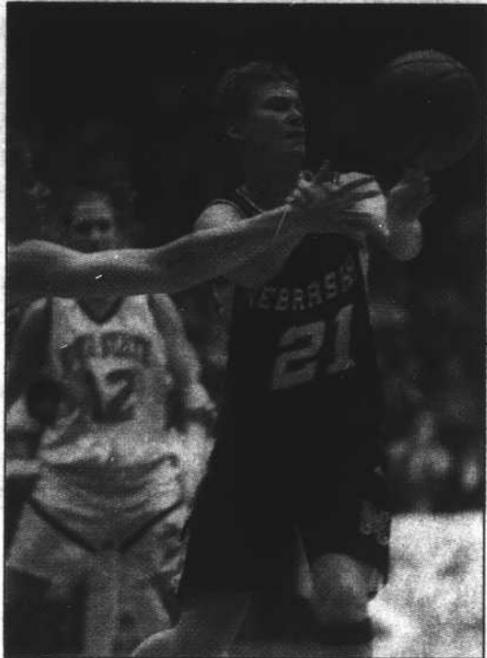


Huskers wilt under Iowa State pressure



Mike Warren/DN
JUNIOR GUARD BROOKE Schwartz drives for the basket in Thursday night's Big 12 semifinals. The Huskers lost 85-48, breaking their winning streak.

Sanderford says Nebraska belongs in 64-team NCAA Tourney field

By John Gaskins
Staff writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Too much Iowa State. Again.

The last thing the fifth-seeded Nebraska women's basketball team needed for its NCAA Tournament hopes was an embarrassing loss on national television to No. 13 and top-seeded Iowa State in the semifinal round of the Big 12 Tournament.

But the Cyclones paid little attention to the Cornhuskers' needs, or NU's six-game winning streak. ISU blew past Nebraska midway through the first half and rolled to a 85-48 victory in front of 5,865 fans — mostly cheering for Iowa State — at Municipal Auditorium on Thursday night.

In the process, the Cyclones (24-5) won for the third time against Nebraska (18-12) and sent the team home to wait until

CYCLONES	85
HUSKERS	48

Sunday for a possible at-large berth in the NCAA Tournament.

If the bid doesn't come, NU could blame it on the worst loss (37 points) and lowest point total in the three-year Paul Sanderford era. It is the worst Husker loss since a 80-39 setback to Auburn during the 1988-89 season.

"The last whipping I remember like that I took from my dad when I was about 13," Sanderford said. "It's one of those nights you want to forget."

It was the kind of night Iowa State has been accustomed to ever since it lost back-to-back games to Kansas and Kansas State in mid-February. In its last six games, all wins, ISU has averaged 92 points and a 29-point margin of victory over its opponents.

"The last whipping I remember like that I took from my dad when I was about 13."

Paul Sanderford
women's basketball coach

Against NU, the Cyclones, who will play Texas in the tournament finals Saturday night, had four players score in double figures, including guard Stacy Frese, who led all players with 20 points. The senior All-American hit three of her five three-point attempts and nine of her 12 free-throw tries.

"Iowa State got on a roll," Sanderford said. "I thought the real key tonight was Stacy Frese. She controls everything. She makes big shots when they need big shots. When she plays good,

Iowa State plays good."

For the first 10 minutes of the game Nebraska played just as well, as it had in stretches of its first loss to ISU this year and the entirety of the second game, a 77-76 Cyclone victory in overtime.

As ISU focused on NU's trio of guards — Nicole Kubik, Brooke Schwartz and Melody Peterson — early in the contest, 6-foot-5-inch center Casey Leonhardt scored Nebraska's first eight points of the game. She had 10 points when

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Mike Warren/DN
KIMANI FFRIEND HOLDS HIS head in his hands during the final seconds of Thursday night's game. The Huskers blew a fourteen-point lead in the second half and were beat by Baylor at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo.

NU blows big lead, ends season

"I thought we had the game under control early, and I thought we played well ..."

Danny Nee
men's basketball coach

■ **The Huskers fall to Baylor in what could be Nee's last game.**

By Joshua Camenzind
Staff writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Big 12 Tournament was supposed to be a new season for the Nebraska men's basketball team. But it looked no different than the 29-game season it just finished.

The Cornhuskers lost to Baylor 63-55 in front of about 8,000 fans at Kemper Arena. Bears Coach Dave Bliss said the game was a microcosm for his team's season.

It might as well have been Coach

BEARS	63
HUSKERS	55

Danny Nee talking.

"It was disappointing," Nee said. "I thought we had the game under control early, and I thought we played well and got the lead. We just couldn't finish them off."

Nebraska owned a 26-20 lead at the half thanks to an 11-0 run and gritty play under the boards. Nebraska led 41-27 at one point in the second half.

But in true Husker-fashion, the wheels fell off the wagon in the second half. NU (11-19) lost every edge it had gained.

Baylor started to play a more aggressive zone and center John Flippen clogged up the middle of the

lane. Flippen had eight blocked shots and forced NU's post players to miss various chip shots throughout the game.

"John is a big presence inside, and his guarding the basket during that period allowed us to go on that run and get back into the game," Bliss said.

The run that Bliss referred to was a 19-0 run that started at the 14:08 mark after Louis Truscott converted on a layup.

Truscott's basket gave NU the 41-27 advantage. It would be NU's last points for the next six minutes, 35 seconds. Cary Cochran made a three-pointer to break the run, but when the dust settled Baylor led by two, 46-44.

"We started protecting the basket

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NU ready for solid showing at NAAs

By Jamie Suhr

Staff writer

The Nebraska track and field team already has baked the cake, now it's looking for the icing.

Coach Gary Pepin said placing in the top 10 at the NCAA Indoor National Championships at Fayetteville, Ark., held today and tomorrow, would be the perfect ending to a great season.

At the beginning of each year, Pepin said, the team set the goal of winning the conference title and placing high in nationals.

Despite claiming both the men's and women's indoor conference titles, NU will have its hands full.

On the men's side, the Huskers are led by junior sprinter Chris Chandler. He'll be competing in the 60- and 200-meter dash.

Chandler is ranked No. 5 in the 200 meters with a time of 20.98 seconds and No. 6 in the 60 meters with a time of 6.61.

Chandler ran a 20.73 in the 200 meters at the Big 12 Championships, the second fastest time this year, but because it came on an oversized track, it doesn't count.

Chandler, the U.S. Track Coaches Association Midwest region athlete of the year, said he has yet to be pushed in a race.

"I don't know what it feels like to run all out," he said. "I haven't felt any pressure in the preliminaries. It was like I was chillin'," Chandler said.

He admitted, however, that he was going to have to run all out this time around.

"I have to run preliminaries like they were the finals," Chandler said. "It'll be balls to the walls; let it all out."

The overwhelming favorite on the men's side will be Arkansas. The team has a whopping 16 entries in the field compared to the Cornhuskers' seven.

"We still have quite a few bullets," Pepin said.

But the team will be without its

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