

# Tigers pounce in KU win

■ Missouri gets a big win over the Jayhawks, but still struggles with inconsistency.

By Jason Merrihew  
Staff Writer

It has been a roller coaster ride this season for Missouri men's basketball Coach Quin Snyder.

Right now, the Tigers are on a high. Missouri beat No. 7 Kansas at home on Saturday 81-59.

The 22-point margin of victory was the largest by MU (11-6 overall, 4-1 in the Big 12) over KU (15-3, 4-1) since 1989.

According to Kansas Coach Roy Williams, the crowd helped the Tigers get rolling.

"If they can be as fired up every game as they were for us, meaning the crowd, it would be tough pressure

place to try to get a win," Williams said.

Missouri's Snyder agrees that the crowd has helped boost his team to a 4-1 record in the Big 12.

"We have been at home for a little bit, so that has helped us out," Snyder said.

Missouri is expected to become stronger by the end of the week with the addition of freshman Kareem Rush. Rush had been suspended by the NCAA for the last nine games because of past relations with a former AAU coach.

"If it makes them any better than they were Saturday, we are all in trouble," Williams said, regarding the return of Rush. "There is no doubt that (Rush) will help them."

Despite the four-game winning streak and the thrashing of Kansas, the Tigers have been inconsistent.

On Jan. 18, Missouri went to Waco, Texas, and survived a scare

from perennial cellar-dweller Baylor, 74-72.

The lowest point this season, however, came during the Jan. 4 matchup against Winthrop. The Tigers lost at home 51-46.

The Winthrop game fell in the middle of a three-game losing streak. Missouri was whipped by Kentucky 70-53, then lost a close game to Big 12 foe Iowa State, 86-81.

Missouri has also won some tough games this year. MU has been able to split games against the Big 10. The Tigers beat Illinois and Iowa while losing to Indiana and Wisconsin earlier this season.

Big 12 coaches can see the potential power the Tigers hold.

"When (Missouri) shoots the ball well from the perimeter, they can beat anybody," said Oklahoma State Head Coach Eddie Sutton.

Missouri will next be in action Saturday against Texas A&M.

## — BIG 12 CONFERENCE —

The road was not a friendly place for Big 12 conference teams this weekend. Home teams went 5-1 with the lone win by Texas over Texas Tech.

ranked team was the Aggies' first in 29 games.

Speaking about being friendly, let's talk about everybody's favorite friend, namely Kimani. The Nebraska center was the Big 12's newcomer of the week for the second straight time and the third time this year. He averaged 17 points and 15.5 rebounds in conference wins over Texas Tech and Baylor.

Colorado senior guard Jaquay Walls was the Big 12 player of the week averaging 30 points and six assists in wins over Oklahoma and Kansas State. His 32 points against the 17<sup>th</sup>-ranked Sooners were two shy of his career high of 34 set last year.

By beating Oklahoma State on Saturday, Texas A&M did something they haven't done in more than 12 years — beat a ranked team. The win over the then 12<sup>th</sup>-

ranked team was the Aggies' first in 29 games.

Missouri needs junior Tajudeen Soyeye on the floor. When the center plays at least 26 minutes, the Tigers are 11-1. But the Tigers are a hapless 0-5 when he plays 25 minutes or fewer.

If going 0-4 in conference play, which includes a home loss to rival Texas, weren't enough for Texas Tech to swallow, it now has to deal with the loss of center Andy Ellis. The 6-foot-10-inch Ellis, who led the team in rebounding and was second in scoring, is out for the season with a shoulder injury.

With a victory tonight against Texas, NU Coach Danny Nee can tie Nebraska's all-time career victory mark. Joe Cipriano currently holds the record of 253.

Big 12 Notebook is compiled by staff writer Trevor Johnson.

# Jones waits for eligibility answer

JONES from page 16

season I played, summer, I played. All of the sudden ..."

Coach Paul Sanderford walked by.

"Hey, Coach," Jones said.

Jones, you sense, misses Sanderford a little, too, or at least his gruff voice, barking out orders to the players on the floor. From her exercise bike, Jones can hear him — well, everyone with a few hundred yards can — but she can't be on the floor to compete.

Her teammates, Jones said, have given her tremendous support. But still, rehab is something she has to do all on her own. There are few fans to cheer her on. Outside of a few trainers and a doctor every so often, nobody else is getting up at 7 in the morning to stare at the ceiling and watch grass grow.

So, in a time of less, Jones thinks more.

She focuses on her return, as her

rehabilitation is going as fast as her doctors have ever seen, she said. She focuses on the day when her knee will be stronger than it originally was — a common case for women athletes.

And Jones focuses on getting that year back. It keeps her awake at night, that mythical season. The season that doesn't even kick into effect for four years. But she wants it so badly — she'll send the NCAA tape of her injury. If there's anyone who fits the spirit of the injury rule, Jones figures it has to be her.

"They're taking every case as an individual case," Jones said. "It's just like you go into a courtroom; you've got to present your side."

"It's amazing because you always think the NCAA is there for you. Then you look at a situation, and you just have a whole bunch of question marks."

"And nobody can really answer them for you."

Bureaucracy doesn't fit Stephanie Jones' style. But she has no other

choice but to wait. Wait, and focus, not on the unfairness of what is, but the potential greatness of her future to be.

Samuel McKewon is a junior political science major and a Daily Nebraskan senior editor.

# NU hopes frontcourt can stand up to Texas

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Nebraska, 9-9, has not won a road game this season. In those games, the team has not come closer than 15 points to any of its opponents.

"Playing on the road is very difficult," Nee said. "Any time you get a win on the road, it is a major accomplishment. I don't care who you are playing, where you are playing. It is just very difficult. I find none (of the

Big 12 cities) pleasing."

Walker believes it is time for his team to grab one of those tough road wins against the 12-5 Longhorns.

"I think this is a game that we can win," Walker said. "Steffon and Larry were talking about it last night, and we feel good about the game plan."

Nebraska and Texas match-up well, despite Texas' greater depth, Walker said.

# Solich likes work ethic of Huskers' next team

FOOTBALL from page 16

because they start out as a group doesn't mean they end up that way."

Coming within one game of the national title last season, and just one year removed from a 9-4 season in 1998, serves as motivation for most players on the squad. But there are always exceptions.

"When you have a large group of athletes, it's tough to motivate all of them," Epley said. "Some are easily motivated, but there usually are a handful that are tough to get working. But it is a required workout."

Given the character of the team last year, Football Coach Frank Solich said he doesn't expect any drop off from last season's strong finish.

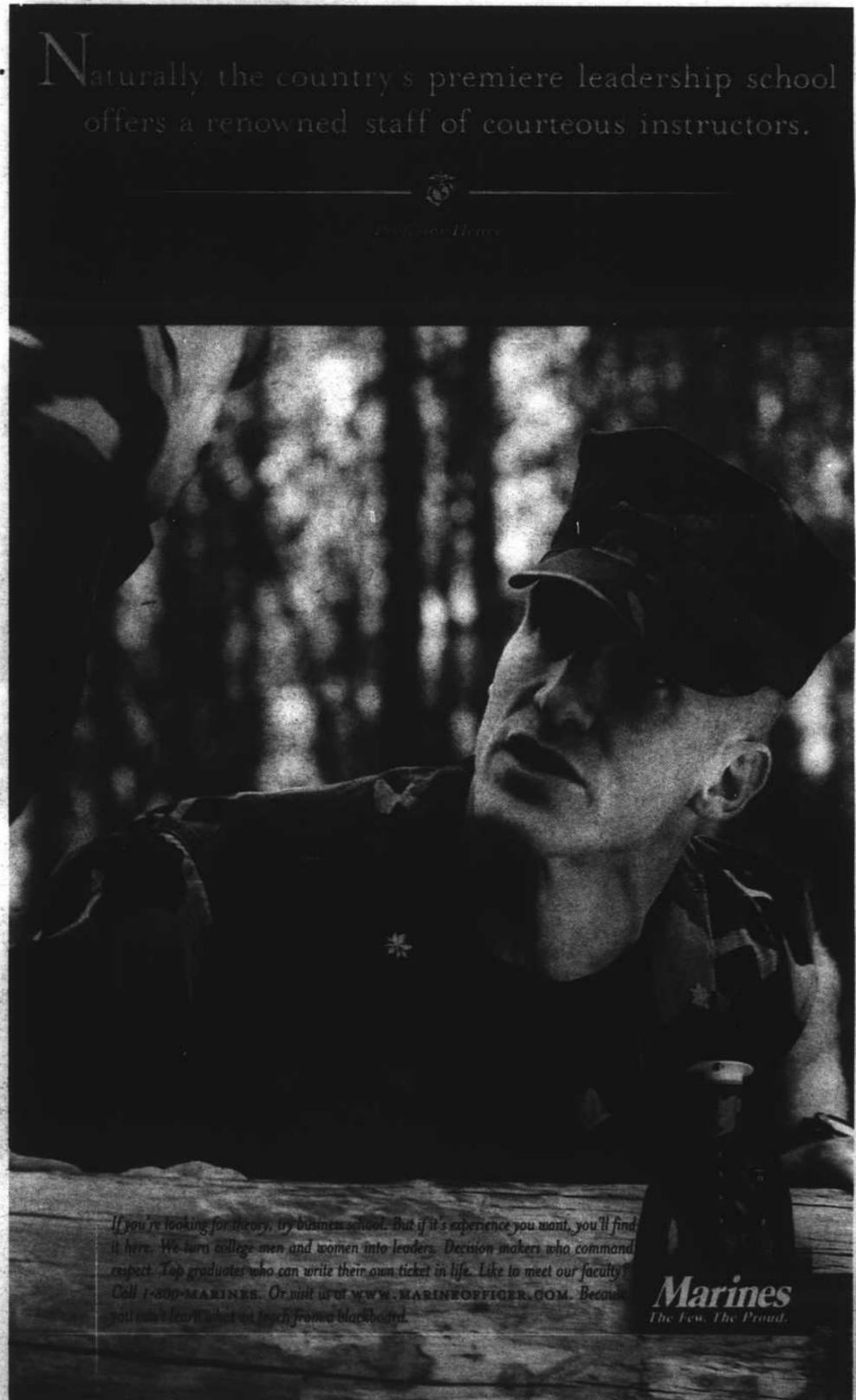
"I thought we ended the season

"This is the time of the year to make physical improvements."

Boyd Epley

Director of Athletic Performance strong," Solich said. "They are ready to go. We're not going to have to push them into a conditioning program. Several of them started working out immediately after we got back from Arizona."

"I believe it will be a football team that will do the right things to make it work."



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