

Sports Opinion



Ted Taylor

Omaha to keep CWS tradition

Thank you Jack Dising Jr. Thank you for keeping the state's most important sporting event, the College World Series, in Omaha. For eight days in June every year since 1949, Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium has been the center of the collegiate baseball world, and now, thanks to Dising and CWS Inc., that will remain so through the year 2000. During the last 10 years, Dising, president of CWS Inc., has done everything in his power to keep the series in Omaha.

When the NCAA said Omaha needed a bigger stadium or it would move the tournament to the Minneapolis Metrodome, Dising added seats to the stadium.

And this time before the NCAA could even ask for more renovations, Dising dangled a \$3 million check in front of them and said, in effect, "just try to take the CWS away from us."

All of it has been, and will be, money well spent.

The money means that for at least the next two years Omaha will continue to be the sight of college baseball's equivalent to the NCAA Final Four.

It means Omaha can keep preparing for its weeklong celebration of everything that is good in collegiate athletics.

It is a week where eight teams of young men will fulfill a dream of making the ultimate road trip to Omaha, of all places — but only one team travels home the National Champion.

A week where thousands of fans from all over the country — usually places like Baton Rouge, La.; College Station, Texas; Palo Alto, Calif., and Tempe, Ariz. — make their annual pilgrimage to the CWS like a Husker football fan does to Miami every January.

A week my parents take off of work and spend hanging out in the parking lot and in the stadium with best friends they have not yet met, but will be on the next year's Christmas card list.

A week when CBS and ESPN make their annual visits to Omaha to do their part in putting the River City on the map.

A week where every camera shot of the crowd and the game allows Omaha to put another feather in its cap.

It's a glorious week where more than 20,000 fans pack the cozy confines of Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium every afternoon and night to show the NCAA and the rest of the country the College World Series belongs in Omaha.

It's our little way of saying thanks, Jack.

Ted Taylor is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan associate news editor.

NU women can't shake road jinx

By **MIKE KLUCK**
Staff Reporter

LUBBOCK, Texas — Having won seven of its last eight games — including road games at Missouri and Oklahoma — the Nebraska women's basketball team was supposed to be over its road jinx.

It was a road jinx in which the Cornhuskers fell behind by 20 points in the first half at Kansas, Colorado and Iowa State, and was forced to attempt a second-half comeback.

The jinx reappeared Wednesday night in front of 8,200 fans at a sold-

out Lubbock Municipal Coliseum as Nebraska fell behind Big 12 Conference leader and fifth-ranked Texas Tech by 18 at halftime before losing 87-62.

The loss, Nebraska's worst in 124 games, dropped the Huskers to 21-8 overall and 10-5 in the Big 12. With the win, the Red Raiders (20-5, 14-1) wrapped up the Big 12 Conference regular

season championship. NU is now tied for third in the league.

"Our defense was nonexistent tonight," NU Coach Paul Sanderford said. "Defensively, we didn't do a good job, and we didn't keep them off the boards."

"It just steamrolled on us. I felt helpless on the bench — totally helpless. It was our worst performance of the year."

The Huskers fell victim to a 20-4 Texas Tech run in the first half as the Red Raiders expanded a 13-12 advantage to 33-16 with 7:05 remaining.

From the beginning Nebraska

Women's Basketball
Nebraska 62
Texas Tech 87



could not stop the inside play of senior Big 12 Player of the Year candidate Alicia Thompson and junior Angie Braziel. Thompson and Braziel scored 23 of Texas' first 25 points and finished the half with 31 of the Red Raiders 45 points.

"That's our strength to go inside," Texas Tech Coach Marsha Sharp said. "It has been the thing

Please see **WOMEN** on 8

Men's Basketball
Texas Tech 65
Nebraska 82



Huskers roll to key win

■ Texas Tech loses steam as Nebraska takes an early lead and doesn't look back.

By **SHANNON HEFFELFINGER**
Senior Reporter

Hoping to lay a solid claim on the fourth-place spot in the Big 12 Conference, the Nebraska men's basketball team had prepared for a 40-minute battle with fifth-place Texas Tech Wednesday night.

But a cold-shooting Tech offered little more than a five-minute distraction, and fans turned their attention to NU's Tyronn Lue.

In what may have been Lue's last performance at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, the defensive-minded Huskers (18-10 overall and 9-6 in the league) never allowed Texas Tech (13-12 and 7-8) to come within 10 points after the 15-minute mark of the first half.

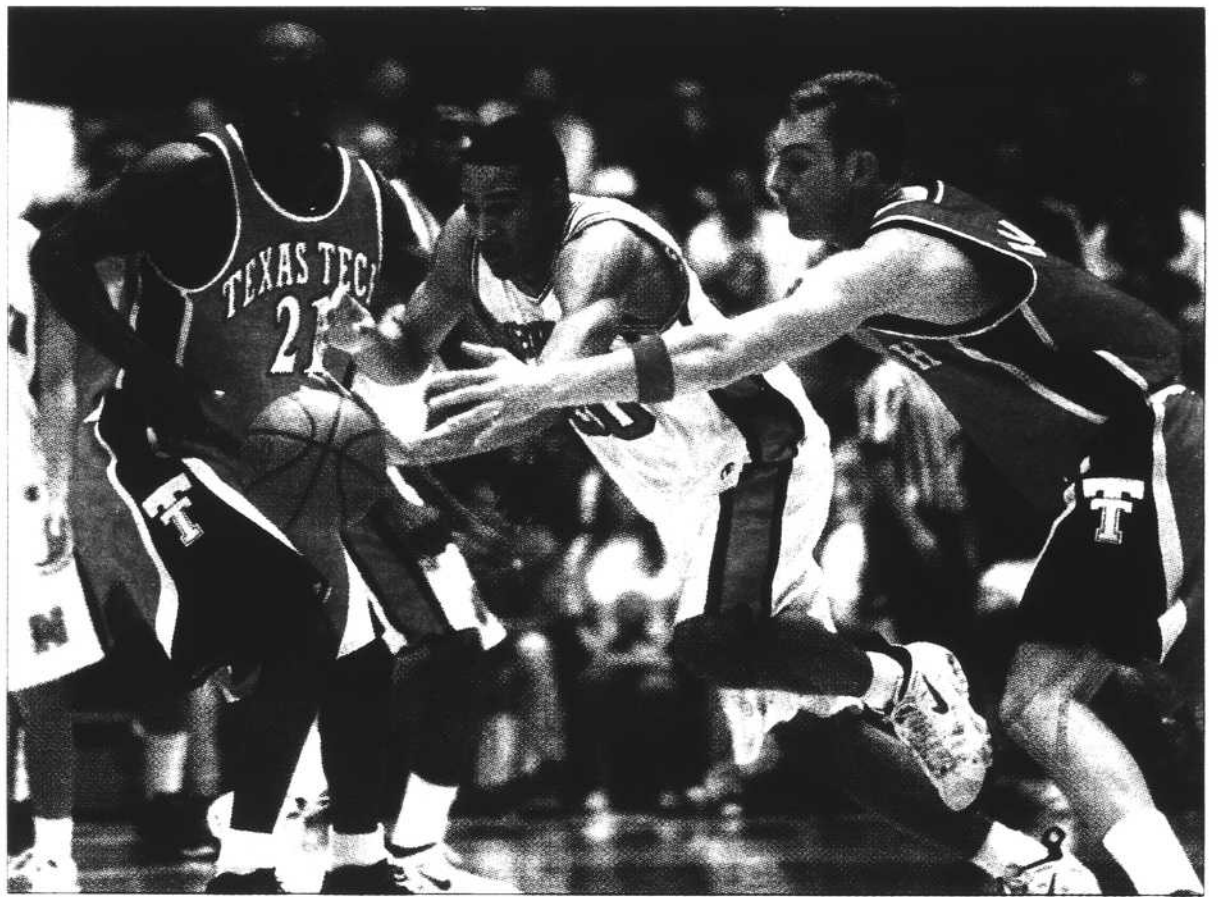
Lue grabbed four of NU's 17 steals in the Huskers' 82-65 win. The junior guard also led both teams with 23 points as fans chanted "One more year" to Lue, who has said he may forgo his senior year to enter the NBA draft.

"Chills were running through my body when (the fans) did that," Lue said. "It felt good to know that the fans want me back."

But for now, Lue said, he wants to take a "wait and see" attitude. NU Coach Danny Nee agreed.

"He's going to evaluate the situation and do what's best for him," Nee said. "If it's not right, then he won't do it. He'll stay and control his own destiny."

Lue took control of the game early



in Nebraska's fifth-straight win in two weeks. He converted 6 of 10 attempts to score 17 of his 23 points in the first half.

Lue finished the half with a 3-point field goal with 0:06 seconds remaining, and Nebraska ended the period with a 42-24 advantage.

"The game was really decided in the first five to 10 minutes," Nee said. "We established ourselves at the defensive end, and we did a great job on (Cory) Carr and (Stan) Bonewitz."

Nebraska used Larry Florence to harass Carr, who struggled from the field, making 4 of 13 shots.

The guard trio of Carr, Bonewitz and Rayford Young, who have averaged 53 points per game collectively this season, combined for 35 points and made only 9 of 31 field-goal attempts.

"They missed their shots early and we made ours," Lue said. "They backed off a little after that."

Even though the Huskers rank fourth in the league, Cookie Belcher said, they have not lost sight of their initial goal — an NCAA Tournament bid.



(TOP) NEBRASKA GUARD Cookie Belcher scrambles for a loose ball. MICHAEL WARREN/DN

(ABOVE) NU POINT GUARD Tyronn Lue awaits his pregame introduction. JAY CALDERON/DN

Former player running back to NU offense

By **SAM MCKEWIN**
Senior Reporter

A former Nebraska running back, who also was part of Coach Tom Osborne's first recruiting class, will return to coach the running backs for the Cornhusker.

Dave Gillespie, currently an assistant coach and administrative assistant at Kansas, was named to the position Wednesday by NU Head Coach Frank Solich, who vacated the position when he took over for the retiring Osborne in

January.

Gillespie will also be in charge of evaluating recruits for the Huskers, similar to the position he held at NU from 1986-1993 when he was the recruiting coordinator.

Solich said that Gillespie was a solid selection for the position, considering his familiarity with Nebraska's program.



Gillespie

"Having played here as a running back and working here as a recruiting coordinator, he knows the Nebraska system," Solich said.

Originally from San Jose, Calif., Gillespie was a part of Osborne's first recruiting class in 1973 and played for the Huskers from 1974-76. After his playing career, Gillespie coached high school football in Lincoln and Hastings before returning to NU in 1985.

As recruiting coordinator at NU from 1986-93, Gillespie had a hand in overseeing the recruiting of 15 All-Americans for Nebraska, including

Tommie Frazier and Grant Wistrom. The eight recruiting classes Gillespie oversaw went on to post a record of 87-9-1.

"Dave helped put together three national championship teams (1994, 1995, 1997)," Solich said. "He has the work ethic necessary to be successful and has demonstrated that he knows how to relate well to players."

When Gillespie left Nebraska, he went to Kansas where he coached the tight ends in 1994 and the defensive line in 1995-96. He was an administrative assistant to KU Coach Terry Allen in 1997.