

NU fails as spoiler to MU

■ Huskers play Tigers close in first half but wilt as Mizzou makes late second-half, 13-0 run.

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

COLUMBIA, Mo. — The Nebraska men's basketball team talked on Monday about relishing the role of the hunter.

On Wednesday night against Missouri, the Cornhuskers failed to fulfill that role as they faltered in the second half and lost 86-72 in front of 10,591 fans at the Hearnes Center in Columbia.

NU played the Tigers close in the first half and, after a three-pointer at the buzzer by Matt Davison, it trailed only by two, 44-42.

Davison, who was booed all night in the town of his miracle catch in the NU football team's 45-38 overtime win over MU in 1997, welcomed the pressure.

"I would have been disappointed," Davison said. "I have heard so much about the fans down here. I guess if I didn't hear anything I would have been disappointed."

But Nebraska has not played well in the second half of any of its road games, and playing against Mizzou on Senior Night was no different.

"It's like always," Forward Louis Truscott said. "We play good in the first half and in the second we fall apart. I am not sure what the problem is. I thought we should have made some changes by now, but evidently we didn't. I don't know what to say."

Kimani Ffriend, who led NU with 21 points and 11 rebounds, cut the Tiger lead down to eight with 8:48 remaining on a dunk.

Mizzou responded with a 13-0 run and, from that point on, held NU scoreless and forced five turnovers in the next 3:58.

The tigers biggest lead was 21 points, and they cruised from that point on.

But the final score did not indicate NU's effort. The Huskers had Mizzou on the ropes for the first half, backed by 55 percent shooting.

The Tiger's biggest lead was 11 in the first half, and NU did manage to tie it up at 39 on a Trescott dunk.

All three Nebraska post players managed to reach double figures for the game. Trescott and Steffon Bradford had 12 to compliment Ffriend's post play.

Mizzou was led by Kareem Rush, who had 23 points and Clarence Gilbert who had 19, 14 of which came in the second half. Gilbert hit four threes between the 18:36 mark and 13:17.

NU Coach Danny Nee said the Huskers tried many different defenses and Gilbert forced them out of the zone defense that worked so well in the first half.

"When he hit two, we stopped and went to the

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Louis Truscott
NU forward

box in one," Nee said. "And then he hit two more, and we got the hell out of the zone quick and stayed out of it."

All Nebraska players interviewed said the tight game gives NU hope going into the Big 12 Tournament, despite winning only one game away from home this season.

"We can use this as a positive," Davison said. "We have one more game and then the tournament. We might see Missouri again."

Game Notes:

NU Starting Point Guard Danny Walker was suspended from the game for disciplinary reasons.

NU swimmers look to hook No. 1 Texas

By Brian Christopherson

Staff writer

Say the prayers, spout out all the cliches that light fires within athletes' souls and visualize being conference king every night before hitting the switch.

The Nebraska men's swimming and diving team needs to do all of that. The 18th-ranked Cornhuskers find themselves in a contemplative situation.

For Texas, the No. 1 team in the water nationwide, is planted directly in the middle of the Huskers' path to a conference championship.

NU is on a roll, winning its last four dual victories of the season, so perhaps an outsider might think this is the year for Nebraska to hook the Horns.

Husker senior co-captain Michael Windisch said no. Throw that idea back on the train it came in on, because the trophy will in all probability wind up in the hands of UT.

"I am pretty sure they will

"They are really good. They're rested and shaven, and I am sure they will be ready to go."

Michael Windisch
NU swimmer

win," Windisch said. "They are really good. They're rested and shaven, and I am sure they will be ready to go."

Nebraska Coach Cal Bentz agreed that the Longhorns would be tough to topple but was confident that his team is ready to perform with Texas not being the target point.

"You have to be realistic, but we're going to be ready to swim and dive well," Bentz said.

"We're going in to do as well as we can, get as many people qualified for NCAAs and come as close to Texas as we can, while finishing ahead of everyone else in the conference."

Windisch was expecting big things out of both his young and veteran NU teammates this weekend.

"This is the first shaven and tapered meet for our freshmen, and it will be interesting to see how they perform for us," he said. "And we didn't lose many of the key figures from last year's team."

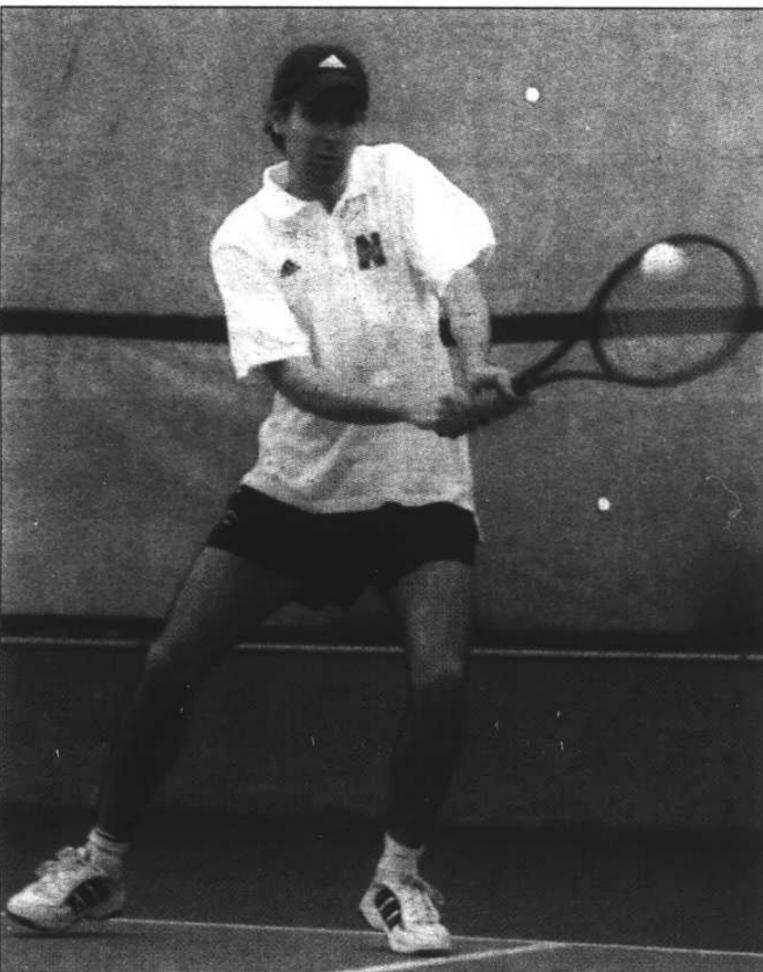
Keeping pace ahead of Texas A&M was also an important goal for Nebraska, Windisch said. The Aggies boast the No. 15 ranking in the country and own a 68-47 victory over the Huskers in a dual meet earlier this season.

"I was injured, and we were missing a few other people in that meet," Windisch said. "We really are focused on at least finishing in that second spot."

Windisch is one of four Huskers who return as Big 12 champions, including Adam Pine, Valery Kalmikovs and Anthony Rogis.

Please see LONGHORNS on 18

Huskers win without No. 1 player



Lydia S. Gonzales/DN

KAI RIEKE returns a volley in a doubles match against Drake. Rieke teamed up with Ryan Haith for an 8-6 match win against their Drake opponents.

■ Men's tennis team take five of six singles matches without Lance Mills for the second straight match.

By Mike Callahan, Jr.

Staff writer

No Lance Mills, no problem.

That's the mindset the No. 63 Nebraska men's tennis team must sport for the remainder of the season.

For the second straight match, the Cornhuskers handled the reality of their No. 1 player's being out just fine.

On Wednesday afternoon at the Woods Tennis Center, NU (4-3 overall, 0-1 Big 12)

HUSKERS	6
BULLDOGS	1

took care of a stubborn visiting Drake (3-3) squad, winning 6-1.

Nebraska was victorious in five of six singles matches, along with a two-to-one margin in doubles play to nab the win.

Coach Kerry McDermott seemed thoroughly satisfied with his team's performance.

"Our team played real, real well, and I felt like Drake was a very dangerous team," McDermott said. "The doubles point gave us a lot of momentum going into the singles, and the win by our No. 6 seed (Ryan Haith) was pretty convincing."

NU's only singles defeat was in the No. 1 match for Jorge Abos Sanchez. In three sets, Drake's Stephan Killian scrounged up the Bulldogs' only team point, winning 6-2, 6-7, 6-4.

Despite Sanchez's setback, McDermott was quick to defend his play.

"(Killian's) style of play is tough to get used to, and Jorge really responded pretty well," McDermott said. "But he just played a little better on the big points, and Jorge is still adjusting to the reality that everybody is very good at the No. 1 spot."

Unfortunately for NU, Mills, the projected No. 1 player

Please see TENNIS on 17

Veteran, pair of freshmen provide offensive punch for Husker softball

By Sean Callahan

Staff writer

Looking at the statistics of the No. 23-ranked Nebraska softball team, a familiar name is at the top of most batting categories: senior All-American Jennifer Lizama.

But not far behind Lizama are two freshmen — Amber Burgess and Kim Ogee. Currently the duo combines for 23 of Nebraska's 70 total hits.

Ogee, a walk-on outfielder from Millard West High School in Omaha,

is second for the Cornhuskers in hitting with a batting average of .385. She also is second in RBI (7) and leads the team with two triples.

Burgess, a catcher from Littleton, Colo., is right behind Ogee with a .361 batting average and ranks second in total hits with 13.

Husker Coach Rhonda Revelle said she was not surprised Burgess and Ogee were putting up such great numbers in their first-ever seasons of collegiate softball.

"I thought that they both had potential to see a lot of playing time

coming in," Revelle said. "So they haven't surprised me with their overall numbers."

Ogee had to walk on because NU only had one scholarship available this season, Revelle said. But she'll get one in the future.

"It was a situation where we only had one scholarship, and our priority for the position was a catcher," Revelle said.

Still, Revelle could not remember any other time in her coaching career where she had a non-scholarship freshman who started at the beginning

of the season.

Not having a scholarship didn't matter, Ogee said. Neither did individual statistics. She was more concerned at getting 5-6 Nebraska off on the right track.

"Really, it's not about being on top statistically," Ogee said. "I just want to come out and do what I can. It doesn't matter what I do statistically wise."

Burgess carried the same attitude as Ogee. She came in not really knowing what to expect, she said. Her main goal was to add depth to the line-up.

Burgess admitted she was a little

intimidated coming into the fall season but said she felt completely comfortable now.

"When you watch college softball on TV, it looks completely dominating," Burgess said. "It was just a matter of getting involved with it."

The slow start of NU doesn't concern Burgess. She knows that the team is coming around.

"Were a much better team than our record shows right now," Burgess said. "It's just a matter of us going out and playing our game and not buckling down to pressure."