

Huskies fall to Old Dominion

NCAA from page 7

her just 13 of 46 (28 percent) for the tournament. She did lead the Huskers with 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds against the Monarchs.

"There's nothing wrong with me personally or with my physical conditions," said DeForge, who last week in practice sprained an ankle and bruised a hip. "I just didn't shoot well, period."

"We've been prepared all year long for this tournament, and these types of games and to see it fall apart like that was very disappointing."

But what was especially frustrating for Nebraska was that the Huskers had a chance to keep the game interesting for 40 minutes.

After surviving Old Dominion's opening, in which the Lady Monarchs raced out to a 16-6 lead, Nebraska rallied to pull within two when sophomore Charlie Rogers hit a shot with 10:45 remaining in the half.

Then, the first five-minute lapse hit, and NU didn't score until DeForge made a layup with 5:48 remaining. By then, ODU had a 30-18 lead.

The Huskers kept the score within 10 at halftime and then came out with a fury in the second half, shooting 6 of 9 from the field to tie the

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NU coach

score.

It was then that first-year NU Coach Paul Sanderford, who had said on Saturday that Nebraska had to avoid an Old Dominion knockout punch, saw the Lady Monarchs wobbling.

"We had them teetering on the ropes a little bit when we tied it up," Sanderford said. "Coach (Wendy) Larry made some excellent defensive adjustments, and we didn't show the patience that a veteran basketball team has to show to win in this kind of situation on the road."

The win gave the Lady Monarchs (29-2) 29 consecutive victories at their field house and sent them to Dayton, Ohio, for the Sweet 16 where they will face North Carolina State.

Nebraska, which made its first NCAA appearance under

Sanderford, and just the fourth in school history, finished the season with a 23-10 record — its fifth-best winning percentage in school history. The Huskers also tied school records for wins in a season.

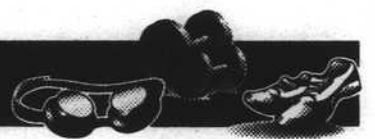
Sanderford, who has been to 13 tournaments, said this won't be Nebraska's last visit to the Big Dance.

"I can guarantee you those sophomores and younger players are going to learn from this," Sanderford said. "This might be the first time that I brought Nebraska to the tournament, but it won't be the last time."

Note:

Despite DeForge's shooting problems, she moved into the No. 4 spot on Nebraska's all-time scoring list with 1,859 career points.

Weekend Wrap-Up



Divers qualify for NCAAs

Junior All-American Danny Bergman and sophomore Bert Locklin paced five Nebraska divers at the NCAA Zone D qualifying meet as both qualified for the NCAA Championships March 27 to 29.

Bergman qualified Friday in Austin, Texas, after a second-place finish in the 3-meter competition. Bergman scored 534.65 points, which put him behind Grant Gritzmacher of Texas. Gritzmacher won with a score of 550.75.

"Danny absolutely came through when he had to," Diving Coach James Hocking said. "He hit all the big dives."

Locklin secured his spot Saturday after finishing second in the 1-meter springboard behind Gritzmacher. Locklin finished with 502.55 points. Bergman and Darren Thornbrugh finished third and 11th respectively for NU.

In the women's competition, freshman Amanda Zins placed seventh and 10th in the 1-meter and 3-meter competition, while freshman Molly McDonald placed 20th in both the 1- and 3-meter.

Despite neither qualifying, Hocking said he sees a big future ahead for both Zins and McDonald.

"Those are two peas in a pod there," Hocking said. "They both work hard and they're both going to be great."

Overall, Hocking said the weekend was full of highs and lows for the team.

"This whole weekend was an emotional roller coaster," Hocking said. "We knew going in we were up against the wall in a talent-laden field."

NU tops No. 23 team

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Nebraska first baseman Jamie Fuente made a diving catch to secure a 2-1 win over No. 23 Southwestern Louisiana Friday in Houston, Texas.

The Cornhuskers, who also defeated Tarleton State 5-2 and Bowling Green 10-0, improved to 14-5 on the season. Three Nebraska pitchers earned complete-game victories.

NU ace Jenny Voss tossed nine innings of five-hit ball against Southwest Louisiana. The sopho-

more struck out eight in the effort.

Senior Christie McCoy allowed two runs in seven innings against Tarleton State, and freshman Lori Tschannen tossed a three-hitter against Bowling Green.

The Huskers advanced to play Texas Tech Saturday at 10 a.m., but the game was rained out.

Tennis team wins two

The Nebraska women's tennis team defeated Drake 7-2 Friday and Eastern Michigan 7-2 Saturday. Both matches were played in Des Moines, Iowa.

The Cornhuskers (8-6) were led Saturday by Sandra Noetzel, who defeated 34th-ranked Jean Kansuthi.

Against both teams, the Cornhuskers won all but one singles and one doubles match.

NU returns to action Thursday at Baylor.

Women's golfers finish 10th

The Nebraska women's golf team finished 10th over the weekend at the Betsy Rawls Invitational.

North Carolina shot rounds of 299 and 301 to finish first among the 14-team field with a score of 600. The Cornhuskers put rounds of 333 and 327 together to finish 60 strokes behind the Tar Heels.

"We are still struggling around the greens," NU Coach Robin Krapfl said. "We just need to try to end the tournament on a positive note and play better in our short game. I really don't know the answer to our problems right now because the entire team is struggling."

NU's Hanne Nyquist finished 34th overall, shooting rounds of 78 and 84 for a total of 162. Rachele Tacha finished 43rd with rounds of 84 and 80 for a total of 164. Elizabeth Bahensky finished 49th with rounds of 85 and 81 for a total of 166. Shirin Hornecker finished 52nd with rounds of 87 and 82 for a total of 169. Gretchen Doerr finished 65th with rounds of 86 and 88 for a total of 174.

Jayhawks out early at NCAAs

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Roy Williams and his two All-Americans will be watching this year's Final Four, not playing in it.

Top-seeded Kansas got outstanding performances from Paul Pierce and Raef LaFrentz, but didn't have the quickness to stay with No. 8 seed Rhode Island, which won 80-75 Sunday to advance to the Midwest Regional semifinals.

The early exit was another bitter loss for Williams, who hasn't coached a Final Four team since 1993. His Jayhawks were top-ranked when they lost to Arizona in the regional semis last year. This team was ranked No. 2.

"I'm not sure how this one ranks (compared with the Arizona loss)," a red-eyed Williams said afterward. "But I told the kids in the locker room I was sorry if I caused them a problem by talking about my desire to win a national title."

"If it put extra pressure on them, then I apologize."

Rhode Island (24-8), led by guards Cuttino Mobley and Tyson Wheeler, was every bit as relaxed in advancing to just the second regional semifinal in school history.

Wheeler, a point guard, had 20 points, eight assists and five

rebounds. Mobley had 27 points, five assists. Wheeler had five 3-pointers, Mobley three.

The Rams advance to play surprising 13th-seed Valparaiso, which upset Florida State 83-77 earlier in the day.

Rhode Island Coach Jim Harrick, who led UCLA to the national title in 1995 but was fired after the following season, is in his first year with the Rams.

Harrick is good friends with Valparaiso Coach Homer Drew. He's even better friends with one of Drew's assistants — Jim Harrick Jr.

"There is a heavenly father and he was in the building this weekend, I'll tell you that," Harrick said, "because it couldn't be more magical than it was."

In the South region, top-seeded Duke slipped past eighth-seeded Oklahoma State 79-73, second-seeded Kentucky downed 10th-seeded St. Louis 88-61, fifth-seeded Syracuse defeated No. 4 seed New Mexico 56-46, and No. 6 seed UCLA beat third-seeded Michigan 85-82.

In other Midwest region action, third-seeded Stanford defeated No. 11 seed Western Michigan and second-seeded Purdue beat No. 10 seed Detroit 80-65.

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