

NU ranks near bottom of pack as Big 12 play starts

BIG 12 from page 10

Iowa State is after the Cyclones visit Missouri on Jan. 13 and Kansas on Feb. 5.

Texas (11-2, 1-0) The Longhorns, who come to Lincoln on Saturday, have dominated on their home floor, beating the likes of Illinois, Utah and Indiana in Austin. But UT was embarrassed by Duke in the semifinals of the Preseason NIT and dropped a road contest to South Florida.

Unlike the majority of its conference foes, Texas still has two remaining non-conference games. Texas hosts Connecticut on Jan. 15 and travels to Arizona on Jan. 27.

Texas will rely on its defense throughout those two games and the conference season. UT is allowing a paltry 64.5 points per game behind a league-high 7.46 blocked shots per game.

Oklahoma (11-2, 0-1) The Sooners were victimized by Hilton Magic in their opener at Iowa State on Saturday, losing 100-80. But solid wins over SMU and Arkansas in non-conference play point to another solid job thus far by Coach Kelvin Sampson.

Sampson finds a way to build a solid squad year after year and is doing much of the same this season. OU has a favorable schedule until mid-February when it travels to Texas and Oklahoma State on successive dates.

Despite another treacherous five-day span where OU plays at Missouri and

Maryland, look for the Sooners to pile up another 20-win season.

Missouri (10-3, 1-0) Quin Snyder's troops played what is arguably one of the hardest non-conference schedules in the nation and came away with only three blemishes.

Not many coaches would put his team through a schedule consisting of Iowa, Indiana and Illinois - all on the road - in a five-day period. But Snyder did, and his team will reap the benefits when it faces close encounters on the road in conference.

Having Kareem Rush doesn't hurt Mizzou, either. Rush showed NU on Saturday why he might jump to the NBA early. Rush will push Iowa State's Tinsley for Player of the Year honors in the league.

Colorado (10-4, 0-1) The Buffaloes are about where many expected them to be, if not higher.

CU dropped games to underrated Austin Peay, St. Joseph and at California, while beating the likes of the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Murray State - wins that only have significance in Lincoln.

Buff's Coach Ricardo Patton will have his team hovering around the 15-16 win mark and an NIT bid again this season.

Oklahoma State (8-3, 0-1) The Cowboys re-dedicated the newly remodeled Gallagher-Iba Arena on Monday night against Iowa State on ESPN.

The unofficial dedication took place on

Dec. 19 when OSU center Jason Keep shattered a backboard in the waning moments of a 70-60 victory over Arkansas-Little Rock.

Despite a very inexperienced roster, the Cowboys should settle for no less than five wins in January. By February, which gets more difficult, OSU fans should know whether to make plans for the postseason or move their attention to the wrestling team.

Kansas State (7-5, 0-1) The Wildcats, picked by both the coaches and the writers to finish last in the league, are off to a surprising start behind first-year Coach Jim Woodriddle.

KSU beat Iowa 86-78 on Dec. 23 and then won its Big 12 opener on the road at Texas A&M 53-48. Despite a spirited beginning, don't expect the Wildcats to have a winning record going into their Jan. 27 matchup with Kansas in Lawrence.

Nebraska (7-7, 0-1) This category should be split into two at this point, with those Huskers who showed up in Florida, Puerto Rico, Minnesota and Missouri in one and those who suited up for UMKC, Murray State and Creighton in the second.

NU could be 12-2 at this point or they could be 3-11. On the heels of an inspired performance Saturday against Mizzou, 7-7 seems to be a happy medium right now.

But .500 ball won't pack Devaney. Just to get an NIT postseason bid, NU must get its act together fast.

Texas Tech (6-6, 0-1) The Red Raiders should be thankful for Texas A&M (see below) because without them, Tech is the worst of the worst at this point.

Texas Tech hasn't beaten anybody, and losses to the University of Alabama-Birmingham, the University of Texas-El Paso and Texas A&M Corpus Christi are inexcusable.

Tech would be better served with some semblance of good guard play to complement Andy Ellis and Cliff Owens in the post. The two are averaging a combined 30.8 points and 14 rebounds per game.

Texas A&M (6-7, 0-1) Much like Tech, A&M is one-sided. But that one side consists of one player - 1999 Big 12 Freshman of the Year Bernard King.

King has led the Aggies in scoring in seven out of the 13 contests, but is shooting just over 40 percent on the season. In taking 47 more shots than the next highest Aggie, King is averaging 18 points, but without help, he will burn out trying to carry the woeful Aggies.

"There's got to be a silver lining out there somewhere, so we will keep plugging along until we find it," Coach Melvin Watkins said.

Watkins will be plugging for a while as a double-digit win total should be considered a victory for A&M at this point in the road.

Big XII Notebook

Missouri found out first-hand on Saturday what Nebraska is capable of doing if motivated.

Mizzou squeaked out a 68-66 victory at home after trailing much of the contest.

Tiger Coach Quin Snyder said he was impressed with NU's defensive pressure and the Husker's ability to get good shots on the offensive end.

Snyder pointed out that Coach Barry Collier and his team can't be overlooked by anyone.

"You look at the breaks that sometimes happen in a season," Snyder said. "They go up to Minnesota and have a crazy play on a tip-in, and our game was close. So many games can go either way for them, and they could be a very good team as the season progresses."

Baylor Coach Dave Bliss makes no qualms about his team's 12-0 start or the less-than-impressive non-conference slate which earned his team the mark.

"I would probably not had a schedule like this in any other league, but you have to do everything you can do to prepare for the Bataan death march," Bliss said. "Because once you start playing these schools in the Big 12, it is absolutely relentless."

The Big 12 Player of the Week was Iowa State's Kantrail Horton, who averaged 20 points in two wins, including a career-high 27 in a 100-80 win over Oklahoma.

Rookie of the Week honors went to Texas's Brian Boddicker, who played 35 minutes and scored 17 points in UT's win against Oklahoma State.

According to collegeRPI.com, a service that rates teams based on strength of schedule and their record against that schedule, the Big 12 has five teams in its Top 35.

Kansas is fifth, Texas is No. 20, Iowa State is No. 21 and Missouri and Oklahoma are No. 33 and 34, respectively. Baylor, is No. 80.

Nebraska is currently ranked No. 96 in the RPI.

ACL tear likely ends McTorry's career

MCTORRY from page 10

Said Manning: "It could possibly not be over. He could come back after a month and get a brace and see what happens."

Even if that doesn't happen, McTorry, who was rated as the 34th best athlete to ever come out of Tennessee by Sports Illustrated, said his days here at NU will not have been in vain because of what he has earned off the mat.

McTorry will graduate in May with a degree in communications. He will also leave with three minors in ethnic studies, Portuguese and political science.

With those accomplishments, McTorry and his family said they share the same per-

"It could possibly not be over. He could come back after a month and get a brace and see what happens."

Mark Manning
NU wrestling coach

spective on his days at Nebraska.

"The main thing is I'm at the University of Nebraska, and my education is the main thing," he said. "It's a journey. The journey may be cut short, but it's still a journey. When it's over, I'm going to leave here with a degree."

Off-criticized Huskers earn praise

GASKINS from page 10

We still should remember Alexander exits NU as its No. 10 all-time rusher and probably best yards-after-contact carrier ever. Linemen can't help you keep running after you've been hit. He did all this after returning to the field from a torn ACL and knee strain that required surgery.

If I tore my ACL, I probably couldn't make it back to the typewriter. All Alexander did was become the only freshman to win Lifter of the Year.

While he wasn't doing that, or earning three Big 12 commissioner Honor Roll awards with a 3.1 GPA in business, he made stops at the People's City Mission, the Food Distribution Center, St. Elizabeth's burn unit, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the Team Spirit Hospital Visitation Program and Dads for Kids with Disabilities. No Husker in the five-year history of the Brook Berringer Citizen Team

has made it on four teams except Alexander.

You don't get yards or touchdowns for that, but Alexander deserves a little bit of credit.

As for Vanden Bosch, he never quite became the next Trev Alberts, Jared Tomich or Grant Wistrom as everyone anticipated he would when he was a hulking freshman. He was co-captain of a Blackshirt defense that had one its worst years in the last decade. The line he fought on got criticized for not getting to the quarterback enough.

Yet, without the plethora of bone-crushing sacks we expected, he still managed to lead the team with 17 tackles for losses and 26 quarterback hurries. And he made one of the nation's brightest and most innovative quarterbacks in Kustov look like Mr. Magoo in the pocket.

All this while graduating in three and a half years with a 3.8 GPA in finance and winning too

many power lifter and academic awards to list here.

Both of these men, and a lot of athletes who don't get a lot of press, praise or even playing time, deserve more recognition than being brutes in jerseys who are pampered by athletic department pork and a sheepish fan following.

Sometimes we take for granted that it's not a walk in the park to take hits from both brutes and media know-it-alls everyday, then hit the weight room, then hit the books, and then stop by a hospital to make someone's day just by your presence.

Yes, there are far too many athletes today who get much more light shined on them than they deserve.

But the light that shined on Alexander and Vanden Bosch in their last game, complete with an overdone, carnival-like atmosphere, was well-earned and fitting.

Take a bow, men.

@ Campus Recreation

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Intramural Sports

- Broomball (M,W)
Registration: Now - Jan. 11
- Basketball (M,W)
Registration: Now - Jan. 16
- Broomball Officials Training, Jan. 10, 4:30pm @CREC.
- Indoor Soccer (C)
Registration: Jan. 10 - 23
- Volleyball (C)
Registration: Jan. 10 - 23
- Basketball Officials Training, Jan. 11, 4:30pm @ Nebraska Union, Jan. 16, 4:30pm @Nebraska Union, and Jan. 17, 6:00pm @CREC.
- Sports Trivia (M,W,C) Competition, Jan. 11
- Broomball (M,W) Managers Meeting, Jan. 16, 5:30pm @Nebraska Union.
- Racquetball Doubles (M,W,C)
Registration: Jan. 17 - 30
- Racquetball Singles (M,W)
Registration: Jan. 17 - 30
- Basketball (M,W,F/S) Managers Meeting, Jan. 18, 5:00pm @Nebraska Union.
- Laser Quest Tournament (M,W)
Registration: Jan. 24 - Feb. 6
- Chess (O)
Registration: Jan. 24 - Feb. 6
- Volleyball Officials Training, Jan. 24, 4:30pm @CREC.
- Indoor Soccer Officials Training, Jan. 24, 5:30pm @CREC.
- Volleyball (C) Managers Meeting, Jan. 25, 5:00pm @Nebraska Union.
- Indoor Soccer (C) Managers Meeting, Jan. 25, 5:30pm @Nebraska Union.
- Warball Tournament (M,W)
Registration: Jan. 31 - Feb 13
- Floor Hockey (M,W,C)
Registration: Jan. 31 - Feb 13

Fitness & Wellness Services

- Free Fitness Classes Jan. 8-14.
- Drop-In Body Composition Testing, Jan. 17 (2-3pm) @CREC Weight Training & Conditioning Room.
- Drop-In Cycling Class, Jan. 14, 12(5-6pm) @CREC.
- Drop-In Aerobics Class, Jan. 13, 20, 27 (10-11am) @CREC.

Outdoor Recreation

- Indoor Climbing Wall Safety Classes - Level I will be held Jan. 9(6-8:30pm), Jan. 11 (4-6:30pm), Jan. 13 (2:30-5pm), Jan. 16 (6-8:30pm), Jan. 18 (4-6:30pm), Jan. 23 (6-8:30pm), Jan. 25 (4-6:30pm), Jan. 27 (2:30-5pm), and Jan. 30 (6-8:30pm)
- Join Outdoor Recreation on a 2001 Adventure Trip! Register now for these destinations: Colorado Ice Climbing Festival (February), Wilderness First Responder Medical Course (Spring Break), White Rocks, NM Rock Climbing (Spring Break), Grand Canyon Backpacking (Spring Break), Blue Mounds Rock Climbing (April), Elkhorn Canoe (April), Veedawoo, WY Rock Climbing (May), Grand Canyon Backpacking (May). For details, visit Outdoor Recreation or call 472-4777.
- Australian Expedition with Outdoor Recreation! Explore the continent of Australia on a 45-day adventure trek May 31-July 15, 2001. Registration deadline is March 15, 2001. Visit Outdoor Recreation for registration and price.

Instructional Programs

(Pre-registration recommended)

- Master's Swim Program, Jan. 9-April 26 (T/R), 11:30am-1:00pm @CREC Pool.
- Mideastern Belly Dancing, Jan. 16-March 8 (T/R), 8:30-9:30pm @CREC Fitness & Aerobics Room.
- Athletic Training Basics, Jan. 18-March 29 (R), 2:30-4:00pm @CREC OA Conference Room.
- Sports Enhancement Through Balance Training, Jan. 23-Feb. 20 (T), 4:30am-5:00pm @MLH South Gym.
- Introduction to Aerobic Fitness, Jan. 24-26 (W/F), 12:10-12:50pm @CREC Combative Arts Room.
- Tai Chi Fitness, Jan. 25-March 1 (R), 7:30-9:00pm @MLH 304.

- Argentine Tango, Jan. 29-March 5 (M), 7:00-8:00pm @MLH 304.
- Yoga, Jan. 29-March 7 (M/W), 12:10-12:50pm @CREC Combative Arts Room.
- Shotokan Karate, Jan. 30-March 8 (T/R), 5:45-7:15pm @CREC Combative Arts Room.
- Adult CPR, Jan. 31 (W), 4:00-7:00pm @CREC 230.
- Sports Safety Training, Jan. 31 (W), 7:00-10:00pm @CREC 230.
- West African Dance, Jan. 31-Feb. 28 (W), 7:00-8:30pm @MLH 304.

Family & Youth Programs

- Registration is open for spring sessions of Children's Swim Lessons. Session III will be Jan. 20-Mar. 10 (Sat), 9-9:50am @Mabel Lee Hall Pool. Session IV will be Feb 6-March 8 (T/R), 6:15-7:00pm. Levels I-VII.
- Priority registration for Husker Kids & Husker Adventures Summer Camps begins Feb. 1.

Free Skate Night

@ The Ice Box

Sunday, Jan. 14
9:40-12midnight

Skates available at Outdoor Recreation and The Ice Box

<http://www.unl.edu/crec>

For Information visit the Campus Recreation Center and East Campus Activities Building or call 472.3467 or 472.2692. Flyers and brochures for activities and programs are available at both locations. Campus Recreation attempts to fulfill all published activities and schedules, however changes may occur. Registration and program fees may be associated with activities.