



Ahman Green announced Wednesday that he will forego his senior season at Nebraska for the NFL draft in April. DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

Green takes a chance

GREEN from page 9

runner, a north-south guy," Kiper said of Green Tuesday. "The question with Green is this: Will he be elusive and creative enough as an NFL runner?"

But Green knows there are no absolutes in determining exactly where he will fall in the draft.

"There is no guarantee. It's all only predictions," Green said. "I still have the NFL combine to go to do my running and show the NFL scouts my ability."

Green, from Omaha, leaves Nebraska after having one of the most prolific careers of any NU running back.

His 1,877-yard performance this season ranks as the best ever by a Husker junior. Green finished his career running for more than 100 yards in each of his last 12 games, but he might have saved his best game for last.

In a 42-17 Orange Bowl victory

over Tennessee on Jan. 2, Green ran for 206 yards — an Orange Bowl record — and was named the game's MVP.

The game went a long way toward convincing Green he was ready for the NFL.

"It made me feel a little better that I was making the right decision," Green said. "If I would have had a mediocre game or a not-so-well game, it might have made my options sway the other way. But I had a great game."

With Green's departure, the starting running back job is open for the 1998 season. Sophomore I-backs DeAngelo Evans, Correll Buckhalter and Dan Alexander appear to be front-runners for the job.

Evans sat out this season with a groin injury, while Buckhalter, a true freshman, had 54 carries for 313 yards. Alexander, who was slowed by a knee injury early this season, ran 16 times for 74 yards.

First half dooms CU

BY DARREN IVY
Assignment Reporter

A strong first half by a rejuvenated Nebraska men's basketball team coupled with a bad first half by Colorado proved to be the difference Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



Patton

CU trailed 15-3 just 4:04 into the game and never cut the lead to fewer than 10 points the rest of the game.

"We lost the game in the first half," said CU Coach Ricardo Patton. "We started out down 15 and that is about what we lost by."

The Buffaloes' first half of poor shooting, blocking out and transition defense put them down 42-27 at half-

time, Patton said.

In the first half, CU shot 27 percent from the floor, gave up 10 offensive rebounds and allowed NU to get numerous easy shots and baskets.

Patton said poor defense and rebounding was why all five of NU's starters scored in double figures for the first time this year.

"They had guys who weren't averaging double figures that had double figures tonight," Patton said. "One reason was because they ran the ball in transition and got easy baskets."

CU (6-7 overall and 0-3 in the Big 12 Conference) played better in the second half as both teams scored 45 points.

The Buffaloes have seven players with no Big 12 experience, which hurt CU, Patton said.

"We have to get out of this state of not coming out and being as aggressive as we do when we find ourselves in a hole," Patton said. "It is a mentality and part of the learning curve they are in right now."

Gymnasts claim 2nd

BY DARREN IVY
Assignment Reporter

In between hula dancing and lying on the beach, the Nebraska women's gymnastics team turned in a second-place finish at the first-ever Maui Invitational on Saturday.

The No. 7 Cornhuskers finished 1.65 points behind 1997 NCAA runner-up and pre-season No. 3 Arizona State.

"We would have loved to finish first, but we can learn from what took place," Coach Dan Kendig said.

The Huskers were paced by Misty Oxford, a junior All-American from Kelso, Wash., and Heather Brink, a sophomore All-American from Lincoln.

Oxford won the all around with a score of 38.475 and Brink finished second with a 37.950.

Brink claimed the only individual title with a 9.70 on the vault. With Brink leading the way, the Huskers took three of the top four places in the vault.

Oxford finished third and Arica Lamb took fourth.

For Kendig, the stronger-than-expected vault performance was the highlight of the meet.

"Heading in, I had some questions marks about vault," Kendig said. "Some of our athletes really stepped up tonight. I was pleased with how she (Lamb) started us off on the vault. Arica played the same role she did last year — leading off and performing well. I hope she can use this as a springboard."

The Huskers were down 1.825 points after uneven bars, the first event, and Kendig said it could have been worse.

After Laura Ohlendorf fell off the bars to open for the Huskers, the rest of the team had pressure to perform well. Jess Swift, NU's next gymnast, had some trouble, but managed to stay on.

"I was proud of her for not giving up when she could have," Kendig said.

Kendig said the meet gave him a chance to see what NU has to work on for the rest of the year.

Coach upset with mat finish

From staff reports

Only half of the Nebraska wrestling team's starters traveled to Minnesota Friday as the Cornhuskers fell to the second-ranked Golden Gophers 43-3.

NU claimed third place at the Great Plains Open Jan. 4 and defeated North Carolina 29-6 Jan. 2 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Preseason favorite Ryan Tobin wrestled at 190 pounds for the first time this season and pinned No. 7 Scott Stay in one minute, 11 seconds.

But Coach Tim Neumann said he was disappointed in the team's finish.

"Paul Gomez, Temoer Terry and Jeramie Welder all had to drop out after the first round because of injuries," Neumann said. "It was a little disappointing."

Nebraska will travel to Iowa City Jan. 17-18, for the National Duals.

COLLEGE STUDENTS SAVE ON AMTRAK

If you're a *math whiz*, you'll know it's a *great deal*.
(If you're not, well, you can come along, too.)



Hey, we all know that college students don't have a lot of money to throw around. That's where Amtrak® can help. We can get you home to see family and friends with low fares and special student discounts. Student Advantage members save 15% on our already low fares. To see how much you can save call your travel agent or 1-800-USA-RAIL.



Trains depart from the Amtrak station at 201 N. 7th St., Lincoln. For more information on Student Advantage call 1-800-96-AMTRAK or check out our web site at www.amtrak.com.

