

Huskiers bear down for Cyclones

Stopping Frese, powerful ISU offense will key NU's chances

By Samuel McKewon

Senior editor

Paul Sanderford played humble for about 20 seconds in describing the Nebraska women's basketball team's chances against No. 8 Iowa State on Wednesday.

"I don't know if we can even stay on the floor with them," the coach said. "I'm just happy to have them at home and another opportunity to compete."

In reality, Sanderford thinks a whole lot more of his Cornhuskers coming into the 7:05 game tonight at Devaney Sports Center. NU and ISU match up reasonably well in a game that could be the Huskers' most important test to date.

While the Cyclones boast a top-ten ranking and a better record at 15-3 overall and 6-1 in the Big 12 Conference, Nebraska isn't far behind after a four-game winning streak. NU finds itself right in the middle of the conference race at 5-

2 and an 11-7 overall record.

And while ISU beat the Huskers 89-66 in Ames earlier this season, Nebraska led that game with 10 minutes to go before succumbing to the Hilton Coliseum crowd and foul trouble.

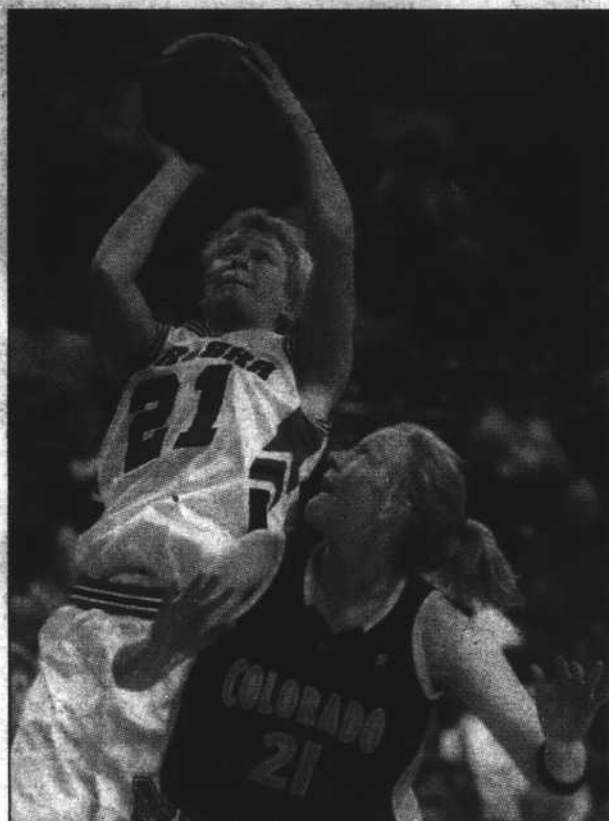
The key this time, Sanderford said, is staying out of that foul trouble and not allowing the Cyclones to get 36 free-throw attempts, like they did in the first matchup.

It's easier said than done. ISU has four starters who average double figures in points, along with arguably the nation's top 3-point shooter in Stacy Frese.

"I think Frese lives at the free-throw line against us," Sanderford said of the senior guard who has averaged 21.3 points in three games against NU.

"She's great at jumping into you, drawing contact, throwing it up and doing the flop on the

Please see ISU on 15



Mike Warren/DN

BROOKE SCHWARTZ and the Huskers take on Iowa State tonight at the Devaney Center.

—SPORTS OPINION—

Sanderford out to prove a point in Iowa State contest



John Gaskins

It was plunked down right before him, right before his very eyes on the center of his desk.

Somebody had sent Nebraska women's basketball coach Paul Sanderford a magazine, and it was opened to a double-paged, gloriously large and colorful centerfold picture of Iowa State's Hilton Coliseum. The place was jam-packed with red-and-yellow-clad Cyclone fans — during a women's basketball game.

It was ISU's alumni publi-

cation, and the centerfold perfectly captured the experience and phenomenon that is Iowa State basketball — a top 10 team that has a love affair with its fans, that averages 10,000 fans per home game and has made women's basketball a social event in Ames.

A note attached read, "Paul - I thought you might want to take a look at this."

Just imagine walking into Tom Osborne's office one day in the mid-1970's, when he was Barry Switzer's whipping boy for the first five years of his career, and seeing a spread-out of Owen Field on his desk in all its glory.

Osborne would tell you he'd use it for inspiration — Oklahoma was the program that always got his number, no

Please see GASKINS on 14

Final day arrives for recruits

By Sean Callahan

Staff writer

As the long and grueling recruiting process comes to an end today, the Nebraska football team will be waiting for two highly anticipated decisions.

The big question will be whether highly touted quarterback Carlyle Holiday, out of Roosevelt High School in San Antonio, will sign with Nebraska or with Notre Dame.

Both Husker and Irish fans have been wondering about the answer to this question. With only two scholarship quarterbacks coming back next year, NU is in need of a third signal caller.

Holiday's coach, Glen Hill, said Holiday will sign the official letter of intent at 8 a.m. today. As of Tuesday, Hill said Holiday knew where he was going but didn't want to release it until he signs today.

The other anticipated signing comes from safety Adrian Mayes, out of Forest Brook High School in Houston.

Mayes originally committed to the Huskers in early January, but on Jan. 21, he visited Louisiana State. He backed out of his commitment and is now wavering between the Tigers and the Huskers.

Mayes, who is a 300-meter hurdles state champion, plans to run track next year wherever he goes.

"Whichever school holds true to their offer to let me run track is who I will go to," Mayes said. "These next couple of days I will ask God to help me make the right decision."

Mayes and Holiday are both listed as top players for their positions. If the Huskers get both of them, it could give them one of

Please see RECRUITS on 14

BIG BRIT

UNL shot-putter throws season record, disputes UK steroid test results

By Brandon Schulte

Staff writer

Few things rival Carl Myerscough's size.

But the two things that come close to matching his 6-foot-10, 330-pound frame — his shot-put length and his goals — loom larger.

It's been 24 days since Myerscough arrived in Lincoln from Hambleton, England. In that time he's managed to throw a personal best of 64-4 1/2 in the shot put, the best in the nation so far this season.

And Myerscough's been shrouded in controversy after being suspended by the International Amateur Athletics Federation for allegedly testing positive for steroids.

At his size, it's not hard to envision the freshman being successful at the shot put. Myerscough said his height and weight are both above that of the average collegiate shot-putter, but his success is about more than his incredible size.

"It's partly genetics," he said. "But it's also a tremendous amount of work. You can't turn up and throw far even if you have the best genetics in the world. I've had to be dedicated at it."

Just by putting in perspective the 64-4 1/2 throw he threw in his first collegiate meet, one can see there may be few ceilings Myerscough doesn't hit during his career at Nebraska.

The throw would have been good enough for second place at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field championships last year, a mere seven inches from first place. It was the second-best throw in Cornhusker history, behind Kevin Coleman's mark of 65-9 3/4 in 1992.

Myerscough's coach, Mark Colligan, who knows a thing or two about throwing a shot put after winning the Big Eight championship in the event in 1986, said he's never seen such a good thrower so early in an athlete's career.



HEATHER GLENBOSKI/DN

"(His throws) are extraordinary, and everyone would have to agree," Colligan said. "We couldn't have rehearsed it better."

"To throw 70 feet is almost hard to imagine as far as a collegiate athlete is concerned, but he makes it imaginable."

So how good is a 70-foot shot put?

Myerscough said that mark would put him third in the world currently. He also said he would be troubled if he didn't throw that far sometime during his career, and the 20-year-old even hinted that he might be able to hit the mark this year.

"If I don't throw 70 (feet), I'll be very disappointed," Myerscough said. "I set my goals a bit higher. Certainly the 64-4 1/2 that I threw in the first meet was only the first meet of the year."

"I hope to improve on that toward 70 feet even — not necessarily throw 70 feet this season but certainly get a whole lot closer."

With such long throws and even greater expectations, it's no wonder Myerscough would be a target of drug tests.

He allegedly tested positive for methandienone and oxymetholone, both steroids, last May during a random test by UK Athletics. He was suspended by the IAAF last November.

The suspension won't affect his NCAA eligibility because the NCAA is its own entity and doesn't have to follow the IAAF ruling. What the suspension does do is hurt his Olympic standing.

Myerscough said the investigation has been ongoing for the past eight months, and he doesn't expect it to be resolved soon.

"Because British athletics are who the situation is involved with, and because IAAF governs British athletics, (the IAAF) had to stick their nose into it," Myerscough said. "I'm sort of provisionally suspended, pending an investigation into it."

"It doesn't mean they've decided what the outcome is going to be by any means. I'd like to think that the right outcome should prevail — I'm innocent."

If he is found guilty in the investigation, the penalty could be a lifetime suspension.

"It's pretty damn severe in the worst scenario," he said. "(A lifetime ban) is not likely, but possible."

Since he has no control over the investigation, he said he will continue to progress slowly to his lofty goal of being the best shot-putter in the world.

"Over time, you know, eventually I'd like to be No. 1," Myerscough said. "I'm patient; the peak age for a shot-putter is 31 years old. So I've got time."