

## DeForge leads NU to perfect home record

■ **The Huskers beat the Cyclones 68-60 Saturday to end the regular season.**

Women's Basketball	
Iowa St.	60
Nebraska	68

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Senior Reporter

As Anna DeForge stood at center court and waved to the crowd at the Bob Devaney Sports Center prior to Nebraska's Saturday night game with Iowa State, she knew it would be a night to remember.

"It was a chance to be undefeated at home. It was senior night, and I broke the record (for 3-point field goals made)," DeForge said. "I just wanted to have a good memory about my last game here."

It was a near-perfect ending for the senior All-American's last regular season game.

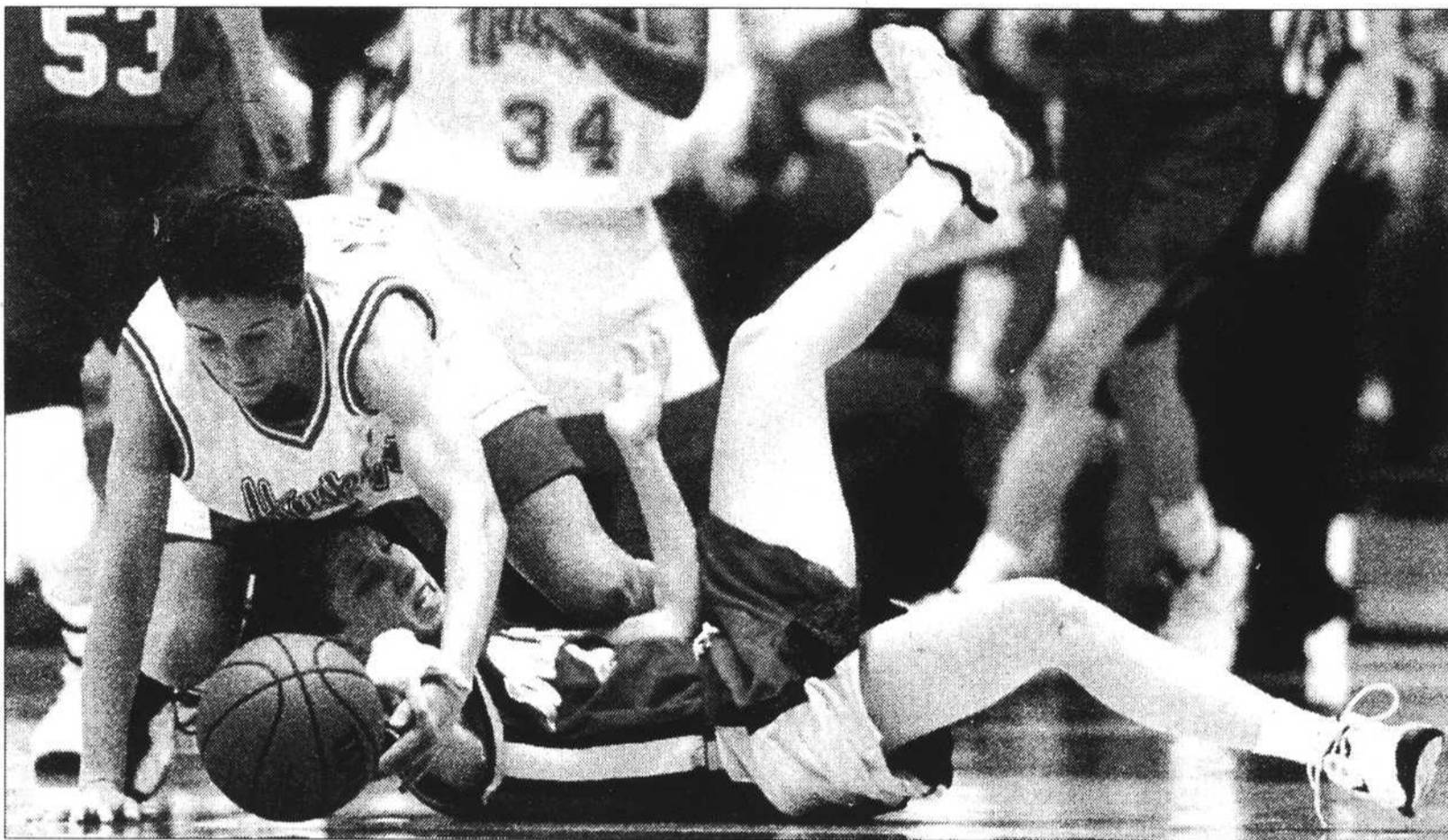
With a 68-60 victory over ISU, the Cornhuskers finished the season 16-0 at home and broke the school record for attendance for the second time in a week with 12,181 fans.

"I remember the first four games when I was saying there would be a home-crowd advantage here," NU Coach Paul Sanderford said, "and I look up tonight and see 12,000 fans. It was tremendous. It makes me think this wasn't such a bad move after all."

"But I'm the most happy for the kids. I've pushed this group about as hard as I possibly can."

After holding a 37-21 advantage at the half, Nebraska's lead began slipping away.

The Huskers led by 11 with 12:15 remaining in the second half when ISU's Stacy Freese hit a 3-point field goal. From that point on, the Cyclones outscored NU 13-6 to pull within one.



NEBRASKA GUARD Jami Kubik wrestles for a loose ball with Iowa State guard Stacy Freese after Freese fell on the play. Kubik was one of five Nebraska seniors to play in their last regular season game on Saturday night.

MICHAEL WARREN/DN

DeForge then sank three straight shots — including back-to-back 3-pointers — to push the Huskers' lead to 62-54 with 3:17 remaining in the contest.

"After that second 3, it was turn off the lights — the party is over," Sanderford said.

DeForge made 5 of 8 3-pointers, moving her career total to 150 and vaulting her past Kate Galligan (1992-96) as NU's career leader. DeForge, who was named a first team All-Big 12 guard this season, finished with 25 points, 12 rebounds and six assists.

The Cyclone's Janel Grimm, one of four ISU players who scored in double figures, said DeForge's 3-point field goals were critical.

"It really burst our bubble," Grimm said. "You're in there clawing to get back in it, and then all of a sudden it's like 'boom, boom' when she hits those 3s. It's hard to be all right when you've climbed back from 16 and then that happens."

ISU Coach Bill Fennelly said the Cyclones hurt themselves early in the game. Down six with 10:58 to play in

the first half, ISU experienced one of its worst droughts of the season.

The Cyclones committed seven turnovers, missed seven straight shots and were outscored 13-1. For the game, the Huskers outrebounded ISU 41-39 — only the fifth time this season the Cyclones have been beaten on the boards. Iowa State also committed 18 turnovers to NU's season low of eight.

In the two teams' last meeting in Ames, Iowa, a hot-shooting ISU (52.2 percent) defeated Nebraska 83-69.

"The difference was that every shot

went in for us in Ames," said Fennelly, whose team earned the No. 2 seed in the Big 12 Tournament.

"Tonight, we couldn't even throw it in the ocean. It's tough to stay in it when you only make six field goals in the first half."

With the win, Nebraska earned a bye in the first round of the Big 12 Conference Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. The Huskers will play Wednesday at 2:20 p.m. against the Missouri-Oklahoma State winner.

## NU closes out season with six-game streak

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

AMES, Iowa — Six games ago, Nebraska point guard Tyrone Lue said the Cornhuskers needed to win their last six games to get an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

They did their part.

The Huskers won their sixth straight and third in a row on the road with a 70-62 victory over Iowa State in front of 13,465 at the Hilton Coliseum.

The strong finish gave the Huskers a 19-10 record overall (10-6 in the Big 12 Conference), but Coach Danny Nee refused to discuss the possibilities of getting invited to the Big Dance.

"We're not worried about it," Nee said. "If we're not in the top 64 in the country, then we belong in Russia."

Lue, who scored a game-high 24 points, echoed Nee's belief that talking about the NCAA Tournament just isn't worth it.

"Coach (Jimmy) Williams says, 'Those who think they are safe, are the ones in danger,'" Lue said. "We still have to go to the Big 12 Tournament."

Lue had plenty to worry about against Iowa State as he and guard Cookie Belcher provided 45 of NU's 70 points.

Just two minutes into the contest, forward Larry Florence went down with a sprained right ankle.

Less than a minute later, center

Men's Basketball	
Nebraska	70
Iowa St.	62

"If we're not in the top 64 ... then we belong in Russia."

DANNY NEE  
NU coach

Venson Hamilton picked up his second personal foul and received a technical foul for arguing with officials. Hamilton sat on the bench the rest of the first half.

Despite the early departures of Hamilton and Florence, the Huskers were led throughout the first half by Belcher.

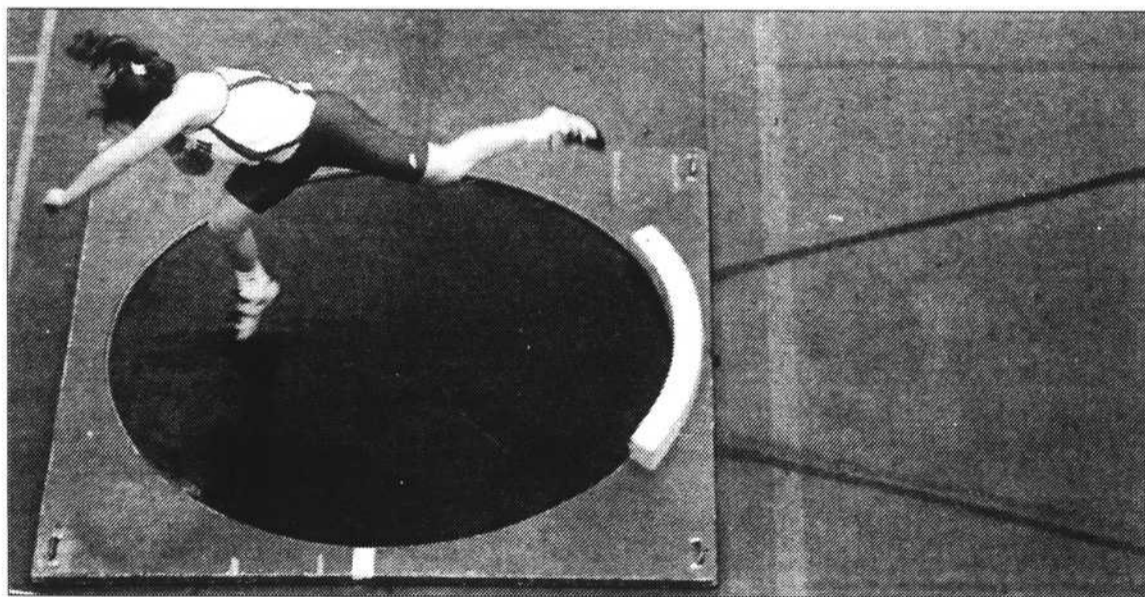
The sophomore nailed a 3-point field goal to open the game and closed the first half converting on 5 of 6 shots for 12 points.

"Usually when I hit my first shot, it means that I'll have a pretty good game," Belcher said.

Belcher finished the game with a season-high 21 points.

Lue, a junior, was held without a

Please see **STREAK** on 10



HUSKER SHOT PUTTER Jane Linsenmeyer recorded an eighth-place toss of 46 feet, 1/4 inch at the Big 12 Indoor Track Championships Saturday. The Nebraska women finished second behind Texas.

MATT MILLER/DN

## Husker men take Big 12 title

BY ANDREW STRNAD  
Staff Reporter

AMES, Iowa — A combination of power and finesse proved to be enough as the Nebraska men's track team captured its fifth straight conference championship at the Big 12 Indoor Track Championships at the Lied Recreation Center.

The Husker men were guided to their 26<sup>th</sup> indoor conference

title by two defending champions.

Senior Chris Wright won the conference long jump title for the second time with a personal-best jump of 26 feet. NU freshman Kevin Grant finished second with a jump of 24-8 1/2.

"I had God pushing me all season, and this victory is really for him," Wright said.

Senior Scott Warren led a group of three Huskers who finished 1-3-4 in the 35-pound weight throw.

Warren's toss of 65-2 3/4 gave him his second straight conference title. Junior Joe Erdkamp finished third, and sophomore Jeff Armitage finished fourth, giving the Huskers a total of 21 team points in the weight throw.

Nebraska also scored big in the shot put. Sophomore Jack Melson finished second, with Warren finishing fourth.

Please see **INDOOR** on 9