

They danced anyway

Despite losing to Kansas 91-59 Sunday at the Big 12 Tournament, the NU men's basketball team earned a berth in the NCAA Tourney. PAGE 8



Bigger and better

Joel and Ethan Coen, who made their biggest splash with " Fargo," return to the big screen with "The Big Lebowski." PAGE 5

THE SNOWBALL EFFECT

Sunny, blustery, high 26. Cloudy tonight, low 5.

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Shovel this



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

BACKGROUND: DON HAYES restarts his snow blower as John Green continues to work. Hayes and Green, employees of UNL Landscape Services, were working to clear paths on campus.

Snow sinks city streets

Weather system plagues the nation with heavy snow and rain.

BY ERIN SCHULTE
AND BRAD DAVIS
Senior Staff

Quit blaming El Niño already — this time, someone else is picking on Nebraska.

"Mother Nature got irritated," said Michael Powers, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service office in Valley.

According to the weather service, 11 inches of snow fell in Lincoln as of Sunday evening, and 12.5 inches fell in Omaha.

Lincoln's unwelcome white blanket left motorists stuck all over the city and pedestrians soaked to their knees.

Mayor Mike Johanns declared a snow emergency and banned parking on snow routes, bus routes, arterial streets and on the north and east sides of many residential streets in central Lincoln.

Interstate 80 was closed between Greenwood and North Platte, and the Nebraska Highway Patrol declared most roads "impassable."

The Husker men's basketball team remained in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday evening, unable to return from the Big 12 Tournament.

The storm likely was not an offspring of the much-cursed El Niño, Powers said, but simply an old-fashioned, well-forecast storm system.

The low-pressure system traveling through California took a left turn

near El Paso, Texas, came up through Nebraska, dumped a load of snow and is now sitting near Fort Smith, Ark., Powers said.

Western Nebraska received about five inches of snow on Friday, Powers said, and the storm then traveled to hit eastern regions harder. Northeast parts of the state were spared somewhat, including the Norfolk area, which received fewer than five inches of snow. South central Nebraska got about nine inches.

The low-pressure system also is the culprit in recent Alabama floods, Powers said. In the last four days, heavy rains have left southeast Alabama under as much as six feet of water, and three people have died as a result.

In Lincoln Sunday, residents fought frustrating but less life-threatening storm battles.

Melissa Dethlefs, a junior communication studies major, tried to dig her car out from a small mountain of snow at 16th and S streets Sunday afternoon.

Dethlefs said she wanted to study at a friend's house but changed her plans when she realized the plow had buried her car.

"The snowplow guy honked and smiled when he went by," Dethlefs said.

Her reply to Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns' order to remove parked cars from many streets by 6 p.m. Sunday: "He can come move my car for me."

Rhonda Gorraiz, an area supervisor for University of Nebraska-Lincoln Landscape Services, had snow-removal duty for areas near Henslik and Nebraska halls.

She said the heavy, wet snow and strong winds made it difficult to clear

the area.

The city plows made Gorraiz's job more difficult, too.

"We're kind of in a constant fight with the city," Gorraiz said. "We plow handicap ramps, and then the city plows over them."

Senior human resources major Rachel Stanton said she was relieved to leave her sorority house, Chi Omega, Saturday night because she had cabin fever.

"We drove downtown (Saturday) night for the bars," Stanton said. "It was cold and kind of slick."

Because of treacherous weather, she said, the bars were virtually empty.

Streets packed with snow caused I-80 drivers to pull off and to wait for plows to clear a path ahead.

Paul Lenhoff, front desk supervisor at the Lincoln Airport Quality Inn, said stranded motorists helped fill about 70 out of the motel's 108 rooms.

On a normal Sunday evening, Lenhoff said, about 10 to 20 rooms would be occupied.

Two girls' state basketball tournament teams were stranded at the motel along with the other interstate motorists, Lenhoff said.

Lenhoff said he was having trouble getting enough employees to work.

"We've already had two people call in," Lenhoff said. "I'm working a shift that isn't mine right now, and I'll probably be working the next three days straight."

"I'll probably be sleeping and staying overnight here, myself."

Some airport customers also were

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Men secure bid to NCAA tourney

BY SAM MCKEWON
Senior Reporter

They're back in the Big Dance. Following a three-year drought, the Nebraska men's basketball team received a bid to NCAA Tournament after a 20-11 regular season campaign. The last time NU played in the NCAAs was in 1993-94.

The Cornhuskers got the 11th seed in the West regional and will play sixth-seeded and No. 16 Arkansas at the Boise State Pavilion in Boise, Idaho, Thursday.

NU Coach Danny Nee was short and simple in summing up his team's reaction to earning a berth in the tournament.

"We're excited," Nee said. "It's a great opportunity to be back in the tournament."

Nee had said earlier in the week that the Huskers were going to be in the tournament regardless of how they played at the Big 12 Tournament.

But a victory over Baylor in the first round seemed to be the win that

Led by a first-year coach, the women's team also is headed to the Big Dance. Story on page 8.

got the Huskers in. NU picked up the 11th seed, which is considered one of the last seeds to go to at-large teams, and the Razorbacks were the highest-ranked sixth-seeded team in the tournament.

Nee said that after a 91-59 loss to Kansas on Saturday, he had expected to receive a 10 or 11 seed — and that's what he got.

"We figured a 10 or 11," Nee said. "I was thinking a 10, and (Director of Basketball Operations) Nick Joos thought we'd get an 11. We're just happy to get in."

Arkansas, coached by Nolan Richardson, will enter the NCAA Tournament with a 23-8 record overall and an 11-5 record in the Southeastern Conference. The Razorbacks finished second in the Southeastern Conference Western

Please see NCAA on 10

Advertisers milk students' talent

BY ANNE HEITZ
Staff Reporter

Milk does a body good. But today in the Nebraska Union, a milk mustache could make a body famous.

Between noon and 2 p.m., representatives from the Milk Processor Education Program will be photographing students with milk mustaches as part of a 100-city nationwide tour that includes most major universities.

The college student with the best mustache in the nation will appear in a "Rolling Stone" magazine milk advertisement.

The student with the best mustache at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will appear in a large milk ad in the Daily Nebraskan and on the national milk Web site at <http://www.whymilk.com>.

Bill Hyland, spokesman for the Milk Processor Education Program, said all students can get their photo taken by a professional photographer after drinking the program's secret mustache-creating concoction.

Also at the "Milk, Where's Your Mustache?" booth in the union, students can have their pictures taken with life-size cutouts of super model Tyra Banks and Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway.

"One guy dumped a whole pitcher of milk all over his face."

BILL HYLAND
milk program spokesman

Although a photographer will take official mustache contest photos between noon and 2 p.m., students can get Polaroid souvenir photos taken between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Hyland said those judging the contest would look for creativity.

At one university, "one guy dumped a whole pitcher of milk all over his face," Hyland said.

Couples also have been photographed, including one pair who brought their pet Dalmatian.

"We gave the dog a mustache," Hyland said. "It's a fun contest."

He said contest participants should remember to be themselves and to appear relaxed.

"Basically, we want someone who looks like they're saying, 'Yes, I'm drinking milk. And I'm having fun,'" Hyland said.

Please see MILK on 2