

## Officials doom NU again

By David Diehl

Staff writer

The Nebraska women's basketball team discovered Wednesday night that free throws aren't exactly free; they can have a pretty high cost.

Colorado shot 32 free throws and wiped out a 10-point Cornhusker lead late in the second half en route to a 78-75 come-from-behind victory.

The Cornhuskers had what seemed to be a safe 70-60 lead with six minutes to go in the game. The lead was the biggest of the game for either squad, and NU had control for most of the second half.

From that point, however, the Buffaloes took life out of the Big Red's game, scoring 14 points from the free-throw line during an 18-5 run.

Coach Paul Sanderford said on the post-game radio show that it might have been the toughest loss he's had.

"It's a game we should have won," Sanderford said. "We're a better team than Colorado, and we didn't put them away."

But Nebraska found it hard to put the Buffs away with four players fouling out of the game - Charlie Rogers,

BUFFALOES	78
HUSKERS	75

Paige Sutton, Casey Leonhart and Brooke Schwartz

Still, Sanderford said, without the big players, the team still played solid defense.

"I thought we did some good things on defense," he said. "But every time they got it in the post it was two free throws."

CU went to the line 47 times for the game, sinking 35 of the shots, compared with Nebraska which only shot 15 free throws for the game.

Sinking right along with CU's free throws was the Huskers' position in the Big 12 Conference standings. With this three-game losing streak, they stand tied at fifth with Missouri at 5-5 in conference and 11-10 overall.

Nicole Kubik led all scorers for the game putting in 24 points for the Huskers. But she didn't score in the game's last eight minutes, and NU didn't get much production inside with three forwards on the bench.

"When Paige Sutton fouled out," Sanderford said, "we really missed

*"I thought we did some good things on defense. But every time they got it in the post it was two free throws."*

Paul Sanderford

NU women's basketball coach

her because I thought she gave us great offense."

While Sutton and Rogers each score nine apiece, Leonhardt and Cisco Gilmore, the others in NU's frontcourt, combined to score only one point.

For the game, Nebraska made eight more field goals than the Buffaloes, outrebounded them and made more 3-pointers.

## Stars to shine aplenty in Husker Invitational

By Sean Callahan

Staff writer

The closet thing you will see to the NCAA national indoor track and field meet is the 26th annual Frank Sevigne Husker Invite at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Track on Feb. 11-12.

This year's Husker Invite features more than 40 teams and 900 competitors. Last year's Husker Invite had eight participants who went on to win national indoor championships.

"Originally, we designed the format of this meet to give athletes a strong opportunity to get qualified for the national championships," Nebraska Coach Gary Pepin said. "The stronger the field is or the better the competition, the more it gives those people a better chance to help each other."

Mark Kostek, the Husker Invite director, said he spends most of the

year preparing the field for the meet that he said Track and Field News Magazine calls "the finest collegiate track and field meet in the nation."

According to Kostek, the Husker Invite had the highest attendance of any other indoor meet in the country with 4,500 people in attendance at the Saturday session last year.

Some of the top events, Kostek said, will be the men's shot put, which has a field that features five of the top six men's throwers in the nation.

Nebraska freshman Carl Myerscough was leading the nation until last weekend before being overtaken by Jim Roberts of Brigham Young. Roberts, a junior, will be throwing at the Husker Invite this weekend.

"The Saturday shot put and weight throw is an incredible field of the top athletes in the United States,"

Please see **TRACK 15**

## Redshirts battle through boredom

■ Husker players find the the experience to be a maturing one.

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

Brian Conklin pumps the iron, watches the endless hours of game tape and pushes himself to the limit in practice just like every other Nebraska men's basketball player.

But he gets nothing in return - except the satisfaction that his future possibly will be brighter because of what he is enduring now.

Conklin is a redshirt on this year's team, and he will never set foot on the court this season.

Conklin, a near 7-foot giant who weighed only 205 pounds upon his arrival in Lincoln this fall, is one of the few athletes who can say they are part of this rare breed.

He will sit out his freshman season and not lose a year of eligibility in hopes of gaining maturity and adding pounds to his lanky frame.

The Hubbard, Ohio native said sitting out this season has been his and Nebraska Basketball Coach Danny Nee's plan from the start.

"Nee told me I would redshirt from the start," Conklin said. "I could have went other places and played from the start my freshman year, but I felt the redshirt was my best option."

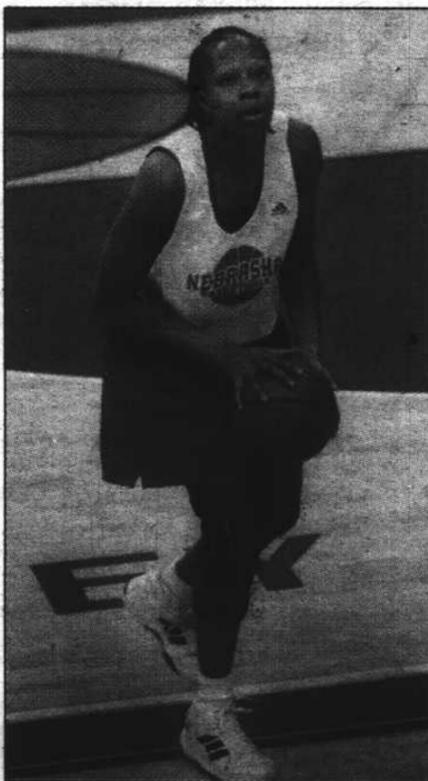
The other places Conklin listed included Ohio State, Northwestern, Bowling Green, West Virginia and Penn State. While Conklin might have been playing at these other schools at this very moment, he might want to take solace in women's basketball player Melody Peterson.

Peterson, now a junior at NU, played her freshman year for Final Four participant Stanford in 1996-97. Now she regrets not redshirting.

"I should have redshirted as a freshman," said Peterson, who only played 81 minutes in 23 games for the Cardinals. "I played only like 1.2 minutes per game, and it sucked. I might as well have redshirted and kept my year of eligibility."

Husker Assistant Coach Randy Roth, who recruited Conklin, said the plan to redshirt Conklin was in his best interests for the future.

"We presented he and his family with a plan," Roth said. "He lacked a year of maturi-



Heather Glenboski/DN

**ABOVE: MONIQUE WHITFIELD, SENIOR FORWARD for the women's basketball team, will be redshirting this season because of an injury. Redshirts are required to spend the season on the scout team and act as every opponent that the Huskers might face.**

Mike Warren/DN

**RIGHT: CARY COCHRAN, a former redshirt for the NU basketball team, believes the red-shirt season can be mentally difficult for some athletes.**

ty, and, to this point, we have not wavered from that plan.

"I think deep down, Brian knew he was going to be better in his fifth year."

Conklin said lifting weights, something he did little of in high school, is crucial to the

Please see **REDSHIRT 15**

