

# Wisconsin pounds NU in Alaska

From staff reports

It was a long trip to Fairbanks, Alaska, for the Nebraska men's basketball team for the Top of World Classic.

Chances are good it'll be an even longer trip back.



Hamilton

The Cornhuskers ended the tournament with a 1-2 record and a sixth-place finish. In its final game, NU lost to Wisconsin 78-41 on Sunday night. It's the worst regular-season loss the Huskers have suffered since a 93-53 loss to Oklahoma State in the 1994-95 season.

NU fell behind 8-0 early in the ballgame and things went downhill from there. NU trailed 42-15 at halftime.

Nebraska did make a 10-3 run to begin the second half to cut the lead to 45-25. But UW rolled from there, outscoring NU 33-13 for the final 78-41 margin.

Nebraska started the tournament off with a 75-60 loss to Villanova, the team that won the Classic with a 76-63 upset of No. 19 Arkansas. Cookie Belcher led all scorers in the game with 16.

On Saturday, Nebraska picked up its only win of the tournament, a 95-84 win over Washington State. Senior forward Venson Hamilton had his best game of the season, scoring 26 points and grabbing 11 rebounds. Chad Johnson and Troy Piatkowski added 16 apiece. WSU lost its third game to Virginia 62-53 and finished the tournament 0-3.

Nebraska now has five days off before taking to the court again Saturday in a game against North Carolina A&T.

**Wisconsin 78**  
**Nebraska 41**

# Full court press helps NU get revenge in 78-51 win over UWM

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

This season, Nebraska women's Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford said he wants to improve the team's half-court defense. But NU didn't need it Saturday night.

It was the No. 23 Cornhuskers' bread and butter, the full-court press, that helped NU beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee 78-51 on Saturday.

"This week we really worked on our full court press," junior Charlie Rogers said. "The press bothered them a lot."

The Huskers' relentless press in the first half forced the Panthers into 18 turnovers.

For the third time in as many games, Nebraska (3-0) jumped out to an early lead. UWM didn't score in the first six minutes and nine seconds of the game.

UWM junior Kelly Lubbers scored the Panthers' first basket, but the Huskers already had

a 14-0 lead.

"We had to come out hard on them and set the pace," senior Cisco Gilmore said.

After their first basket, UWM had a tough time scoring. The Panthers had a streak of 5:10 midway through the first half where they didn't score.

On the flip side, NU shot .457 from the field and led 44-18 at half-time.

**Nebraska 78**  
**UWM 51**

"I thought we totally dominated the first half," Sanderford said. "Our running game and our defense was the story of the game."

In the first two games, junior Nicole Kubik led the Huskers in scoring with 23 points in each game.

But the crowd of 3,759 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center didn't see a dominating scoring performance on Saturday.

Rogers led NU with 12 points and a team-high eight rebounds. Senior Cori McDill was the only other Husker player in double figures with 10

points. Four Huskers scored eight points each.

"We need balanced scoring," Kubik said. "With our team, you just can't stop one person."

Again this week, Nebraska never trailed and led by 34 points in the second half. After the game, the players said the 27-point win meant more than just another notch in the win column.

That's because UWM beat the Huskers by 12 points last season.

This week in practice, Sanderford stressed the importance of Saturday's game.

"Losing that game was bad for a lot of reasons," Rogers said. "Last year we took them for granted. This time we were ready for them."

The game was physical throughout. The two teams accounted for 54 total fouls.

Gilmore said even though NU controlled the game from the opening tip, the Panthers were still looking to intimidate NU with their mouths.

"They were talking a lot of trash," Gilmore said. "We just told them to look at the clock, basically."

# Swimming, diving teams have hectic weekend

By BRANDON SCHULTE  
Staff writer

Fast, competitive and exciting describe the Sprint Classic and the Husker Shoot-out that the Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams played host to over the weekend.

The Sprint Classic, created by the Husker coaching staff in the late 1980s for fast and competitive meets, went down to the wire as the NU women took the team title in the final event, setting a classic record in the 200-yard freestyle relay. The No. 9 NU women narrowly edged No. 17 UCLA and No. 19 Virginia.

The 15th ranked Nebraska men

also captured the crown, defeating 11th-ranked Arizona St., 18th-ranked Virginia, Florida Atlantic, Kenyon and UCLA.

NU Coach Cal Bentz was pleased with both the men's and women's performances.

"This ended up to be a really good, competitive event," Bentz said. "The scoring strategy helped to keep the meet close, so all of the races were important."

All-Americans junior Adam Pine and sophomore Shandra Johnson led their respective teams to victory in the Sprint Classic. Johnson won the 100-yard individual medley, the 50-yard backstroke and participated in another winner, the 200-yard freestyle relay. Pine took the 50-yard butterfly, the 25-

yard freestyle and swam a leg of the winning 200-yard freestyle.

The Husker women took the Shoot-out title, while the men were nipped 335-332 in a hard-fought battle by Virginia.

Shandra Johnson and freshman Emma Johnson combined to win four events for the women. Freshman Janna Brock, who already is an NCAA qualifier in the event, won the 200-yard breaststroke. And sophomore Amanda Zins also had a contribution, winning both the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard events.

For the men, Pine won the 100-yard butterfly in NCAA consideration time and the 50-yard freestyle. Other individual winners for the men were divers Eric Cook and

Danny Bergman on the 1- and 3-meter springboard, respectively. Freshman Anthony Rogis won in the 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, and Valery Kalmikovs won the 200-yard breaststroke.

Pine felt the Sprint Classic and the Husker Shoot-out were good early-season challenges for the Huskers.

"(These meets) are a good indicator of speed," Pine said. "At this point of the season no one really has much speed, so its more of a challenge to find a good mood or pace within yourself."

The NU swimming and diving teams have two weeks off before heading to Austin, Texas, for the Longhorn Invitational, Dec. 4-6.

# Women set to run at NCAAs

Dirksen hopes healthy team can make strong finish to season

By LISA VONNAHME  
Staff writer

When the Nebraska women's cross country team takes the course today for the NCAA Championships, they'll be looking to beat just about anyone.

For the unranked Cornhuskers, this 5,000-meter race will prove to be NU's biggest challenge of the year as they will be facing 24 ranked teams out of the 31 teams vying for this season's national title in Lawrence, Kan.

But NU Coach Jay Dirksen isn't worried about the tough competition the Huskers will be up against.

Because, for the first time this season, Dirksen expects the Huskers to be up to par after being plagued by illnesses and injuries all year.

"We're finally healthy - now that we're running our last race of the season," Dirksen said with a little

laugh. "We'll be running with the lineup that I thought we would be running with all year."

Sophomore Amy Wiseman, who was NU's highest finisher last year in 94th place, rejoins the Huskers after battling bronchitis during most of the season. At the Midwest Regionals on Nov. 14, Wiseman finished in 20th and anticipates a better race for today.

NU had a "great week of practice," Wiseman said, after they found out they had earned an at-large berth to the NCAAs one week ago.

"We weren't sure if we were going to get in, but when we found out we did, it changed everything," Wiseman said. "Everyone has been working really hard."

The Huskers, who will be competing in the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive season, are looking to improve upon their 19th-place finish at last year's meet.

And the Husker women are con-

fident they can do that - especially now that the team is healthy.

"We're ready to race as a team," said freshman Jeannette Zimmer, who has led NU in all of their seven races this season. "We've been given one more chance, and we're going to take advantage of it."

NU finished fourth in the Midwest Regionals, but earned one of the 13 at-large berths to the NCAA Championships based on their schedule strength and wins over quality competition.

Thirty-one cross country teams will be competing for this year's NCAA team title at Rim Rock Farm in Lawrence, Kan. Brigham Young, the No. 1-ranked team, is expected to win the crown.

"It's going to be tough," Dirksen said. "We were probably one of the last teams to get in, so beating anyone will be a success."

"But, now that we're healthy, it could be a whole new ball game."

# ND comeback ends season for Nebraska soccer team

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Despite 39 fouls, 22 of them by NU, in the game, the wide-open attack led to many counter chances for both teams.

However, the Irish initially had the opportunities to control the game in the first half.

"We play aggressive against everyone, and Notre Dame probably knew that coming in," Walker said. "They created chances, but we have the athletic ability to play against anyone, and obviously it put them under some pressure so we were able to create an awful lot of chances."

Even though ND had numerous chances, the first half was highlighted by the play of LeBlanc, as she made seven saves to keep the Irish at bay.

In the 22nd minute, Notre Dame midfielder Anne Makinen rifled a shot from left of the penalty box that LeBlanc deflected to Irish forward Meotis Erikson. Erikson two-touched a straight shot from 12 yards out that LeBlanc dove for and saved to stop ND's best scoring chance of the half.

"She played very well and made some great saves for us, especially in the first half," Walker said.

Nebraska countered with its best scoring chance five minutes later when midfielder Meghan Anderson sent two shots from 30 yards out that both rocketed just outside the net.

In the first half, ND outshot the Huskers 14-5. Despite many opportunities, it was the first time the NCAA's highest scoring offense had been shut out in the first half at home this season.

The beginning of the second half started as intense as the first. However, NU stunned the Alumni Field crowd in the 52nd minute.

Husker forward Kim Engesser sent a lead pass down the left flank that forward Lauren Tatum reached before ND defender Jenn Grubb. Tatum made a move past the Irish defender and sent a

shot from 18 yards that went over the outstretched arms of LaKeysia Beene to give NU a 1-0 lead.

Despite trailing at home for the first time this year, Notre Dame Coach Chris Petrucelli said he was not concerned about the score.

"The question was if we were going to get one by their keeper, but I felt we were getting chances," Petrucelli said. "After they scored, I said we were going to be all right because I felt like we were in control of the game."

Petrucelli's confidence was strengthened by the dominance by the Irish. In the game, ND outshot the Huskers 22-14 and had a 7-5 edge in corner kicks.

The Irish didn't give their coach much time to think about worrying as they countered NU's goal two minutes later with a goal from forward Jenny Heft.

Heft controlled a left crossing pass from Streiffer that wasn't cleared by NU. Heft quickly gained possession in front of the goal box and sent the ball past LeBlanc.

"It was a key point in the game," LeBlanc said of the few minutes following NU's goal. "It had a lot on determining how the game turned out."

Gerardo's game-winning goal 17 minutes later ended the scoring for the game, and inevitably the season for Nebraska.

The loss ended NU's season at 17-4-1, while Notre Dame will enter the elite eight of soccer with a 21-2-1 mark.

The Irish are now also 12-0-0 at home in NCAA Championship games, with two of those victories now coming at the hands of NU in the last two years.

Walker said the Huskers had a lot to be proud of despite the final score.

"We've closed the gap, there is no question about that," Walker said. "I am proud of them in terms of battle, effort and team spirit, and I thought they did a good job."

# Huskers bounce back from loss to beat UT

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all players with 17 kills, as the Huskers hit .326 for the match, limiting Texas to .096.

Like Nebraska, Texas played a long match against Colorado on Friday, which left both teams tired on Saturday.

"Our offense is so quick, and when we're digging other teams in system we literally wear teams out," Monson said.

**Texas A&M 15 12 15 6 14**  
**Nebraska 8 15 8 15 16**

On Friday, Monson said, the team was taken out of the system and never got into a consistent flow as the Aggies (18-8, 11-7) beat NU 8-15, 15-12, 8-15, 15-6, 16-14.

"We just weren't in rhythm," Monson said. "Fi (Nepo) set the ball really well, and even though Nancy had 30 kills, and Megan (Korver) had 20, we just weren't flowing."

Despite out-hitting the Aggies .241 to .203, the Huskers hurt themselves with 14 service errors.

Texas A&M matched the Huskers block for block and dug for dig as they defeated NU for the first time since 1978.

"That was one of the best total team efforts I've seen," Aggie Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "Everybody stepped it up."

Senior All-American Stacy Sykora paced the Aggies with 22 kills and a match high 25 digs.

While NU lost the match, Monson said they gained an important lesson, which she said will pay dividends during the post-season.

"We're good, and I think how we responded Saturday shows that," Monson said. "If we want to win a national championship, we have to be the ones who realize it ourselves."

The Huskers can clinch a share of the Big 12 title with just one win over Colorado or Kansas State this week or win it outright with a sweep.

NU will play the Buffaloes in Boulder, Colo., on Wednesday and on Friday they close out the regular season at Kansas State.