



# Aleks *Subanich* #21 MARIC

**Year:** Junior  
**Position:** Center  
**Height:** 6-11  
**Weight:** 270  
**Hometown:** Sydney, Australia  
**Last School:** Burlington (N.J.) Life Center  
**High School:** Australian Institute for Sport

## >>> Maric's Career Statistics

vs. All Opponents									Rebounds							
Year	MP	G-GS	FG-FGA	Pct.	3FG-3FGA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	O-D	Tot.-Avg.	F	A	TO	B	S	TP-Avg.
2004-05	562	27-10	79-165	.479	0-2	.000	58-81	.716	70-99	169-6.3	73	13	37	16	13	216-8.0
2005-06	785	31-26	116-246	.472	0-0	.000	107-175	.611	108-143	251-8.1	72	38	55	39	25	339-10.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>58-36</b>	<b>195-411</b>	<b>.474</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>165-256</b>	<b>.645</b>	<b>178-242</b>	<b>420-7.2</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>555-9.6</b>

vs. Big 12 Opponents									Rebounds							
Year	MP	G-GS	FG-FGA	Pct.	3FG-3FGA	Pct.	FT-FTA	Pct.	O-D	Tot.-Avg.	F	A	TO	B	S	TP-Avg.
2004-05	337	16-5	49-103	.476	0-2	.000	34-44	.773	35-52	87-5.4	48	9	15	11	6	132-8.3
2005-06	435	16-14	72-145	.497	0-0	.000	63-100	.630	60-90	150-9.4	37	18	34	23	17	207-12.9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>32-19</b>	<b>121-248</b>	<b>.488</b>	<b>0-2</b>	<b>.000</b>	<b>97-144</b>	<b>.674</b>	<b>95-142</b>	<b>237-7.4</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>339-10.6</b>

## >>> 2006 (Summer)

Aleks Maric entered his name into the NBA Draft on April 28, becoming the first Husker underclassman to declare for the draft since Tyronn Lue in 1998. While Lue went on to be a first-round selection and is currently with the Atlanta Hawks, Maric withdrew his name and, since he did not hire an agent, returned to Nebraska for the 2006-07 season.

Maric went home this summer to try out for the Australian Senior National Team, the Boomers. After starting with 33 players, the team went through four rounds of tryout sessions before Maric was named to the 12-man team roster in June. In August he was removed from the team due to a shoulder injury before it went to the World Championships in Japan.

## >>> 2005-06 (Sophomore)

Maric flourished as the season progressed, finishing the year as Nebraska's top rebounder and third-leading scorer while helping the Huskers to their first upper-division conference finish since 1998. Maric was a dominant force in the paint as he averaged 10.9 points per game while posting 8.1 rebounds per contest on the season. His rebounding total ranked third among all Big 12 players. With tremendous size and strength, Maric took advantage of his position in the lane to hit 47.7 percent from the floor while adding 38 assists, 39 blocked shots and 25 steals.

For the season, Maric's 251 rebounds were the third-highest total by a Nebraska sophomore in school history and ranked 11th on the Husker single-season chart. He missed making the top-10 list by one rebound, while moving his career total to 420 boards in two seasons.

With the strong rebounding performances – he had 12 double-figure rebounding games, including five straight in one stretch – Maric posted 10 double-doubles on the year, including a Big 12-leading seven in conference play. His 10 double-doubles tied the Husker sophomore record set previously by Venson Hamilton (who went on to become the 1999 Big 12 Player of the Year) and Carl McPipe.

Maric also ranked third in the Big 12 Conference in double-doubles, trailing only Texas' LaMarcus Aldridge and P.J. Tucker, who each finished with 16. Maric's seven double-doubles in conference-only games were a league high, two better than Tucker and three better than Aldridge. They were the only three Big 12 players with more than two double-doubles in league play.

Maric finished the conference season averaging a team-best 12.9 points and 9.4 rebounds

per game. His rebounding average was the best among all Big 12 players during conference play, making him only the third Husker during the Big 12 era to lead the conference in rebounding during league-only games.

Defensively Maric also picked up the pace in the conference season as he posted 23 of his blocked shots against Big 12 teams. He finished the league campaign ranked seventh in the conference-only standings. For the year, he moved into fifth on the Nebraska sophomore season chart.

Maric started the season on a strong note as he was selected to the all-tournament team at the season-opening John Thompson Basketball Challenge after leading Nebraska to a 3-0 record, including a win over Louisiana Tech in the final game. Maric played a career-high 38 minutes against the Bulldogs while posting a then-career high 22 points with 14 rebounds, his second double-double of the weekend. He hit 7-of-11 attempts from the floor and 8-of-12 from the charity stripe while pulling down six offensive boards and adding three assists.

Maric's effort in the last tournament game came against a Bulldog squad led by 2006 NBA second-round selection Paul Millsap, who finished the contest with eight points, 10 rebounds and six turnovers without an assist.

Maric turned in his third double-double in the first five games when he posted 15 points and 11 rebounds in a Husker victory over NCAA Tournament-bound Marquette. From there, he struggled a little over the next five games before heading home for a week at Christmas.

Following the break, it only took three games before he returned to form by posting 15 points and a career-high 17 rebounds on the road against Kansas State. While helping NU open league play with a 2-0 record for only the second time in the Big 12 era, Maric had 13 rebounds in the first period, just two off the NU single-half record set more than 30 years ago.

Maric went on to score double figure points in 11 of 16 conference games, including setting the Nebraska and Big 12 Conference sophomore record with a 37-point effort in a road victory at Iowa State. Maric hit 13-of-15 attempts from the field and 11-of-15 shots at the free throw line while posting 16 rebounds and four blocked shots. The 37 points were the fifth highest in school history and the most since Eric Piatkowski scored a school-record 42 points in 1994.

Maric scored 19 points and added eight rebounds with four assists (no turnovers) in a first-round victory over Missouri in the Big 12 Championship. It was Nebraska's first conference tourney win since 1998 and with a victory the following day over nationally ranked Oklahoma, the Huskers reached the Big 12 semifinals for the second time in school history.

The win also propelled NU into the postseason for the second time in three years. Nebraska fell in the first round of the NIT at Hofstra. Despite missing the previous two days of practice with an illness, Maric posted nine points, 12 rebounds and a career-high five blocked shots at Hofstra.

## >>> 2005 (Summer)

Maric returned to Australia immediately after the spring semester ended, just in time to participate in tryouts for the Australian U21 National Team, known as the Crocs. He easily made the roster and spent the majority of the summer traveling the world.

During that time, the Crocs played in international tournaments in Slovenia, Greece and Canada as warmups for the FIBA World Championships for

## >>> Getting to know Aleks Maric

<b>Nickname:</b> Big Al, Big Aussie	<b>Sport I would play if I couldn't play basketball:</b> Soccer
<b>Favorite NBA team:</b> Milwaukee Bucks	<b>Player I try to play like:</b> Vlade Divac
<b>Favorite pro sports team:</b> Red Star Belgrade	<b>Funniest teammate:</b> Sek Henry
<b>Favorite cartoon:</b> The Simpsons	<b>For me to be my best, I have to improve:</b> Everything, I always work on my total game
<b>Best dressed teammate:</b> Me	<b>Three words to describe me:</b> Tall, Australian and crazy
<b>Player I am closest to on this team:</b> Everybody	<b>Three words to describe Coach Sadler:</b> Intense, passionate and winner
<b>Player from another team I am close to:</b> Aaron Bruce from Baylor	

Young Men held in Argentina from Aug. 5-14. Overall, Maric saw action in 36 games during the summer, effectively giving him another season of preparation.

Maric guided the Crocs to the medal round with a 4-0 record. Australia struggled in the round and finished just outside of medal consideration in fourth place while posting a 6-2 record.

Maric averaged 10.6 points per game while hitting 50.9 percent from the floor. He also added a team-best 9.4 rebounds per game to rank second in the 11-team field. Maric trailed only Peter Ramos of Puerto Rico, who tallied 9.5 boards per game. The 7-3 Ramos was a 2004 Olympian for his native country and played in a reserve role for the Washington Wizards earlier that year.

**>>> 2004-05 (Freshman)**

Maric had an outstanding rookie campaign as he averaged 8.0 points with a team-high 6.3 rebounds per game. Maric played in 27 games and ranked third on the squad by hitting 47.9 percent from the field. He was also one of five Huskers to hit better than 70 percent (71.6) from the charity stripe.

Maric ranked 11th in the Big 12 Conference and was second among freshmen in rebounding. He finished with a team-high 5.4 boards per game to tie for 18th in conference-only games. Maric helped NU rank first in all games rebounding margin (+5.4) and second in rebounding average in all games (38.3).

The Aussie recorded a double-double in his first career game and went on to tie the NU freshman record with three double-doubles on the season. Maric picked up 12 points and 14 boards against Arkansas-Pine Bluff in the season opener and added 10 points and a season-high 15 boards in his first road game at UAB on national television.

Maric tied the record with 13 points and 12 boards in NU's biggest road victory of the year at NCAA Tournament-bound Iowa State. He had a double-double in the first half before foul trouble slowed him in the second frame.

In the previous game, Maric only had two boards but posted a season-high 15 points and three assists without a turnover in Nebraska's upset of No. 4 Oklahoma State. It was one of Maric's five double-figure scoring games in the Huskers' final eight games. Maric had posted six double-figure scoring games in NU's first 19 contests.

Maric missed NU's final non-conference game and played at less than 100 percent during the following two league games after a bout with the flu. He rounded back into form against Baylor when he hit 4-of-6 shots from the floor for 10 points while adding seven boards and a season-high three blocked shots. Maric finished the season with 16 blocks to rank eighth on the Nebraska freshman chart.

Over the final eight league games, Maric averaged 10.0 points and 5.9 rebounds while hitting an impressive 59.6 percent (31-of-52) from the field. He also hit 78.3 percent (18-of-23) at the free throw stripe.

**>>> Before Nebraska**

Maric came to the United States in October 2003, and quickly made an impact. In one season of high school basketball at Burlington (N.J.) Life Center, Maric averaged 19 points and 12 rebounds per game for Coach Darryl Gladden.

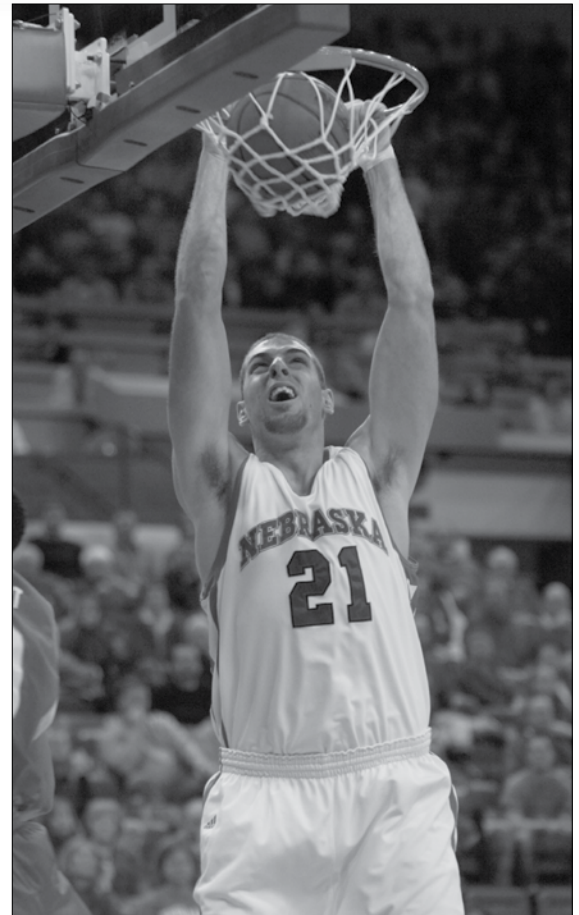
Maric was quickly ranked among the top 70 prep players in the country by hoopscooponline.com. He was ranked No. 22 nationally among fifth-year players by the recruiting service, and was the No. 9 senior in the state by the recruiting web site NJHoops.com. Maric was listed No. 61 nationally by Bob Gibbons, and was the No. 8-ranked fifth-year player in the New York/New Jersey area and a four-star recruit by TheInsiders.com.

Maric played at the Australian Institute for Sport under Coach Marty Clarke before coming to the United States. AIS is a national development center for the country's elite athletes. At AIS, Maric averaged 10 points and 13 rebounds in 2002-03. He went on to help the Australian Under-20 National Team win the gold medal at the World Championships in Greece in 2003. Under the guidance of Coach Rob Beverage, Maric helped his New South Wales team to the silver and gold medals in his state the previous two years, respectively.

Maric also played competitive soccer for seven years before turning his talents to the hardwood.

**>>> Personal**

Aleks, whose given name is Aleksandar, is the son of Stevan and Draginja Maric and was born Oct. 22, 1984. He has three sisters, Branka, Milijana and Aleksandra. His parents are originally from Serbia, but Aleks, who is fluent in speaking and writing Serbian, and his sisters were born in Australia. Aleks is majoring in communications studies at Nebraska.



Players

**>>> Maric's Career Highs**

- Points:** 37 at Iowa State (2/15/06)
- Rebounds:** 17 at Kansas State (1/11/06)
- Field Goals:** 13 at Iowa State (2/15/06)
- Field Goal Attempts:** 15 at Iowa State (2/15/06)
- 3-Point Field Goals:** None
- 3-Point Field Goal Attempts:** 2 vs. Oklahoma State (2/22/06)
- Free Throws:** 11 at Iowa State (2/15/06)
- Free Throw Attempts:** 15 at Iowa State (2/15/06)
- Assists:** 4 vs. Missouri (3/9/06)
- Steals:** 3 at Oklahoma State (1/31/06)
- Blocks:** 5 at Hofstra (3/16/06)
- Minutes Played:** 38 vs. Louisiana Tech (11/20/05)

**>>> Maric in the record books**

- ...Nebraska and Big 12 Sophomore Record Holder for Single-Game Points (37 vs. ISU in 2006)
- ...11th in NU Single-Season Rebounds with 251 in 2006
- ...Third on NU Sophomore Chart for Rebounds (251) in 2006
- ...Tied Nebraska Sophomore Record for Double-Doubles (10) in 2006
- ...NU Freshman Record Holder for Rebounds (169) in 2005
- ...Tied Nebraska Freshman Record for Double-Doubles (3) in 2005

**>>> Maric's honors**

- ...2006 Honorable-Mention All-Big 12 (Coaches, AP)
- ...2006 Big 12 All-Improved Team (AP)
- ...John Thompson Basketball Challenge All-Tournament Team (2005)
- ...Big 12 Rookie of the Week (Feb. 28, 2005)
- ...Placed fourth at 2005 Under-21 World Championships with Australia
- ...Won Gold Medal at 2003 Under-20 World Championships with Australia

