

# Huskers split in Wisconsin

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — The 13th-ranked Nebraska women's basketball team traveled to the winter wonderland of Wisconsin with plans to take a pair of road wins into Big 12 Conference play.



DeForge

Along with watching a homecoming for Niagara, Wis., native Anna DeForge, the Cornhuskers (9-3) hoped to get out of Milwaukee unscathed on Saturday.

But Wisconsin-Milwaukee had other plans in mind as the Panthers fought off an early 14-2 deficit to knock off Nebraska 88-76 in front of 562 at the Klotsche Center. NU downed Wisconsin-Green Bay 76-60 on Friday.

The Huskers struggled offensively Saturday, shooting only 38 percent from the field, including two of 22 from 3-point range, just one night after shooting 53 percent from the field at

the Phoenix Sports Center in Green Bay.

"(UWM) really played tough defensively, and they did take us out of our game," NU Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We were unorganized and had to back off our pressure because we weren't getting the job done."

The Panthers (5-4) took advantage of their chances at the free-throw line, knocking down 38 of 45 shots (84 percent), including 19 of 20 in the first half.

Three Huskers fouled out in the game, including senior guard Jami Kubik for the fifth time this year.

The amount of fouls called frustrated the Husker players and Sanderford, who was ejected with fewer than four minutes remaining in the game.

"We didn't get some critical calls to go our way when we needed them," DeForge said, "and we really didn't deserve anything tonight, because they just beat us."

The win is UWM's biggest upset over a ranked team in its eight years of Division I-A basketball. Panther Coach Sandy Botham's biggest win of her coaching career came on her birthday.

"I told them the only present I want is a win against Nebraska," Botham

Women's Basketball	
Nebraska	76
Wisconsin-Green Bay	60
Nebraska	76
Wisconsin-Milwaukee	76

said. "This wasn't a fluke. We're a good team, and our team plays hard five minutes at a time."

Botham, who won the 1996-97 Midwest Collegiate Conference coach-of-the-year award, saw five of her players score in double figures.

Senior center Trina Rathke pounded the Huskers inside for 23 points, six rebounds and four steals. Fifteen of her points came in the first half as UWM erased a 12-point deficit to lead 43-30 at the half.

"Our practice yesterday got us ready for them today," Rathke said. "We knew they were physical, and that was part of the reason we had a real physical practice. It wasn't pretty yesterday, but it paid off today."

The Huskers got within one point early in the second half, but two 3-pointers by sophomore guard Daryl Schaffeld opened a 12-point lead, and late Panther free-throw shooting doomed Nebraska.

# Manning, Osborne bow out in Miami

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them that made me feel good."

For the Nebraska offense, squaring off against Tennessee's passing attack will present a distinct contrast in styles.

Nebraska leads the nation in rushing offense, averaging 392.6 yards per game. Tennessee ranks 52nd nationally on the ground, averaging 151.1 yards per game. What the Vols lack in rushing, they make up for in passing the ball.

Tennessee, behind Manning, ranks sixth in the nation in passing, averaging 331.8 yards. Nebraska ranks 104th, averaging 121.1 yards behind quarterback Scott Frost. But Nebraska, comes out ahead in total offense, averaging about 30 yards more than the Vols.

"I think it's a little bit of a contrast," Frost said.

However, Frost said, teams like Texas A&M, which Nebraska beat

54-15 for the Big 12 championship, have a hard time adjusting to the Cornhuskers' option-style offense.

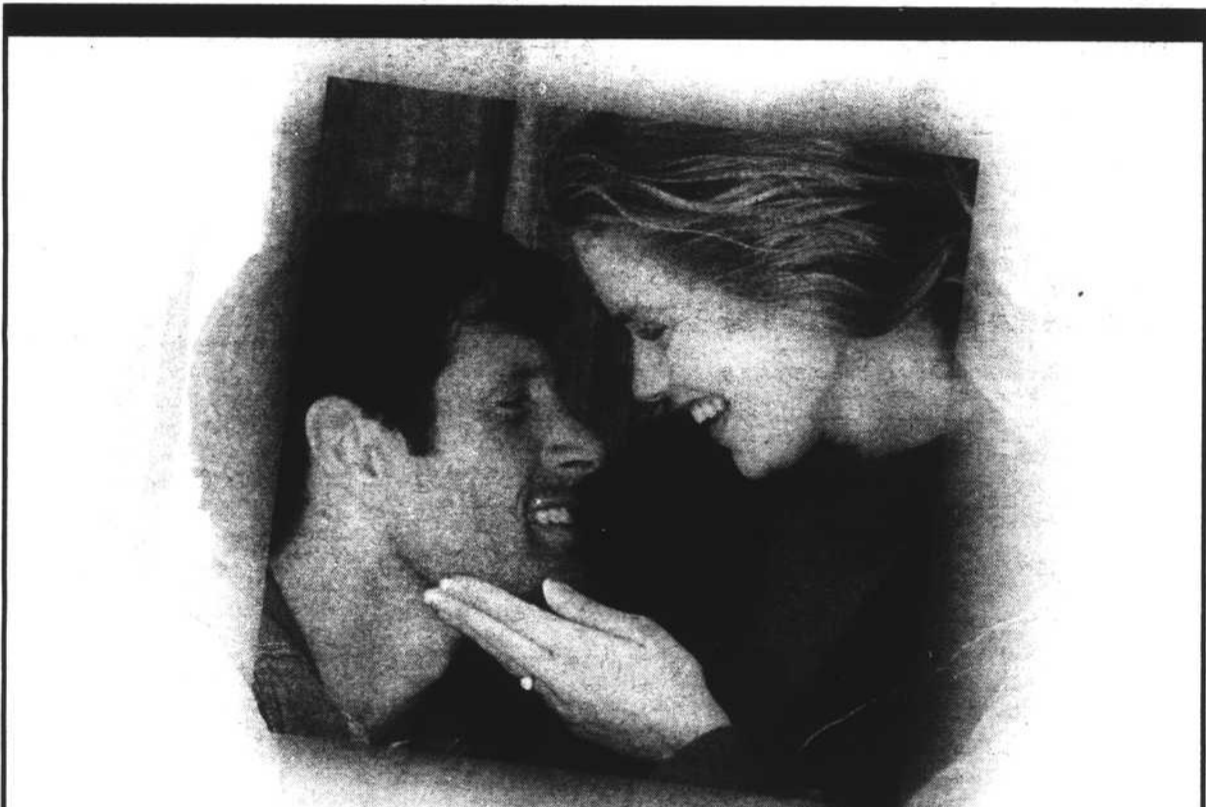
"You can see a little in the A&M game," Frost said. "Teams who play us a lot know a little better what we do. You've got to be ready for almost anything."

A shot at part of the national championship rides on this game for Nebraska. Should the Huskers win, it would likely take a Michigan loss to Washington State in the Rose Bowl to seal an outright championship for NU.

Peter, who's said several times that he won't worry about anything other than what he and the Huskers can control, said he'll cheer for the Cougars on Jan. 1.

"I'm a huge Washington State fan," Peter said with a grin. "You know, that's where I was going to go if I didn't go to Nebraska."

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