

## NOMINEES WANTED

Students, faculty, administrators and staff are encouraged to nominate a graduate assistant who is a role model and mentors to the academic success of students from underrepresented groups for the Graduate Assistant Mentoring Award. All current full-time graduate teaching and research assistants at the University of Nebraska are eligible for the award. The recipient will be honored at the annual Graduate College Awards Ceremony in April.

**Nominations must include:**

- a nomination letter outlining the mentoring activities and successes of the nominee
- a curriculum vitae
- letters of support from at least one faculty advisor or peer and at least one undergraduate student/mentee

Please send completed applications by March 1, 1999, to:

Dean of Graduate Studies  
301 Canfield Administration Building  
City Campus 0434

For more information, please contact the Office of Graduate Studies at 472-2875.

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# Bizarre finish hands NU 2nd straight loss

By ADAM KLINKER  
Senior staff writer

Texas Tech	73
Nebraska	68

After putting together win streaks of five games and four games, the Nebraska men's basketball team found itself in a new streak on Saturday — one of the losing variety.

With the Cornhuskers' 73-68 defeat at the hands of Texas Tech (13-14 overall, 5-9 in the Big 12 Conference), NU has now lost two in a row, something the squad has not done since it lost consecutive games to Missouri and Texas to open Big 12 play in early January.

Against the Red Raiders, it was a tale of two halves for the Huskers, who went into halftime down 39-27 after several strong Tech runs. The Huskers scored only twice in the final five minutes of the first period.

But out of the gate in the second half, NU was hot, at first matching the Red Raider attack with a 10-9 seesaw battle before blowing open with a 21-8 run that spanned nine minutes and 58 seconds and cut the Tech lead to 1 at 59-58.

NU guard Cookie Belcher added two of his game-high eight steals, 4 points and two of his game-high six assists in the run. Belcher scored 10 of his 12 points in the second half. Center Venson Hamilton scored 24 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to lead NU.

With 2:27 remaining in the game, Hamilton tossed in NU's first go-ahead bucket to put the Huskers up 64-63.

Tech regained the lead 22 seconds later on a Stan Bonewitz jumper and pushed it to a 3-point game with Red Raider freshman center Andy Ellis' lay-in.

The Huskers regrouped and pulled within 1 point again with a minute remaining.

Husker guard Chad Johnson, who also stepped up in the second half, got the ball after the in-bound and put up another shot among the trees in the paint and drew a foul, putting him at the free-throw line with 7.6 seconds

remaining and NU down 67-66.

Johnson made both shots from the charity stripe, two of five key free throws he made that night, en route to a 7-point second half and a 9-point performance for the game.

But the Huskers would not score again as Young took the Tech in-bound pass and drove the length of the court to score a go-ahead layup with 1.9 seconds left.

On the NU in-bound, Hamilton stepped over the baseline, costing the Huskers a key possession. NU was then forced to foul Tech forward Cliff Owens, who made both ends of a one-and-one.

Husker guard Troy Piatkowski threw the NU in-bound pass baseline to baseline and Tech regained possession. A technical foul was then charged to the Husker bench and Young made both free throws to ice the game with 1.9 seconds still remaining. Tech had scored 6 points without the clock moving.

For the Red Raiders, Young led all scorers with 25 points while Bonewitz shot 5-9 (.556) from 3-point land and had 19 points.

## Texas withstands NU charge to nab Big 12 conference title

By BRANDON SCHULTE  
Staff writer

Even a late charge by the Nebraska swimming and diving teams at the Big 12 Championships wasn't enough to surpass Texas.

Texas became the first school other than Nebraska to win the championships in the three year history of the conference by a score of 881.50 to 851.50. The second place finish snaps a five-year string of conference titles for the women from 1993-1998.

With two events to go on the third and final day, the Huskers held an 18-point margin over the Longhorns. Nebraska trailed by 60 points entering the final day but NU charged to the lead with four consecutive victories.

It was sparked by Shandra Johnson who was named the Big 12's outstanding swimmer for the second straight year. She took the 200-yard backstroke and was followed by Therese Alshammar in the 100-yard freestyle, Janna Brock in the 200-yard breaststroke and Destiny Lauren in the 200-yard butterfly.

In the end, it wasn't enough after Texas placed four divers in the finals of the platform competition.

Coach Cal Bentz was happy with the performance of his team.

"I don't think we could have swam any better than we did today," Bentz said. "We knew we had a lot of points to make up. But our team gave it everything they had today."

NU raced to victory in the 400-yard freestyle relay with Beth Karaica, Helene Muller, Stacey Sedlacek and Alshammar.

Johnson was pleased on being named the outstanding performer of the meet.

"I'm happy that the coaches feel that I deserve the award," Johnson said. "I didn't really think about winning it for the second-straight year."

Johnson won the backstroke, 500-yard freestyle, 200-yard freestyle and anchored the first place 800-yard freestyle relay with Muller, Alshammar and Emma Johnson. This was the second straight year she won these events at the meet.

Johnson accomplished all of these feats without the advantage of being shaved and tapered. The rest of the Huskers weren't shaved or tapered either.

Instead, the team is looking ahead to nationals March 18-20 in Athens, Ga. Bentz is already looking forward to the meet.

"Texas was a little better than us this weekend," Bentz said. "Now we just have to look ahead to swimming well at the NCAA Championships."

## Huskers win two, lose one over weekend

From staff reports

The Nebraska baseball team rounded out its weekend at the Marriott West Loop Invitational in Houston with a 2-1 record in pool play.

The Cornhuskers gained victories over Nicholls State and Jacksonville State, and lost a hard-fought game to No. 2 Rice to even their season record at 5-5.

In the 5-3 loss to Rice on Saturday, NU was led by Ken Harvey, who hit his fifth home run of the year and had three of Nebraska's seven hits.

Scott Fries, who pitched a complete game, took the loss for the Huskers, his first of the season.

Sunday's 15-3 Husker win over Jacksonville State produced quite a few offensive leaders as NU's Justin Cowan, Jamal Strong and Brandt Vlieger were a combined 9-for-13 with four RBI and seven runs scored.

Cowan alone hit three doubles in the affair as 10 Huskers hit safely on the way to 19 team hits. Strong stole his third base of the season.

NU hurler Steve Hale netted his first victory of the year, giving up seven hits and three runs (two earned), while yielding no walks and striking out seven.

## NEBRASKA GYMNASTICS

No. 10 NU Women  
VS. OREGON STATE & BYU

Monday, February 22 at 7:30 pm

Devaney Center

Admission is free for UNL students with ID

