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NU to sign marquee class

RECRUITS from page 7

One of NU's most highly touted recruits is defensive back DeJuan Groce from Lakewood, Ohio. The 5-foot-10, 180 pound Parade All-American runs the 100-meter dash in 10.7 seconds.

Groce, who chose NU over Syracuse and Ohio State, said he hoped to see immediate playing time returning kicks. He returned seven kicks for touchdowns in his high school career and averaged 30 yards per kickoff return.

"I enjoy returning kicks a lot," Groce said. "I'd like to play in the secondary as well, but I'll do what they ask me to do."

NU also signed kicker Josh Brown out of Foyil, Okla. Brown, who chose Nebraska over Florida and Miami, is the No. 2 kicker in the nation, according to The National Recruiting Advisor.

One noticeable absence from the Huskers' recruiting list is a quarterback. The Huskers will return three scholarship quarterbacks next season to fill the shoes of the departed Scott Frost.

Football Commitments

The following is a list of players who have verbally committed to play football at Nebraska next fall.

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Position	Hometown
Demoine Adams	6-2	212	LB	Pine Bluff, Ark.
Jon Bowling	6-4	210	TE	Lincoln Southeast
Josh Brown	6-1	180	K	Foyil, Okla.
Jon Clanton	6-2	278	DT	Peoria, Ariz.
Wes Cody	6-3	265	L	Fremont Bergan
Keyuo Craver	6-0	190	ATH	Harleton, Texas
Michael Demps	5-11	195	ATH	Fort Worth, Texas
Dahrran Diedrick	6-1	210	IB	Scarborough, Ontario
Aaron Golliday	6-5	230	TE	York
DeAntae Gribby	5-9	190	CB/IB	Omaha Central
DeJuan Groce	5-10	180	DB	Lakewood, Ohio
Chris Kelsay	6-4	235	DE	Auburn
Nate Kolterman	6-4	310	L	Seward
Jason Lohr	6-2	275	DL	Jenks, Okla.
Shawn McGann	6-0	187	IB	Mishawaka, Ind.
Jeremy Slechta	6-5	260	DT	Papillion-LaVista
Justin Smith	6-5	240	DE	Sherman, Texas
Randy Stella	6-1	195	LB	Omaha Benson
Frank Strong	6-2	190	IB	Stockton, Calif.
Wilson Thomas	6-6	195	WR/DE	Omaha North

JON FRANK/DN

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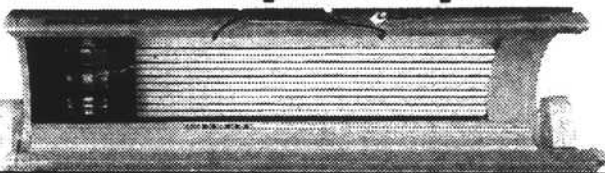
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Home courts prove big in Big 12

BY ANDREW STRNAD
Staff Reporter

On the road again.

It's not the favorite place to be if you are a Big 12 basketball coach.

Through Tuesday, the Big 12 had a 16-32 overall road record, and a 5-13 conference road record.

Oklahoma, Kansas and Oklahoma State are the only Big 12 men's teams with a winning conference record on the road. The Sooners are 3-1 outside of Norman, the Jayhawks are 2-1 on the road, and the Cowboys are 2-0.

Nebraska posts a 2-4 record on the road with wins at Minnesota and Oklahoma State. The Huskers road losses came at Tulsa, Creighton, Hawaii and Kansas.

Whether it's the pressure of a hostile crowd or unusual surroundings, coaches offer a variety of reasons for the road struggles.

During the weekly Big 12 coach-

es' teleconference Monday, Oklahoma State Coach Eddie Sutton said the home crowd plays a bigger role in basketball than in any other sport.

"Most coaches try to play a little bit different when they go on the road," Sutton said. "(You) play more conservative, handle the ball a little bit longer than you would if you were playing at home. One way you can control a basketball game is to put the home team on defense, and many times that will put the crowd back in their seats."

Oklahoma Coach Kelvin Sampson said part of the problem of playing on the road lies with the attitude of the team. Sampson believes teams go into road games with the idea that they are not supposed to win, and they really don't feel any sense of urgency on the road.

"Everyone harps on the importance to win at home, and then turns around and says, 'Let's just get a split on the road and win our games at

home,'" Sampson said.

NU Coach Danny Nee said long road trips can also take a toll on a team. The Huskers returned home Sunday for the first time since Dec. 6.

"It's no excuse for how we play, but a month away from home was very difficult," Nee said. "It's just tough to play a lot of tough teams in a row. Then add some problems with flight connections and things like that. It just made it a long haul."

Iowa State Coach Tim Floyd said certain players simply perform better on the road, but it's difficult to figure out the chemistry for a solid road team.

"I keep home stats and road stats, so we can figure out which personnel works with each other best," Floyd said.

Missouri Coach Norm Stewart would love to find a winning road formula. The Tigers have lost 16 straight road games, dating back to Feb. 13, 1996.

Huskers struggle to limit turnovers

SLOPPY from page 7

guard Tyrone Lue, owns a poor 1.05 to 1 assist-to-turnover ratio this season, with 74 assists and 70 turnovers.

Nee said one of difficult things with the turnover situation is the variety of mistakes the Huskers have made.

"There hasn't been a pattern to it," Nee said. "Some times it's dribbling, and sometimes it's bad passing."

"We got three or four guys on this team that do different things wrong and take turns."

Junior forward Andy Markowski said Nebraska's turnovers result largely from a breakdown in fundamentals — not from the other team's pressure.

"We just have to slow down and make the easy play," Markowski said. "We get ahead of ourselves in trying to make too flashy of a play. In the first half (against Colorado), we had a lot of unforced errors."

Despite the turnovers, Markowski said, it was encouraging to see the Huskers find a way to win against the Buffaloes.

"We won by (15) points and

"We got three or four guys on this team that do different things wrong and take turns."

DANNY NEE
NU basketball coach

we still played sloppy," Markowski said. "But we have just got to take care of the ball, because we just can't turn it over and expect to win a lot of times in this conference."

With Nebraska playing four games in a 10-day stretch starting Sunday, a solution has to come quickly for the sloppy Huskers, Nee said.

"We'll show them film, so they can know what they're doing wrong," Nee said. "We'll try and talk to them about the fact that we can't have them making the kind of mistakes they're making out there."

Seniors can't top Buffs, KU

SWEPT from page 7

(Charlie Rogers, Naciska Gilmore) and Nicole (Kubik) don't want that to happen."

Schwartz said the Huskers must get over the hump of believing they can't win at Colorado or Kansas. NU can start working on that this season with upcoming road games at Baylor and Texas Tech.

"We couldn't get over that hump, and I don't know what that was," Schwartz said. "It's like we're getting revenge for our seniors."

"We play Tech there this year. Maybe we can start that feeling there when we play at Tech and beat them there. Maybe that will help us when we go to CU and KU next year."

Note:

Nebraska Coach Paul Sanderford said Renee Saunders will redshirt this season. Saunders, who also played on the NU volleyball team, broke her foot in October and had a pin inserted in it.

Assistant Trainer Cindy Benda said Saunders was going to have surgery on both ankles to "tighten them up." Benda said Saunders has been showing arthritic symptoms in both ankles.