

Rifle squad looks to national meet

■ Two-year-old team garners invitation to championships in Lexington, Va., on March 9.

By Mike Callahan, Jr.
Staff writer

Call it the Big Dance of collegiate women's rifling.

The Nebraska women's rifle team is guaranteed it will be one of the eight teams invited to the national championships in Lexington, Va., on March 9.

In the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association rankings, NU is No. 5.

Coach Karen Anthony has no problem stating her confidence that the team will be dancing in Virginia.

"I think we're going to make it, period," Anthony said. "I'd predict that we're about head to head with Navy at either the No. 4 or No. 5 slot."

On Feb. 13, NU finished off the regular season with a bang, stealing the top three places in both air and small-bore rifles with a season-high tournament score of 6,165 at Ohio State University.

Several Huskers shot personal bests on that day, including sophomore Terim Richards. She left the field nursing defeat after firing a 395 to take second in air rifles.

Freshman Nicole Allaire did the



NEBRASKA RIFLE TEAM'S Rachel Spiry practices in the Naval and Military Science Building on Wednesday.
Lydia S. Gonzales/DN

most damage, though, leading all air rifle shooting with a 396, also a personal best.

Allaire, too, said she felt quite confident of a tournament berth and in the team's shooting right now in general.

"We've already shot the qualifier, so our chances are pretty good," Allaire said. "We've hit the peak of our season, and it all seems to be coming together."

NU's best shooting has come at the most crucial time. A day before the Ohio State matchup, NU recorded a

then-season high, 6,123, in a sectional match at Xavier.

Also contributing heavily to NU's success lately are freshman Amanda Trujillo, who took third (385) at Ohio State, and freshman Victoria Ridge, who finished fifth (381).

On Friday, the CRCA will announce what the Huskers already know: In just its second year in existence, the NU women's rifle team has made the national championship tournament.

Bradford steadies KU at half

By Matthew Hansen
Staff Writer

Amidst the former high school All-Americans on the Kansas basketball roster, one name and one word stick out: Nick Bradford, senior.

In KU's 83-58 victory on Wednesday night, Bradford, according to Coach Roy Williams, showed just how important he was to the team. Williams said Bradford's play on the floor and leadership off it helped the younger Jayhawk players considerably.

Bradford came off the bench and contributed a game-high 19 points, seven rebounds and six steals in only 24 minutes. According to Williams, though, his biggest contribution may have been at halftime.

"Nick was just sensational tonight," Williams said. "At halftime, nothing I said was more important than what Nick said. He challenged this team to come up and play with more intensity in the second half."

With Bradford's prompting, the Jayhawks jumped out of the second-half gate to turn a 34-34 halftime deadlock into a nine-point lead only four minutes after intermission.

After the game, though, as his teammates praised his leadership, Bradford said it was the non-seniors in the lineup who made it happen.

"Nothing I say will make any difference unless everybody goes out and makes it happen," he said. "Tonight, I said we had to be a second-half team, and then we went out and did it."

Bradford, averaging seven points per game, said leading the team in scoring was fun. But he said that in most games he would help the team in other ways.

"I'm not going to score like that every game," he said. "I am going to go out there and play hard, rebound and play good defense. And I'm going to keep this team ready to play."

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