

## Huskies fall to CU

■ Nebraska's loss to CU drops them to 1-8 in games on the road.

By Matthew Hansen

Staff writer

The Nebraska Cornhuskers hoped a wardrobe switch would change their luck on the road on Tuesday night against Colorado.

But the black uniforms, taken out of the closet for the first time this season, most definitely didn't work.

Nebraska (10-12, 3-6) struggled offensively from opening tip to final buzzer and succumbed to the Buffaloes 70-59. The road defeat dropped NU to 1-8 in games away from the Devaney Sports Center.

Coach Danny Nee said his team's road play was disappointing.

"We just have to break this trend and start playing better on the road," Nee said. "We have a lot of tough road games coming up."

The Huskers' offensive struggles

were worst early in the first half. After leading 3-2 with almost 17 minutes left, Nebraska didn't score another point until the 9:09 mark. The 7:27 scoring drought allowed CU to build a 17-3 lead, one it would not lose.

The Huskers clawed back from the deficit, with Larry Florence leading the charge.

Florence, who finished with a game-high 17 points, nailed a jumper as the first half buzzer sounded to cut the Colorado lead to 31-22. When Cary Cochran hit a three-pointer to open play after intermission, NU was within six.

That was it for the Cornhusker run, though. The Buffs promptly began a 11-0 surge of their own as the Huskers' offense was held scoreless for the second extended period in the game.

When the dust had cleared, the Colorado lead was 17, 42-25. The margin extended to as much as 20 before the Huskers cut into the lead in the final minutes.

Colorado finished with three

BUFFALOES	70
HUSKERS	59

scorers in double figures, with backup guard Nick Mohr leading the team with 15, but it was the many and varied offensive problems for NU that concerned Nee following the game.

"We never got into a rhythm offensively," he said. "We weren't able to get our guards involved in the game."

The Nebraska guards failed to score a field goal in the first half before Cochran got untracked for three treys in the final 20 minutes. For the game, Nebraska shot only 25 percent (4-16) from the three-point line and 33 percent (19-57) from the field.

And the offensive woes didn't stop there.

For the third straight game, NU was outrebounded. The Buffs edged the Huskers 42-38 on the boards after pulling down 12 more rebounds in the first half. Nebraska also committed 23 turnovers in the loss.

## Chiefs mourn death of pass rusher Thomas

MIAMI (AP) - NFL star Derrick Thomas died Tuesday in a hospital where he was being treated for injuries from a car crash that left him paralyzed from the chest down.

The Kansas City Chiefs said he died of a heart attack. Jackson Memorial Hospital called it "cardio-respiratory arrest" and doctors were expected to elaborate later in the day.

Kansas City Chiefs President Carl Peterson said he was with the 33-year-old linebacker Monday.

"He was upbeat, he was positive, he was Derrick," a tearful Peterson, wearing a button with Thomas' No. 58, said from Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City.

"He was in a wheelchair ... I said 'Son, you're mobile.'"

"He said, 'Father, I am. I've got wheels.'"

Thomas was injured Jan. 23

when the speeding car he was driving flipped on an icy road. A friend was killed in the crash.

Thomas, a nine-time Pro Bowl player and one of the game's most feared pass rushers, had been heading to the Kansas City airport with two companions to fly to St. Louis for the NFC title game.

Thomas was one of the most popular athletes in Kansas City, and Peterson called the death a "devastating tragedy."

Flags were lowered to half staff at Arrowhead Stadium. The Missouri Legislature paused for a moment of silence. Thomas' death was announced by Bill Kenney, a state senator and former Chiefs quarterback.

"Derrick Thomas was a true hero," said Kenney, who urged lawmakers to support a bill for spinal cord research in Missouri.

Thomas broke his spine and neck in the crash.

## NU women hope to regain strength

### Peterson finds solace in Husker basketball

By John Gaskins

Staff writer

Nebraska point guard Melody Peterson is one of those rare people who had the opportunity to live out her childhood dream.

She's also one of the few people who can tell you that those dreams aren't always what they are cracked up to be.

And when her dream turned sour, it was good news for the Nebraska women's basketball team.

Since Peterson transferred from national powerhouse Stanford this season and was declared eligible to play Dec. 21 by the NCAA's Administrative Review Subcommittee, the action-packed junior has added an extra dimension to NU's already dangerous offensive attack. Her skills go well beyond her 7.6 points and 4.1 assists per game in her 10 starts.

"When she comes out and plays well, she can make a tremendous difference," Coach Paul Sanderford said.

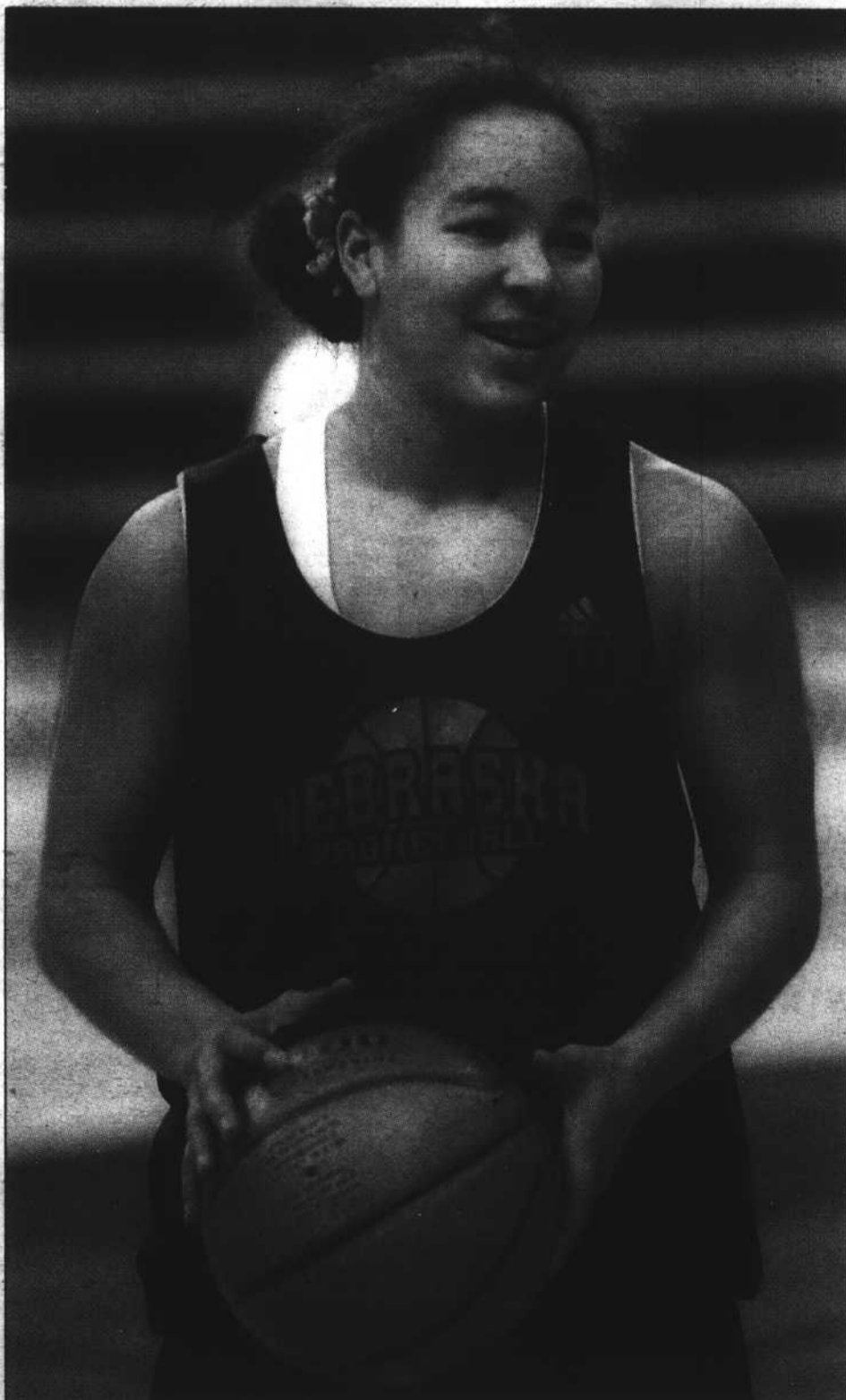
"Mel's just a catalyst," fellow guard Brooke Schwartz said. "She's a new burst of energy we didn't have at the beginning of the season. She sparks us defensively, really energizes us. Offensively, when she pushes the ball ahead at the beginning of the game, we're going to run all night."

Running has never been Peterson's problem. Since she first dribbled a basketball, the Pasadena, Calif., native chased down her dream of playing for Stanford, which caught her attention through legendary Coach Tara VanDerveer and two national championships from 1989-92. She also sought her dream to go to law school in Palo Alto.

Peterson's talent and brains got her there. The book-smart Peterson "loved" her academic experience - to the point where she earned two degrees (one in political science and one in African-American studies) in three years from the top-rate institution.

But her hoop dreams and love affair with VanDerveer's program quickly wilted.

"Tara had just come off of coaching a bunch of pro players on the U.S. National



Melody Peterson shares a laugh with her teammates during practice Tuesday in the Devaney Center. The Huskers will face Colorado at the Coors Event Center in Boulder, Colo., tonight at 8.

Josh Wolfe/DN

### Colorado game could get team back on track

By Brandon Schulte

Staff writer

Questions abound for the Nebraska women's basketball team as it readies to play Colorado tonight in the Coors Event/Conference Center at 8.

Can the Cornhuskers regain momentum they lost in two tough losses to Iowa State and Oklahoma in the past week?

"The kids realize that we didn't play well at Oklahoma."

Paul Sanderford  
Nebraska women's basketball coach

Sanderford said he thought Nebraska (11-9 overall and 5-4 in conference) would regain the form it had before the consecutive losses, when the Huskers won four straight Big 12 Conference games.

"The kids realize that we didn't play well at Oklahoma," said Sanderford, of NU's 91-69 loss in Norman, Okla., on Saturday, "I think we'll be resilient and bounce back."

On paper it would appear that CU would be a perfect opponent for NU to start a new winning streak against.

The Buffaloes are on a five-game losing streak and are tied for second-to-last in the Big 12 Conference at 1-8 and are only 6-14 overall. The Huskers whipped Colorado 79-66 in Lincoln on Jan. 26.

But Nebraska hasn't swept the season series with Colorado since 1984. And Sanderford said he expects the Buffaloes to be much improved since the first meeting.

"I think the first win gives us confidence,"

Please see COLORADO on 15

Please see PETERSON on 15