

# Mihm arrives as major talent

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Mihm was disappointed in his decreasing playing time at the end of the tournament despite averaging 6.8 points and 2.8 rebounds per game.

"Whatever," Mihm said. "Whatever is good for the team. The coach had different views, and I just wanted to make sure that we came away with the gold medal. It was frustrating, but we were able to come away winners."

His disappointment at his limited role in Spain displays just how far Mihm has come as a player. His new attitude, along with his raw talent, will land Mihm a job at the next level.

The NBA beckons Mihm, but right now the upcoming season is the only thing on his mind.

"It is something that I hear a lot about and am told," Mihm said. "It is a dream of mine but won't seem true until it actually happens. I continue to work for it every day."

"But I don't think it is fair for me or my team to have my mind on that right now. I just have to concentrate on making myself a better player because I have a lot to learn in the game of basketball."

While he enters his junior year with a newfound confidence, he still is in awe of what lies ahead. He has worked out against David Robinson and attended Pete Newell's Big Man Camp, the prestigious camp where NBA stars go to polish their games. He did both of those while still at

"I have played against quite a few NBA players, but even just watching them helps me out."

**CHRIS MIHM**  
Texas center

Westlake.

Mihm sees his role changing at the next level. He envisions himself becoming a multidimensional player, much like Kevin Garnett or Tim Duncan. But to get there he knows he will have to work harder.

"I have played against quite a few NBA players, but even just watching them helps me out," Mihm said. "I used my time with David as a stepping stone. I saw that he is at a point where I want to be."

To get to that point, Mihm will have to endure at least one more season at Texas. Mihm is unsure of what will be harder to overcome this season, expectations or opposing defenses.

"Defenses were part of the reason I struggled last season," Mihm said. "I had to learn how to score against two or three defenders. There was a time when I swear that (Texas) A&M had four guys in the lane trying to clog up the middle."

He was repeatedly doubled and triple-teamed last season, but he realizes that is the way the game is played.

Optimism is the word for Mihm.

He believes that the Longhorns will be better equipped this season to ease the pressure on him.

"This season we will have much better shooters to complement Gabe and I," Mihm said. "The newcomers have shown that they can play, and I am expecting big things from Ivan (Wagner)."

UT Coach Rick Barnes is expecting much of the same.

"There no doubt that our team is built around Chris Mihm and Gabe Muoneke," Barnes said. "We are talking about two of the best players in this league and in the country, and our offense will go through them. A year ago, people sagged back in on them ... I hope they do that again this year. We have guys who will make shots and take shots."

Mihm wants to make sure that the new cast leads to a different outcome in the season.

"We tell the new guys that Texas is not going to be a one and out team in the NCAA tournament anymore," Mihm said. "Expectations have to be risen for this team. Texas should be a national powerhouse in basketball. There is no reason it should not be."

# KU center looks to drop mistakes

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times, has displayed versatility rarely seen, Williams said. With his extremely long frame and arms, deceptive quickness, good jumping ability and shooting range, the junior, according to his coach, is well-rounded after only two years.

As a freshman, he had his moments. He blocked one shot for every 10 minutes he played and averaged nearly six points and five rebounds per game.

More importantly, Chenowith gained valuable experience both by battling current Denver Nugget Raef Lafrentz in practice and filling in for him when the consensus first-team All-American sat out 10 games with an injury.

Chenowith said his freshman season was one big learning experience.

"When I got to Kansas, playing against Raef and then kind of getting thrown into the fire really sped up the learning curve," Chenowith said. "I was lost at times, but it helped me to step in last year."

Last season, the learning curve was accelerated even more. The center started all 33 games, averaging 13.9 points per contest. He added nine rebounds per game and blocked 78 shots, leading the team in all three categories.

But there were those flaws so maddening to the Jayhawk nation: the inconsistency, the high turnover number from the post and the tendency to get pushed around by muscle-bound opponents.

"If (Chenowith) gets stronger, he could emerge as perhaps the best all-around center in the country."

**JAY BILAS**  
ESPN analyst

Chenowith and Williams believe that the first two are a product of age. The lack of mass, though, is a major concern to both. Chenowith said he has worked hard to improve his strength in the off season.

"That has been my major focus over the summer," he said. "I've gained 20 pounds (up to 265) since the end of last season. I'm going to be more of a physical player this year."

However, the "soft player" label stuck on him by some is one he strongly disagreed with.

"I'm not a soft player by any means," Chenowith said. "I've always posted up hard and played as hard as I could. I might have been a little weak, but I was never soft."

Apparently, the experts agree. They've named him to various preseason All-America teams and selected him as a Naismith award candidate. He also gets high praise, albeit with qualifications.

Said ESPN analyst Jay Bilas: "Chenowith has had a natural progression for a college star ... If he gets stronger, he could emerge as perhaps

the best all-around center in the country."

His coach agreed. "Eric has a chance to be one of the best I've had here, if he continues to work hard," Williams said.

All that's left for Chenowith is to prove his naysayers wrong and the experts right. He's confident, foreseeing a time somewhere in the near future where all the faithful will do is sing his praises.

"It's great to get recognition because it motivates me to work even harder," Chenowith said. "Things like All-Big 12 and All-American used to be dreams. Now they are goals."

"I'm more confident than I've ever been, confident in my moves and everything going on around me. I'm not confused on the court anymore. I'm ready to go."

Watch the wheels turn in Chenowith's head. A packed Allen Fieldhouse, a raucous crowd, a Kansas win and the coffee shop consensus from Dodge City to Wichita: Eric Chenowith is the rock-solid star of the Jayhawks.

# Hyman leads NU bowlers in weekend tournament

BY ROB PETZOLD  
Staff Writer

NU Coach Bill Straub was pleased with the team's performance.

"We led from start to finish," Straub said. "We came into this tournament not expecting a guaranteed victory, but I'm not surprised by our performance."

The Nebraska Women's Bowling team rolled this past weekend, winning the Brunswick Southern Classic in Marietta, Ga.

The defending national champions were led by sophomore Diandra Hyman, who led all women bowlers, averaging 216.

The Huskers tallied 11,125 points, beating out runner-up Morehead State, which finished with 11,041 points.

Senior All-American Kim Claus also contributed greatly to the Huskers' win.

Claus, a native of Mesquite, Texas, finished third overall with a 208 average. Stacey Rogers, a senior from Sioux Falls, S.D., finished 8th, averaging 198 points overall in NU's win.

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