

NU's Kubik hopes scoring spree continues

By David Diehl

Staff writer

Nicole Kubik, a health nut? Not totally. An outstanding basketball player? Yes.

Nebraska's senior guard is on a tear heading into today's 2:20 p.m. game with Baylor in the Big 12 Conference Tournament. The senior from Cambridge, who recently was named to the All-Big 12 team, has been averaging 23 points in the Cornhuskers' past three games.

"It's definitely not the food I've been eating," Kubik said about any possible causes of her recent hot

streak. "I've been eating worse as the season has gone on."

Whatever Kubik is eating, maybe the rest of her teammates should dig in for some, too. Kubik has been the spark lighting the fire under the Huskers' four-game winning streak. She led the team in scoring in the past three contests. The 26 points she put up in NU's win at Missouri on March 2 was her second-highest total of the year.

"I think she's playing with a lot of confidence right now and also a kind of a sense of urgency," Coach Paul Sanderford said. "I think all of our seniors are."

Nebraska, at 16-11 overall and a

regular season conference record of 10-6, probably needs to win one more game to ensure itself a spot in this year's NCAA Tournament.

But Kubik helped get NU in a spot to play its way into the tournament with her recent performance.

Down by ten points to Oklahoma State in the second half, Kubik torched the Cowgirls for 14 points during a 19-7 run late in the game, spurring them to a 75-71 overtime win with her 24 points in the game.

The brilliance that Kubik has shown in the recent weeks of the season was missing early on. Sanderford said Kubik really made a turn for the better after Christmas.

"Early in the year she tried to do too much," Sanderford said. "Getting her off the ball and moving her to a wing helped her some and has taken some pressure off her."

Coming into the tournament on the heels of a winning streak is obviously something the Huskers will use in the tourney, Kubik said.

"It really gives us some momentum going in," Kubik said. "We're on a high right now, and we want that to go on."

Sanderford echoed those sentiments.

"Anytime you can win in this league, especially on the road," Sanderford said, "it definitely gives

you some confidence. I think we gained some confidence over the last month of the season."

Baylor will have a chance today to end the Husker hot streak that it helped originate. NU handed the Bears an 82-71 home loss Feb. 19, the first in NU's current string of wins.

But that is the very reason that Sanderford said the Bears are dangerous.

"They scare me to death because they're the No. 12 seed," Sanderford said. "They have nothing to lose; they're not going to go anywhere. So basically they're going to play very loose."

SSC success might come with a price



Samuel McKewon

South Sioux City is a northeast Nebraska town sandwiched in between a massive beef plant and the financial empire that is Sioux City, Iowa, meaning two things:

1. Prevailing winds are not friendly to the nasal region.
2. There is not much to do.

There are the cheap casinos in South Dakota, or maybe a weekend of boating in the Big Sioux river. You could look at the scenic bridge for a while.

Natives of the area will push to make it sound different, but there is no escaping its relative mediocrity. South Sioux City does win the prize among its bigger brother, Sioux City, Iowa, and its bastard cousin, North Sioux City, S.D., as the nicest of the Sioux. Alas, this is not much of a prize.

It is a corner of the world where rain seems perpetually imminent, where old people look older, where young people look trashed-up. Don't try dressing it up for me; all times accumulated, I've spent damn near a year of my life up there. My parents spent 30 years there. So I know if you've got a room at the Marina Inn. (It's not called that anymore, but it's still the Marina Inn.) you're pretty well off.

Amidst the gray arrives the South Sioux City girls' basketball

Most high school powers are built through either religion, money or size

team, the most powerful Nebraska high school sports dynasty since the Boys Town football teams of the 1960s that used men in their 20s and 30s. It won its fifth state title in six years this weekend with a 65-36 pounding of Alliance in the final game. It is ranked No. 6 in the nation by USA Today. It does not lose often, only once this season.

Within the town, the team has created a sense of pride unseen before it, much like a high school football team still invigorates the tiny steel towns of Ohio and Pennsylvania. This time, it is girls' basketball, and the town is doing in the most unconventional ways imaginable.

Most high school powers are built through either religion, money or size. Catholic schools have been a force in America for years; they have clout and funding other schools don't have. Omaha's Creighton Prep, Falls City's Sacred Heart, Lincoln's Pius X - these schools, among the many others, owe all of their athletic prowess to God.

The money of suburbia flourishes, too. Lincoln Southeast fits into this paradigm, as does my alma mater Millard North. Now, Millard West is making a ton of noise right now solely based on the pocketbook

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Ffriend nabs all newcomer honors in first season at NU

From Staff reports

In only his third year of organized basketball competition, Kimani Ffriend proved he's a pretty quick learner.

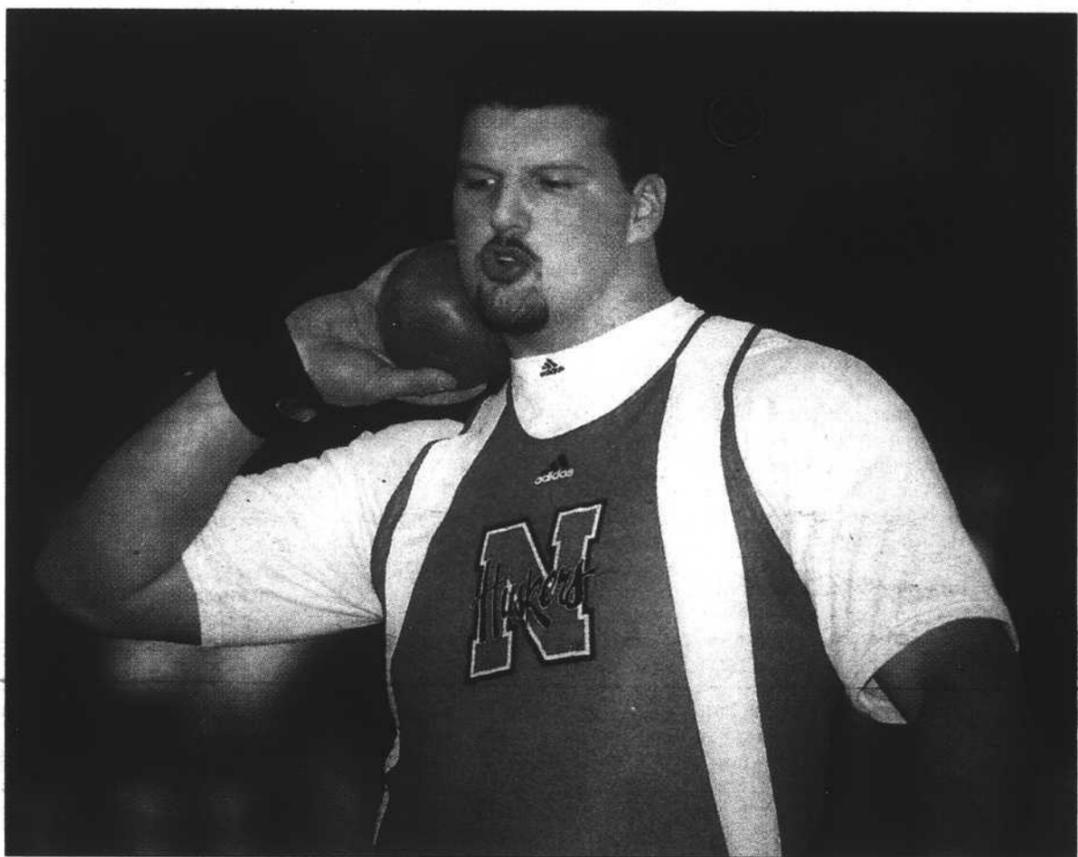
Ffriend, along with five others, was named to the Big 12 Conference's All Newcomer team Monday. There was a tie in voting, resulting in a six-member team.

Ffriend also was honored with a spot on the All-Conference second team.

Ffriend emerged this season as an inside force in the Big 12 this year after playing two years of junior college basketball.

The junior from Kingston, Jamaica, leads the Big 12 in blocked shots with a 2.86 per-game average. He leads the team in rebounding with an average of 8.9 boards a game. His 12.2 points per contest is second on the team.

Ffriend was joined on the team by Baylor's Terry Black, Darren Kelley and Chris Owens from Texas, J.R. Raymond from Oklahoma and Iowa State's Jamaal Tinsley.



NEBRASKA SHOT-PUTTER Carl Myerscough waits to find out if he will compete in the near future for the Nebraska track and field team. DN File Photo

Myerscough waits while his future is determined

■ U.S. track official questions athletic director Bill Byrne's decision.

By Jamie Suhr

Staff writer

While the Nebraska Track and Field team prepares for the NCAA Indoor National Championships, NU's top shot-putter Carl Myerscough sits and waits.

NU Athletic Director Bill Byrne said last week the International Amateur Athletic Federation must hold a hearing to determine Myerscough's eligibility after he allegedly tested positive for steroids in the United Kingdom last May.

Until then, Byrne said, Myerscough, though eligible by NCAA standards, won't compete in the collegiate ranks. No dates have been set for the hearing.

Myerscough's sabbatical from competition began two days before the Big 12 Indoor Championships, when Byrne called Track Coach Gary Pepin and told him sit Myerscough out. He will continue to sit out here unless he is cleared for international competition.

The Appeals Process

For Myerscough to become internationally eligible again, Throws Coach Mark Colligan said, the following things must happen:

■ United Kingdom Athletics will review the case and either uphold or overturn the initial decision of suspension, made in November. Myerscough, who has declined comment for this story, has contended he is innocent of steroid use.

■ Either way, the IAAF will review the UK Athletics decision, and, again, decide to uphold or overturn the decision.

■ If the IAAF decides that Myerscough is eligible, then he can compete immediately. If not, he will likely receive a two-year ban from competition.

There's no way for Myerscough to know when these hearings will happen, Colligan said. He might get a call next week, maybe later.

Former Husker sprinter and gold medalist Charlie Green, Myerscough's ombudsman and member of the 1997 U.S. Track and Field Drug and Contamination Review Board, said the IAAF could take a while to determine Myerscough's eligibility. He couldn't be specific because of Myerscough's right to privacy.

Green said it was unfortunate for Myerscough because he is eligible by NCAA standards.

"With the IAAF, if you don't follow, you're out. With the NCAA, if you don't follow, you're out. How come when Carl follows the rules, he's out?" Green said.

Myerscough, Colligan said, has two choices.

One, he could take the test to court and challenge the test results. Or he could accept the UK decision, whatever it may be, and possibly take a two-year ban.

If the ban were imposed, Colligan said, Myerscough would stay in Lincoln and continue to practice with the team and wait the ban out. He'll only lose one year of eligibility if it's a two-year ban, Colligan said.

In reality, Myerscough can compete right now. It's Byrne's decision that keeps him out.

Questionable reasoning

Byrne's reasoning remains unclear, beyond his saying last week that it was "best for Carl and best for the program." Though there's speculation Byrne was pressured by the Big 12 Conference to hold Myerscough

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