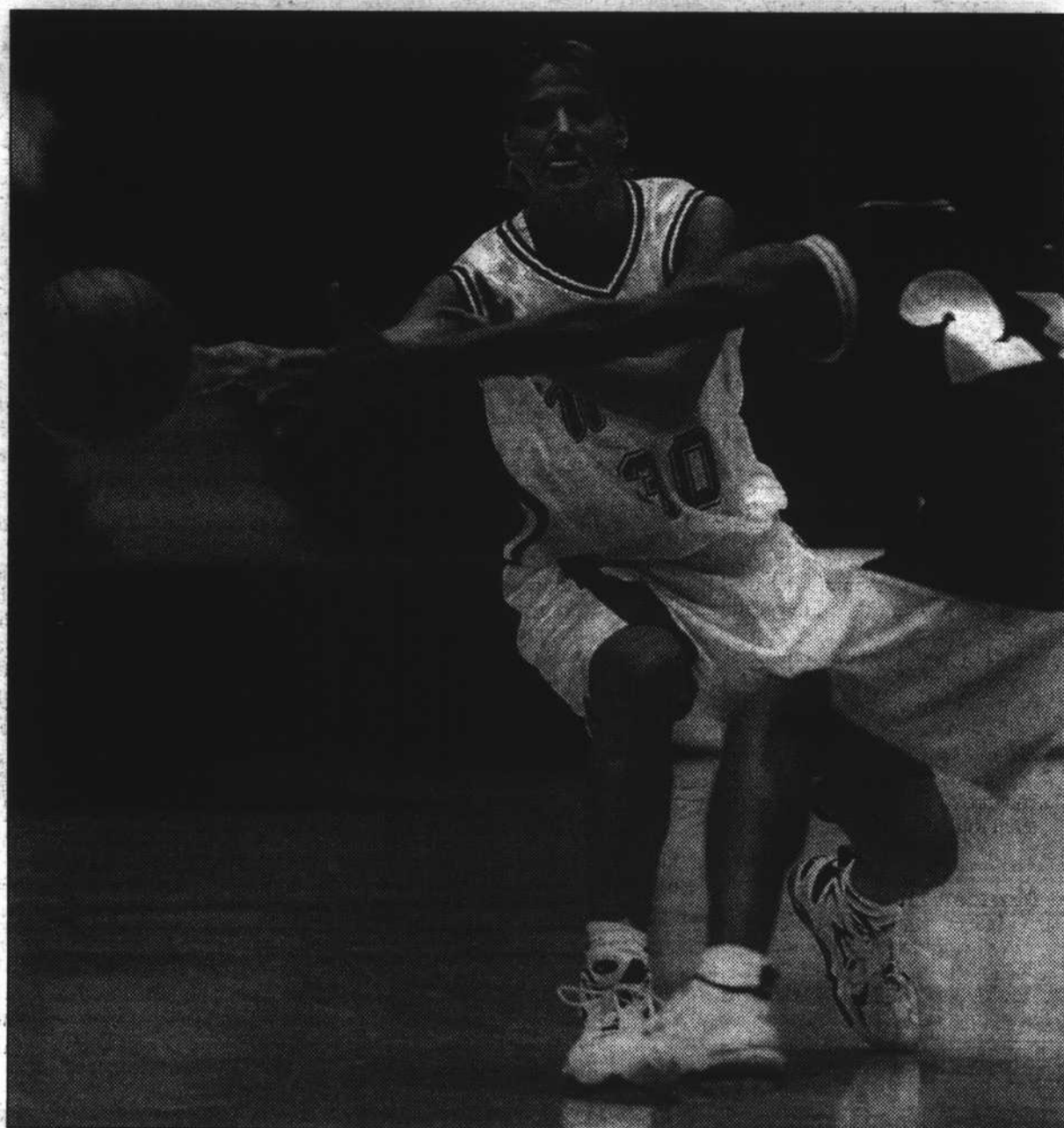
Nebraska currently has the second longest streak of consecutive Big 8/Big 12 regular-season conference victories with 39, which started in 1992 after a 19-10 loss to Iowa State and is still going. The longest is Oklahoma with 44 from 1952 to 1959. The streak was broken by Nebraska in 1959 with a 25-20 victory over the Sooners.

Basketball season is already in full swing in the Big 12, but only one team is currently ranked in the top 25. Perennial power Kansas is currently ranked third in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll, but will probably drop after a 86-83 loss to Maryland on Sunday.

NU senior outside hitter Lisa Reitsma and senior setter Fiona Nepo were named to the first team All-Big 12 volleyball team on Dec. 3. Reitsma was a unanimous selection. Freshman Angie Oxley and freshman Katie Jahnke were named Freshman and Newcomer of the Year, respectively. Texas outside hitter Demetria Sance was named Player of the Year in the Big 12.

While Nebraska is going to the Orange Bowl, four other Big 12 teams will also be making trips to bowl games. Kansas State received an Alliance Bowl bid and will face Syracuse in the Fiesta Bowl, while Texas A&M will travel to the Cotton Bowl to play UCLA. Missouri plays Colorado State in the Holiday Bowl, and Oklahoma State plays Purdue in the Alamo Bowl.

Big 12 notebook compiled by staff reporter Sam McKewon.



WNBA ALL-STAR Michelle Timms said NU senior Anna DeForge is the type of player the WNBA is looking for. Although DeForge will not make a decision until after the season, she said she would probably not pass up an opportunity to play at the next level.

Pros consider DeForge

By TED TAYLOR
Senior Reporter

TUSCON, Ariz. - Female basketball players are enjoying an era of prosperity and excitement that has never before been part of the sport.

Just ask Michelle Timms, who, as the energetic and flamboyant point guard for the Phoenix Mercury last season, helped what some called an experiment turn into a hugely popular women's professional league.

The creation and - more importantly - the success of the Women's National Basketball Association and the American Basketball League has given women, especially younger

girls, something more to strive for than just a college scholarship and four years of Division I competition.

It's also giving women's college basketball players a little extra incentive to keep their butts down on defense and their turnover ratios low.

"I'd be very excited if I was a senior player at the moment," Timms said Friday while watching the Husker's 71-69 win over Wichita State during the semifinals of the Insight Women's Classic.

"For those seniors, their last year has a lot more importance now than it ever did before."

One of those seniors Timms was talking about was Nebraska senior Anna DeForge.

NU Assistant Coach Dee Gibson said agents from both the ABL and WNBA have contacted Nebraska Coach Paul Sanderford about the 5-foot-11 senior from Niagara, Wis.

Timms said DeForge is the type of well-rounded player the WNBA is looking for, and she wasn't talking entirely about her skills on the court.

"She stands out not only on the court, but also academically. She's a great role model for these younger girls," she said pointing up to a group of teen-aged girls waiting for an autograph.

But DeForge said she was more

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NU discovers shooting touch

By JAY SAUNDERS
Assignment Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team followed up a three-game stretch of poor shooting performances with some of its best shooting of the season at the Ameritas Classic.

The Cornhuskers (7-1) shot 72 percent from the field against North Carolina-Wilmington in the first round of the 11th annual classic. In the championship against Grambling State, the Huskers followed their second-best shooting performance in school history by shooting 51 percent against the Tigers.

NU scored 85 points against both UNCW and Grambling, which is the

Husker's highest point total since the second game of the season, when the team put 86 points on the board against Western Illinois.

"These are as high as numbers as I have seen," NU Coach Danny Nee said. "This shows we have a little pride."

NU's pride, and shooting, were both low after a three-game stretch against Colorado State, Texas-San Antonio and Tulsa. The Huskers shot no higher than 39 percent from the field in any of those three games.

In NU's 85-68 loss to Tulsa, NU

shot 20 percent in the second half and 33 percent for the game.

In two wins against the University of Texas-San Antonio and Colorado State, the Huskers shot 39 percent and 37 percent, respectively.

Nee said in the Ameritas Classic, unlike the previous three games, the Huskers were able to score in whatever situation they were put up against.

"When (UNC-Wilmington and

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Disease hits NU athlete

From Staff Reports

Amanda Cleveland, a highly touted freshman recruit on the No. 11 Nebraska women's basketball team, has been diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia, a condition that keeps bone marrow from producing new cells.

"This is a serious condition," Dr. Lonnie Albers, Nebraska Director of Athletic Medicine said. "She feels fine right now, but this is a condition that could rapidly cause her to be very ill."

"The treatments for this disease are medication and or a bone marrow transplant. It is a rare disorder, one that affects only about 2,000 people per year in the United States."

Cleveland, who is from Lancaster, Texas, is being treated in nearby Dallas, where she flew on Friday after the diagnosis was confirmed.

The 6-foot-2, 184-pound, Nike All-American had been averaging 1.0 points and 2.7 rebounds per game and had appeared in the Huskers first six games. She didn't play against Bradley on Dec. 3 and then didn't make NU's trip to Tucson, Ariz., over the weekend where the Huskers lost the championship game to No. 12 Arizona in the Insight Women's Classic.

"My main concern is for Amanda Cleveland and her family," said NU Coach Paul Sanderford. "This is a blow for our basketball team because of the high expectations we had for A.C."

"Our players and staff are shocked and concerned about this situation. We will do anything we can to assist Amanda in her recovery. This (situation) is a part of real life, but it's very tough to deal with."

Kansas City game confirmed

From Staff Reports

A press conference has been scheduled for Friday at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., to announce the first ever NCAA Division I-A football game to be played at Arrowhead.

The release said two top 20 Big 12 Conference opponents will play in the stadium that is usually the home to the Kansas City Chiefs of the National Football League.

Sources said Nebraska and Oklahoma State will be the two Big 12 teams to participate in the game.

The Cornhuskers and the Cowboys are scheduled to play on Oct. 3, 1998, at Lewis Field in Stillwater, Okla. However, Lewis Field only seats 50,614 fans while Arrowhead seats 79,101 fans.