

Jayhawks survive NU Coliseum visit

by JIM JOHNSTON
Sports Editor

Joe tried to say it ain't so, but his words came slow.

"You can't say that the Big Eight race is over yet," offered Nebraska coach Joe Cipriano after his Cornhuskers lost an 81-67 battle to Kansas Saturday afternoon.

It was the third league loss for Nebraska in five games...the fifth straight loop win for the front-running Jayhawks.

So is it safe to say Nebraska is out of the Big Eight race? "I'm not going to comment on that," continued Cipriano. But two of the Cornhusker seniors voiced their opinions.

"I thought we were the best team in the conference next to Kansas," said Leroy Chalk. "If they can beat us that bad in the Coliseum, it looks like they've got it, to be honest."

Marvin Stewart chimed into the conversation. "Yeh, we're capable of playing some good ball and finishing the Big Eight in good shape, but I just don't see how Kansas can lose three games."

"We can still finish a cool second and get a cool trip to New York City for the NIT," said Leroy. The New York Invitation (NIT)

usually invites the second place team in the Big Eight.

"It's not such a cool chance," added forward Mike Peterson. "We've already lost three games and we have nine more to go in the conference."

The first of the remaining big nine is at Ames, Iowa, Tuesday night against the Cyclones.

Nebraska, although not playing one of its better games, looked like it was going to still be in contention for the championship after the first half.

The Huskers and their fans kept Kansas, rated fifth in the nation, from getting a big lead in the opening half. The Jayhawks led only 33-32 at the intermission.

But Bud Stallworth, Kansas' top scorer, caught fire and quickly built the Jayhawks' lead to 45-33. It was Kansas all the way from that point. Dave Robisch and Roger Brown lead the Kansas scoring with 23 and 19 points respectively.

"Who says they're (Brown and Robisch) only 6-10?" asked Stewart. "They've got to be at least seven feet tall."

Peterson agreed. "I got hit once by Brown," said Mike. "He's bigger than 6-10 and weighs more than 225. He almost knocked me into the popcorn stand one time."



Robisch . . . pulls in rebound as Peterson stretches.

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Owens says Kansas' conditioning pays off

by WARREN OBR
Sports Writer

Kansas Coach Ted Owens was displeased with his team's performance in the first half against Nebraska Saturday, saying it was a "little careless."

And he disclosed that he was not thinking of the ratings in the second half when he kept his starting five in with only three minutes to go, possessing a 19 point lead.

"Don't give me that crap about ratings," said Owens. "We're just trying to win the game and the Big Eight championship."

Owens' decision to leave his starters in looked like the right one as Husker subs Randy Watts and Col Christlene led a Nebraska surge that cut Kansas' lead from 26 points to 12 (77-65) with 1:10 remaining.

Kansas leading only 33-32 at the half, the first eight points in the second half. The Jayhawks went on to score 33 points in the first ten minutes of the second half, the same number they scored in the entire first half. Owens attributed the comeback to conditioning.

"We're a well conditioned team. I felt if we came back in the second half and took the game to them, our conditioning would pay off.

Then after we got a 10-point lead, we went into our zone and tried to protect from fouls.

"I want to make it clear, though, it was what our guys did, not what I said at halftime that made the difference," Owens continued. "We just have guys real hungry for a championship."

Jayhawk guard Bud Stallworth played a big part in the comeback, scoring 15 of his 17 points in the final half.

"Stallworth wasn't getting many shots in the first half," Owens said. "And when he picked up his third foul we got him out. Nebraska was really trying to keep the ball out of his hands."

Owens also said Kansas went more to Roger Brown when they couldn't get the ball into All-American Dave Robisch in the first half.

Following the Jayhawks' win in the Coliseum, Kansas is now in a position to make a serious bid to become the first team to go through conference play undefeated since Kansas State did in the 1958-59 season.

But Owens denied that Kansas had the Big Eight title race wrapped up. "There are fine teams in the conference and we have nine more chances to get beat," concluded Owens. "But I would say we have momentum now."