

# SPORTS

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## Walker's 3-pointer helps NU to victory

■ The Huskers trailed 55-37 at halftime, but spirited performances by Kimani Ffriend and Steffon Bradford allowed NU to win its first exhibition game

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND  
Staff writer

Nebraska showed perseverance and a no-quit mentality in its first exhibition game of the season in a 107-99 win over the California South All-Stars before 5,630 at the Devaney Center.

After being down at one time by 20 points, the Huskers rallied to cut the lead to 10 with five minutes, 24 seconds remaining. NU cut the lead down to 86-84 in the final 30 seconds after two Kimani Ffriend slam dunks. Eddie Shannon hit two free throws to put California South up four, but guard Rodney Fields was able to make a lay up.

On the ensuing possession, NU fouled Mark Sanford, and he made his first free throw to extend the lead to three. After taunting the crowd, Sanford missed the second, and Danny Walker had the ball with less than five seconds remaining. Walker drove past half court and spotted up just inside the "H," swishing the

Nebraska	107
Cal South All Stars	99

game-tying shot to tie the game at 89 and send it into overtime.

"(Sanford) got the crowd on him," Walker said. "So that was the first good part. Then the crowd got loud, and he missed the second. And I was intent to get a good shot. If it wasn't me, it was hitting Cary in the corner.

"Once I got across half, I made up my mind I was going to take the shot because I could see how the defense was setting up."

Nebraska took control of the overtime period early and never looked back. NU shot 5-7 on field goals and 7-9 on free throws in the extra period. The Huskers held California South to 4-15 shooting on their way to an 18-10 OT scoring edge.

Walker finished the game with 19 points — one of six Huskers in double figures. Senior Larry Florence led the team with 20, Ffriend had 19, Steffon Bradford had 16, Cochran scored 13, and Louis Truscott finished with 10.

Bradford and Ffriend dominated the glass for NU, getting 16 and 14 rebounds respectively. "We were down," Ffriend said. "We had to win. So we decided that we had to crash the boards. We were quicker and athletic, so we just had to get position."

The Huskers came into the game looking to show off their new run-and-gun offense, but it

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DANNY NEE  
NU basketball coach

was the All-Stars who were running early.

At half time, NU found itself dazed, down 55-37. Sanford and Shannon combined for 32 points in the first half while the All-Stars torched Devaney, shooting 60.5 percent from the field.

But the two were held to 12 points combined in the second and overtime periods. Shannon played 40 minutes in the game and looked tired near the end, and Sanford missed most of the second half in foul trouble.

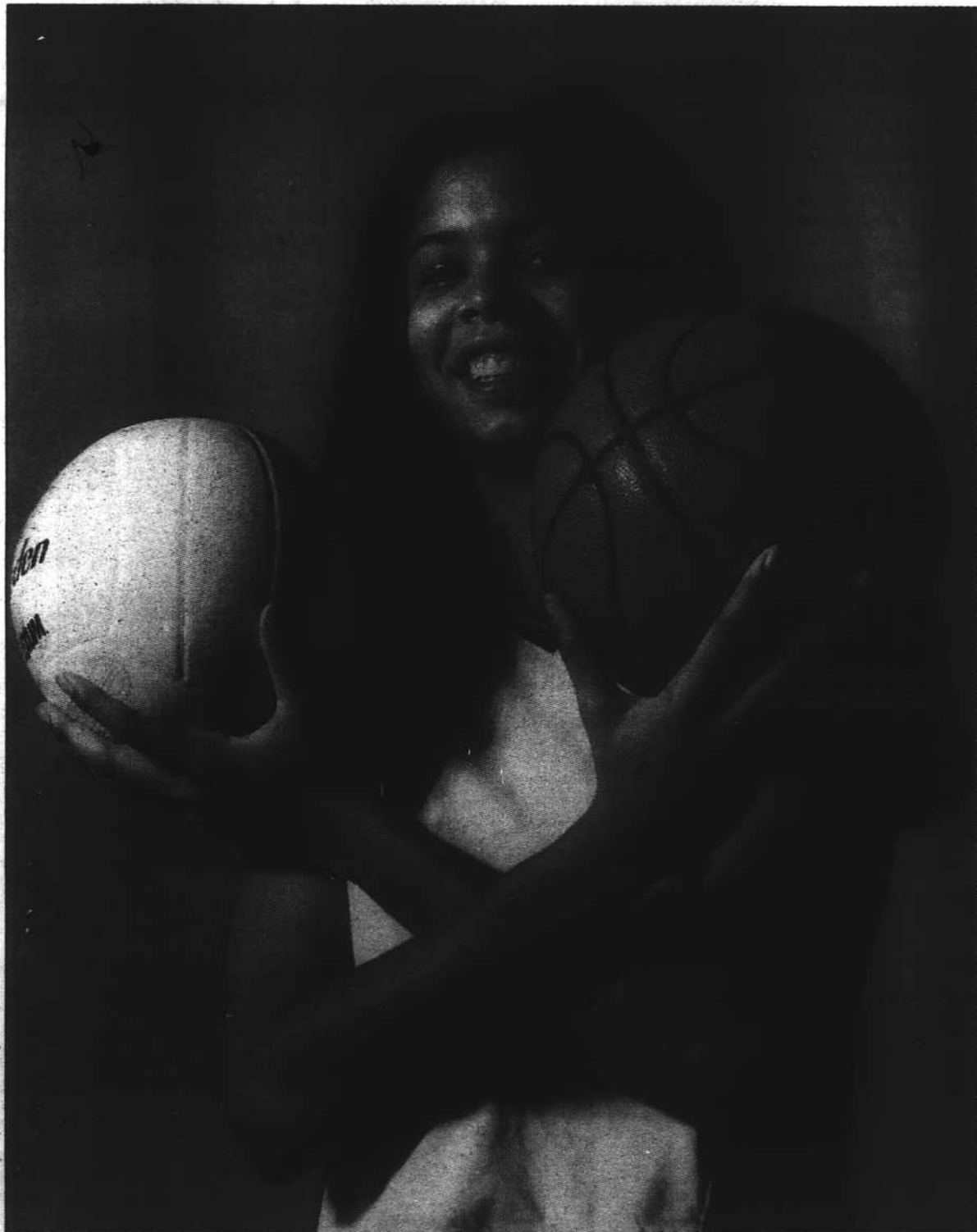
Husker Coach Danny Nee said he was impressed with his team's fight.

"What I'm really proud of is that even though they knocked us down in the first half, they did not knock us out," Nee said. "We just kept our cool and came back."



MIKE WARREN/DN

NU FORWARD Larry Florence, one of the few returning starters from last season, tries to dunk after crossing underneath the hoop. Florence would miss the dunk and Nebraska trailed at the half of its first preseason game against the California South All-Stars. The Huskers came back to win 107-99 in overtime.



GREICHALY CEPERO will play volleyball only this season before playing basketball and volleyball for the next three seasons. When asked what her favorite sport is, she replied, "It's not a question I like to answer." Finally, she relented a response, saying basketball was her favorite because of what she learned from her father.

story by Samuel McKewon  
photo by Lane Hickenbottom

outdoor courts  
blue dolphins  
new revolutions  
aaron babock  
and other things  
relevant to the  
**greichaly  
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By her own admission, sports is her life. Her name, in Spanish, means "Greece," a direct reference to the Olympics. She cannot visualize her life without sports. She "prays to God" she never gets hurt. Honestly, she's not sure she could handle the boredom.

And for Greichaly Cepero, this feeling started long ago.

"My Dad used to come home from work, and he'd come in the house. The basketball court was right outside — it was an outdoor court. I always used to wait for him at the door and grab his pinky to 'take me, take me.'

"He'd make me sit on the sidelines, and he'd tell me 'just dribble the ball to over there and go back.'

"But I'd always get on the court, and they'd have to stop the game."

She was 2 years old.

Please see CEPERO on 10