

6th in
Big 12

RPI
ranking:
111



6. Nebraska (17-12, 7-9) vs. 11. Missouri (12-15, 5-11)

8:20 p.m. today, American Airlines Center (ESPN2)

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Staff Writer

11th in
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134



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CORNHUSKERS

Starters

G **Jason Dourisseau**

6-6, 200, Sr.

PPG RPG SPG

10.7 7.3 1.1

G **Jamel White**

6-3, 180, Fr.

PPG RPG FT%

8.2 2.9 78.9

G **Charles**

Richardson Jr.

5-9, 160, Jr.

PPG RPG APG

4.3 2.5 3.2

F **Wes Wilkinson**

6-10, 220, Sr.

PPG RPG 3-pt%

12.1 6.6 44.3

C **Aleks Maric**

6-11, 265, So.

PPG RPG FG%

10.9 8.3 48.1

The coach

Barry Collier
(283-221
career,
0-5 Big 12
tournament).

The bench

B. J. Walker
and Marcus
Walker
combine
to average
10.5 points.

The skinny

After a 12-3
start, the
Cornhuskers
faded down
the stretch,
losing nine
of their last 14.

Key stat

7

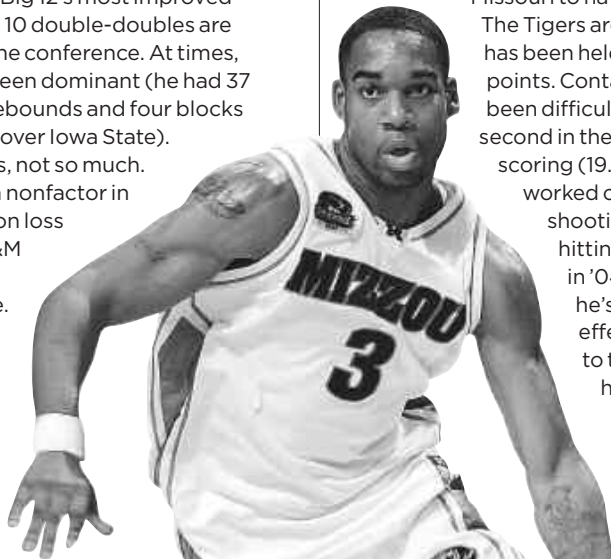
Consecutive
first-round
losses in the Big
12 tournament.
Nebraska has
not won a game
since 1999.

Nebraska will win if...

It can shoot
a better
percentage.
Nebraska is
14-0 when it
outshoots
its opponent.

Key player: C Aleks Maric

The 6-11, 265-pound Aussie ranks among the Big 12's most improved players. His 10 double-doubles are second in the conference. At times, Maric has been dominant (he had 37 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks in a victory over Iowa State). Other times, not so much. Maric was a nonfactor in a late-season loss to Texas A&M after early foul trouble. It was the only game in the last six that he scored less than 13 points.



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE TIGERS

Key player: G Thomas Gardner

GARDNER must score for Missouri to have a chance. The Tigers are 1-6 when he has been held under 15 points. Containing him has been difficult — he is second in the Big 12 in scoring (19.9 points). He worked on his 3-point shooting after hitting 27 percent in '04-05. At 6-5, he's physical and effective driving to the basket. He had 23 points in a 64-63 win over Nebraska last week.

Key stat

70

The Tigers are 8-4 when reaching 70 points, but they have averaged 59.9 in their last 12 games.

Missouri will win if...

It can hold off Nebraska on the boards. The Tigers are 9-3 when they win the rebounding battle.

The coach

Melvin Watkins
(111-136
career;
0-6 Big 12
tournament).

The bench

Reserves
have managed
only four
double-figure
scoring
performances
this season.

The skinny

The damage
from the Quin
Snyder Era will
not be undone
by just one
Big 12 victory.

Starters

G **Jimmy McKinney**

6-3, 208, Sr.

PPG RPG FT%

12.5 3.7 77.6

G **Thomas Gardner**

6-5, 213, Jr.

PPG RPG 3-pt%

19.9 3.2 40.4

G **Jason Horton**

6-0, 185, So.

PPG RPG APG

4.7 2.9 4.5

F **Marshall Brown**

6-7, 210, So.

PPG RPG FG%

9.6 4.8 45.2

C **Kevin Young**

6-9, 270, Sr.

PPG RPG ORPG

8.7 7.4 3.9