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# Frogs' second-half drive removes Huskers from NIT

BY ADAM KLINKER  
 Senior staff writer

TCU 101  
 Nebraska 89

"We fed off the crowd and each other's play."

PRINCE FOWLER  
 TCU forward

The up-and-down year that was Nebraska basketball in the 1998-99 season came to an almost anti-climactic end March 14 with a 101-89 loss to Texas Christian in Fort Worth, Texas, in the second round of the NIT. Despite the Cornhuskers' third-highest point total of the season, a career-high 23 points from Cary Cochran and a halftime lead, NU slowly faded in the second half.

The Horned Frogs shot 62.1 percent (36-58) from the field for the game, en route to a 60-point second half that eclipsed the 46 points scored by the Huskers in the latter period.

Five of the six players that took the court for TCU turned in double-digit point performances, headlined by center Marquise Gainous' 30 points and nine rebounds.

Also sparked by Prince Fowler with 17 points and Lee Nailon with 20, the Frogs put the Huskers on the

ropes in the middle of the second half and continued pounding away, outscoring NU 60-46.

"That was probably the best second half of basketball we've played all year," TCU Coach Billy Tubbs said.

With 10 minutes remaining and NU leading 67-66 following an Andy Markowski jumper, the Horned Frogs went on a renewed attack with an 18-4 run that lasted just over five minutes.

The Huskers still held on, however, and mustered 18 points in the last 4:49. But TCU held fast to its own postseason prowess and scored 17 points of its own to collect its second win in the NIT.

And with numbers like those of their second-half field goal percentage (20-26 for 76.9 percent), it was evident that the Frogs had something on their side.

"We fed off the crowd and each other's play," said Fowler, who also dished out seven assists, blocked two shots and tabbed three steals in addition to his 17 points.

For the Huskers, Cochran was 7-10 (.700) from 3-point range to lead the NU squad with 23 points. Venson Hamilton notched another double-double, his 18th of the season, with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Hamilton finishes his career at NU with 46 double-doubles.

Forward Larry Florence and guard Cookie Belcher scored 16 and 15 points, respectively.

## Huskers finish 12th at NCAA swim meet

■ Alshammar paces NU as Huskers finish ahead of Big 12 rival Texas.

From staff reports

The Nebraska women's swimming and diving team got some sweet revenge Saturday at the NCAA Championships in Athens, Ga.

After losing the Big 12 title to Texas earlier, the Cornhuskers beat the Longhorns in finishing 12th after three days of competitions with 133 points. UT finished 13th with 126 points.

The finish was the fifth highest in history for Nebraska and is the fifth consecutive season that NU has finished in the Top 15.

Host and favorite Georgia won the overall title with 504.5 points, with Stanford (441) and Southern Methodist (370.5) trailing after.

"From eighth to 14th, the team race was really tight," NU Coach Cal Bentz said. "This is the fastest NCAA meet ever contested, and we're privileged to be a part of that."

The Huskers trailed Texas going into the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay. Nebraska got ninth place, while UT could only manage to get 13th, making for the final team score.

Nebraska got plenty of help from sophomore Therese Alshammar, who improved on her performance from 1998. Alshammar finished in a three-way tie for fourth in the 50-yard freestyle Thursday, and was fourth in the 100-yard freestyle Friday. Alshammar hit the wall in the 100 in a time of 48.76 seconds, which broke the old Big 12 record of 49:15.

"My swim felt good," Alshammar said, "but most of all, I was happy with my time. Breaking 49 seconds and setting the conference record was

my goal." Destiny Lauren also had a strong meet, finishing sixth in the 200-yard butterfly. Limin Liu of Nevada won the event with a NCAA record time of 1:53.36.

Shandra Johnson, the Big 12 swimmer of the year in 1998, finished seventh in the 200-yard backstroke. In preliminaries, she broke her own Big 12 record in the event with a time of 1:58.00. Despite that, Keegan Walkley set the pace in a strong field, winning the event in 1:53.63.

Nebraska got a ninth-place finish Thursday in the 200-yard freestyle relay as well.

Overall, Bentz said, he was happy with the performance, despite another slow start to the meet. NU scored only 32 points on the first day.

"We have a habit of scoring points on the last day, and we need to find a way to start better," Bentz said, "but I can't be more pleased with how we finished."

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