

Sports Opinion



**Sam McKewon**

## Hey Tyronn! Don't make NU Lueless

Dear Mr. Tyronn Lue, Nebraska basketball superstar:

It's getting down to decision time, buddy. You know what I mean. Is it going to be one more year with the Cornhuskers or off to the NBA?

I know, you want to concentrate on the Big 12 and NCAA tournaments and try to deliver NU to its first Big Dance in four years. But in the back of your mind, the decision has to be lurking like that ever-present Clash song: "Should I stay or should I go?"

However, I think I speak for almost all of the student body and all Nebraska basketball fans in asking you to do one simple thing after the season is over.

Stay

Stay for me, because I'm selfish. I want to see you for one more season, breaking down defenders while going to the hoop or dazzling opponents with those fast-break passes. The occasional one-handed, pull-up jumpers weren't bad either.

Stay for yourself, because you can get better. You still turn the ball over a lot for a point guard, and there are times when your shot leaves you. Take a year at the college ranks to perfect it. And don't forget that college degree.

Stay for the team, and make it the best in Husker history. With five returning starters and a couple of emerging bench players, your Huskers would have top-20 capabilities and a chance to make some real noise in the NCAA Tournament.

Stay for the Big 12 Conference, because they're going need you bad. With names like LaFrentz, Carr, Pierce, Brewer and Skinner gone after this year, you would represent the conference as its best player. Who else is going to do it, Manny Dies? I don't think so.

Stay to spite the NBA. Hey, do you want to be sent off to basketball's Siberia in Toronto like your former Big 12 mate Chauncey Billups was because he wasn't ready for the big leagues? Don't let the NBA make you a business commodity... yet.

There are two drawbacks to staying. One is the money, which, to say the least, will tempt you. But if you've went without it for three years in college, a fourth can't be that bad.

The other is injury, which none of us can predict. Getting hurt is part of the business, though, and who's to say it wouldn't happen in the NBA? And where would you rather be injured: alone in Siberia, er Toronto, or around your teammates in Lincoln?

Think about it Tyronn. You could take this Nebraska team to another level next season. Or you can play for the 20-62 Vancouver Grizzlies in those pretty, neon-blue uniforms.

What'll it be?

Sam McKewon is a sophomore political science and news-editorial major and Daily Nebraskan senior reporter.

# OSU aims to slow down NU

By **MIKE KLUCK**  
Staff Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Sleep will come a lot easier the next few days for Oklahoma State Coach Dick Halterman with a win over Nebraska today.

The Cowgirls, 18-9 overall, and the No. 25 Cornhuskers (22-8) battle today in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 Tournament at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Mo., at 2:20 p.m.

According to some NCAA Tournament experts, the Cowgirls are on the proverbial NCAA bubble. However, Halterman and Nebraska Coach Paul Sanderford both believe OSU has enough wins to advance to the tournament despite the outcome

of today's game.

"There's no doubt in my mind we're one of the top 64 (teams)," Halterman said. "Now if we were to lose to Nebraska tomorrow, would I be worried on Sunday? Very worried. A win over Nebraska is a definite NCAA Tournament trip."

"We should be in, but for me to sleep well until Sunday, we've got to have a win against Nebraska."

Sanderford, who watched Oklahoma State's first-round come-from-behind 67-48 victory over Missouri Tuesday, said the Cowgirls are playing like a team on a mission — but so is Nebraska.

"One of our goals was to win this tournament," Sanderford said. "Whoever gets on a roll has an opportunity to do that."

For Nebraska to start its roll, the

Huskers must stop Oklahoma State's inside play, Sanderford said. The Cowgirls start 6-foot-7 freshman Devon Magness at center and seniors Cheri Edwards and Renee Roberts at forward.

In NU's 77-47 victory over OSU Jan. 31, Nebraska limited the trio to 15 points. Halterman said Roberts was in the middle of a mid-season slump in which she scored 16 points in five games. Roberts was a second-team All-Big 12 selection last year but was just honorable mention this year.

Against Missouri on Tuesday, Roberts poured in 14 points, while sophomore Sara Jackson scored a career-high 18. The Cowgirls trailed Missouri by five with 12 minutes

Please see **OSU** on 8

## Women's Basketball Starters



Today, 2:20 p.m.  
Municipal Auditorium  
Kansas City, Mo.

Oklahoma St. 18-9 (11-6)

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Sara Jackson	5-9	So
G	Jennifer Crow	5-9	So
C	Devon Magness	6-7	Fr.
F	Cheri Edwards	6-2	Sr.
F	Renee Roberts	5-10	Sr.

Nebraska 22-8 (11-5)

Pos.	Name	Ht.	Yr.
G	Anna DeForge	5-11	Sr.
G	Nicole Kubik	5-10	So.
C	Cori McDill	6-1	Jr.
F	Jami Kubik	5-11	Sr.
F	Brooke Schwartz	5-11	So.



DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

**NU FRESHMAN SHANDRA JOHNSON, a native Nebraskan, is making a splash on the Husker swim team, breaking Nebraska and conference records.**

## Johnson jumps into Big 12 spotlight

By **JAY SAUNDERS**  
Assignment Reporter

At this time last year, Shandra Johnson was starting to celebrate a state swimming title at Omaha North High School.

This year, Johnson has a chance to be a national champion.

A freshman, Johnson came to Nebraska to help the Cornhuskers in the freestyle and the backstroke. She chose NU over Auburn, Tennessee and Texas A&M. No one knew what kind of an impact Johnson would make in her first year, but both Johnson and the Huskers are happy with the result.

Going into the Big 12 Conference Championships, Johnson was swimming a time of 4 minutes, 56.48 seconds in the 500-yard freestyle, which

was her signature event in high school. Johnson exploded onto the scene at the Big 12 meet with a time of 4:43.48 in the 500 freestyle, breaking the school and the conference record by seven seconds.

"It is faster than I ever thought I would go," Johnson said. "Swimming like that in the 500 is a great accomplishment for me."

Johnson wasn't done though. She swam conference-record times in the 200-yard backstroke and the 200-yard freestyle. She also swam on two relay teams.

"I am glad I could come in and help."

**SHANDRA JOHNSON**  
NU swimmer

Please see **SPLASH** on 8

# Splish plash