

## NU looks to rebound against ISU

By DARREN IYI

Nebraska Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

After being completely out of control Wednesday, the Nebraska men's basketball team hopes to avoid another disaster when the Cyclones blitz into town.



Florence

For the past three years at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, Iowa State has left the Cornhuskers wondering what hit them.

But starting forward Larry Florence thinks NU has what it takes to withstand the Cyclones' storm this year when the two teams meet Saturday at 12:45 p.m.

"We have to forget about the

Texas game and get ready to move on to Iowa State because it is a winnable game," coach Danny Nee said.

NU makes this game different from its past three meetings with NU, 1-1, 1-1 and 1-2 in the Big Ten Conference, is playing its best basketball at home (9-0). The Huskers are also more experienced than Iowa State, 9-9 and 2-3.

Although the Cyclones are a .500 team, Nebraska Coach Danny Nee is wary of the Tim Floyd-coached Cyclones.

"Their record is no indication of their ability," Nee said. "They have the ability to win on any given night."

With four newcomers in the starting lineup, the Cyclones have experienced some growing pains, but they seem to be playing their best basketball lately.

On Wednesday, they led much of the way before falling to Oklahoma 64-63 in Norman, Okla.

Florence compared the young

Cyclones' improvement to Nebraska last year.

"We're young teams taking time to come along," Florence said. "But once the season progresses, the team gets going and for each other and the chemistry starts coming together. And that's when they start playing better."

Maturity, along with the perimeter shooting and the inside play of Marcus Fizer, have helped the Cyclones improve in the last few weeks.

Fizer, a 6-foot-7 freshman forward, leads the Cyclones in scoring with 15.2 points per game. He scored 27 points against OU.

"He's big and strong, and he is going to be a star in the league," Nee said. "He might be the best freshman in the league right now."

Limiting Iowa State's 3-point shots and stopping Fizer are keys to NU winning the game, Nee said.

Please see ISU on 8

### Men's Basketball Starters



Saturday, 12:45 p.m.  
Bob Devaney Sports Center

Iowa St. 9-9, (2-3)

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Paul Shirley	6-10	So.
G	Lee Love	6-1	Fr.
C	Brad Johnson	6-5	So.
F	Marcus Fizer	6-7	Fr.
F	Martin Rancik	6-9	Fr.

Nebraska 12-6, (3-2)

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Tyrone Lue	6-0	Jr.
G	Cookie Belcher	6-3	So.
C	Andy Markowski	6-8	Jr.
F	Venson Hamilton	6-10	Jr.
F	Larry Florence	6-5	Jr.

### Sports Opinion



Jay Saunders

## Super Bowl vs. NCAA no contest

It is that time of year again. The time when sports fans across the country sit in front of their television sets with a bag of fried snack products and a beverage of their choice.

No, I am not talking about the Super Bowl. Are you kidding me; who really cares about that? For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the AFC has sent another lamb to be slaughtered by the NFC champion on Sunday.

I could care less about the carnage that will be Super Bowl XXXII. There are only so many times I can see Brett Favre pump his fists in the air after another touchdown pass to Antonio Freeman or Mark Chmura. At least at Packer home games there is the excitement of the "Lambeau Leap."

If I had my way, all the sports channels (I hope ESPN and FOX are listening) across the country would show nothing but college basketball until the end of March.

There shall be no NBA, and please, no ABL either. I don't want to hear anything about pitchers and catchers reporting. All I want for my cold winter months' entertainment is college basketball, and maybe a little hockey.

Some are calling this a down year in college basketball. It is probably because no team is dominating the rest of the country. This is a good thing. The conference season and NCAA Tournament are exciting enough as it is. Now, add to that excitement the "any given night" scenario.

No team, or conference for that matter, is at the head of this year's class. The Big Ten will once again send six or seven teams to the tournament, and then show why they are the biggest fraud in college sports. The Big East (formally known as the Big East) should probably be replaced by the up-and-coming Atlantic 10 on ESPN's "Big Monday."

Kansas, Duke and North Carolina, the three teams most experts picked to be the cream of the crop this year, have all shown signs of vulnerability. Gone are the days of undefeated Duke and UNLV in the early 1990s. This unpredictability is great, especially for the fans who fill the seats (unless your seats are in the Bob Devaney Sports Center).

So, on Sunday, if you find yourself wanting to watch the Broncos get beat, turn on ESPN - maybe the Santa Clara Broncos are playing.

Jay Saunders is a sophomore broadcasting major and a Daily Nebraskan assignment reporter.



FRESHMAN SPRINTER Leslie Owusu is looking to step in and make an impact for the Huskers this season. NU will play host to the Nebraska Open Saturday at the Devaney track.

## Track team gears up for Nebraska Open

By ANDREW STRNAD

Staff Reporter

The Nebraska track team will welcome over 750 athletes this Saturday - including two-time national champion shot putter Tressa Thompson - to the Devaney Sports Center for this year's Nebraska Open.

The meet begins at the Devaney track, with field events beginning at 9 a.m., and running events starting at 10 a.m.

The Huskers opened the indoor season last weekend with impressive victories by both the men and women at the Wildcat Invitational in Manhattan, Kan.

NU's women are led by four All-Americans, three of which teamed up to finish third in the 4 x 400-meter relay at last year's NCAA Indoor Championships.

Senior La'Tisha Croom, junior

Charmaine Burton, and sophomore Stella Klassen return and look to make it back to nationals, both individually and as a relay team.

"We know we're going to have a great relay team, but I think Charmaine would agree with me that we all would like to qualify individually," Croom said.

In addition to the relay, Croom, the four-time All-American, expects to race in the 400- and 800-meter dash.

Burton will compete in shorter sprints, mainly the 55-meter dash and the 200. Along with Klassen, the trio will lead a women's team that has won the last 18 conference titles.

Looking to unseat the defending champions is Texas.

The Longhorns have one of the deepest groups of sprinters in the country. Burton said the Longhorns definitely pose a threat to the throne the Huskers have occupied since 1980.

"They have four or five people at

"We know we're going to have a great relay team..."

LA'TISHA CROOM  
NU sprinter

every sprint event, but we have talent here too," Burton said.

Head Coach Gary Pepin and the rest of the Huskers are hoping for some of the newcomers to step in and make an early impact.

Senior transfer Meka Rembert is one of NU's heralded rookies. Rembert, a transfer from Kentucky, is expected to run in the 400-meter hurdles.

She competed with the Huskers last year unattached, because she was not granted a release from Kentucky. Rembert competed in the U.S.

Olympic Trials and the NCAA Championships in 1996.

Freshman sprinter Leslie Owusu also hopes to make an early impression for the Huskers.

The British Junior Champion came to Lincoln from Slough Berkshire, United Kingdom and said she's very excited to make her debut at the Devaney track.

"I want to enjoy it and run well. That's basically what I want to do," Owusu said.

Owusu plans to run in the 55-, 200- and 800-meter dash.