

Cipriano cracks 11-year KU jinx

LAWRENCE, Kan. Nebraska's basketball team broke an 11-year jinx at Allen Field House in Lawrence, Kan., Saturday when the team whipped heavily-favored Kansas University 59-46.

It was Coach Joe Cipriano's first win in Lawrence since taking the coaching reigns at Nebraska, and the first Husker win on the Jayhawks' home court since 1962.

The Huskers grabbed an early lead on the shooting of forward Lee Harris and never relinquished it as they raced to their second conference win against five losses.

The win moved Nebraska out of a tie for last place in the Big Eight which it shared with Oklahoma State, bringing its season mark to 7-12.

Harris gave the Huskers an early 12-5 lead with his long-range shooting over the rangy Jayhawk zone defense. The 6-4 junior scored five of Nebraska's first seven field goals.

With Nebraska's front line, Steve Erwin, Don Jackson and Brendy Lee battling the taller Jayhawks evenly on the boards, freshman Jerry Fort matching Harris' hot outside shooting, Nebraska moved to a 32-21 halftime lead.

The Huskers hit 50 per cent from the floor during the first half while holding Kansas to 38.5 per cent.

Nebraska continued its surge in the second half building up a 40-23 lead before Kansas rallied with eight straight points to cut the margin to 40-31.

However, Tony Riehl sealed the Nebraska victory when the desperate Jayhawks started fouling late in the game. The senior guard sank seven of eight shots from the free throw line to insure the win.

The loss dealt a serious blow to championship hopes of Kansas as its conference mark slipped to 3-3. The Jayhawks stand at 7-11 for the year.

Cipriano was jubilant after the win. It ended a

four-game Nebraska losing streak.

"The ball finally bounced our way. I just wish I could explain it (reasons for breaking the losing streak)," Cipriano said. "You can't believe what it feels like to finally win here."

Riehl, who finished with 11 points, was equally pleased with the victory before the vocally partisan Kansas crowd.

"I've always wanted to win down here because they (fans) give us such a hard time," he said. "I guess you could say this really makes the season."

Harris lead all scorers with 16 points, followed by Fort's 14. Erwin, starting his second varsity contest, added eight points while grabbing six rebounds.

Nebraska finished the evening with a 43.9 per cent shooting performance compared to Kansas's 36.7.

Cipriano's crew travels to Oklahoma for a game Saturday night against the Sooners.

Big 8 champ leads gymnasts to victory

The gymnastics team, led by Hoppy Batten, downed Kansas State Saturday afternoon, 153.80-135.55, before a capacity crowd at Henzlik Hall.

Batten, defending Big Eight champion on the horizontal bar and the long horse, won those events and the floor exercise events. He also placed second all-around.

Husker gymnastic coach Francis Allen termed Batten's performance "an average Batten performance."

"He always does well," Allen said. "The more pressure, the better he does."

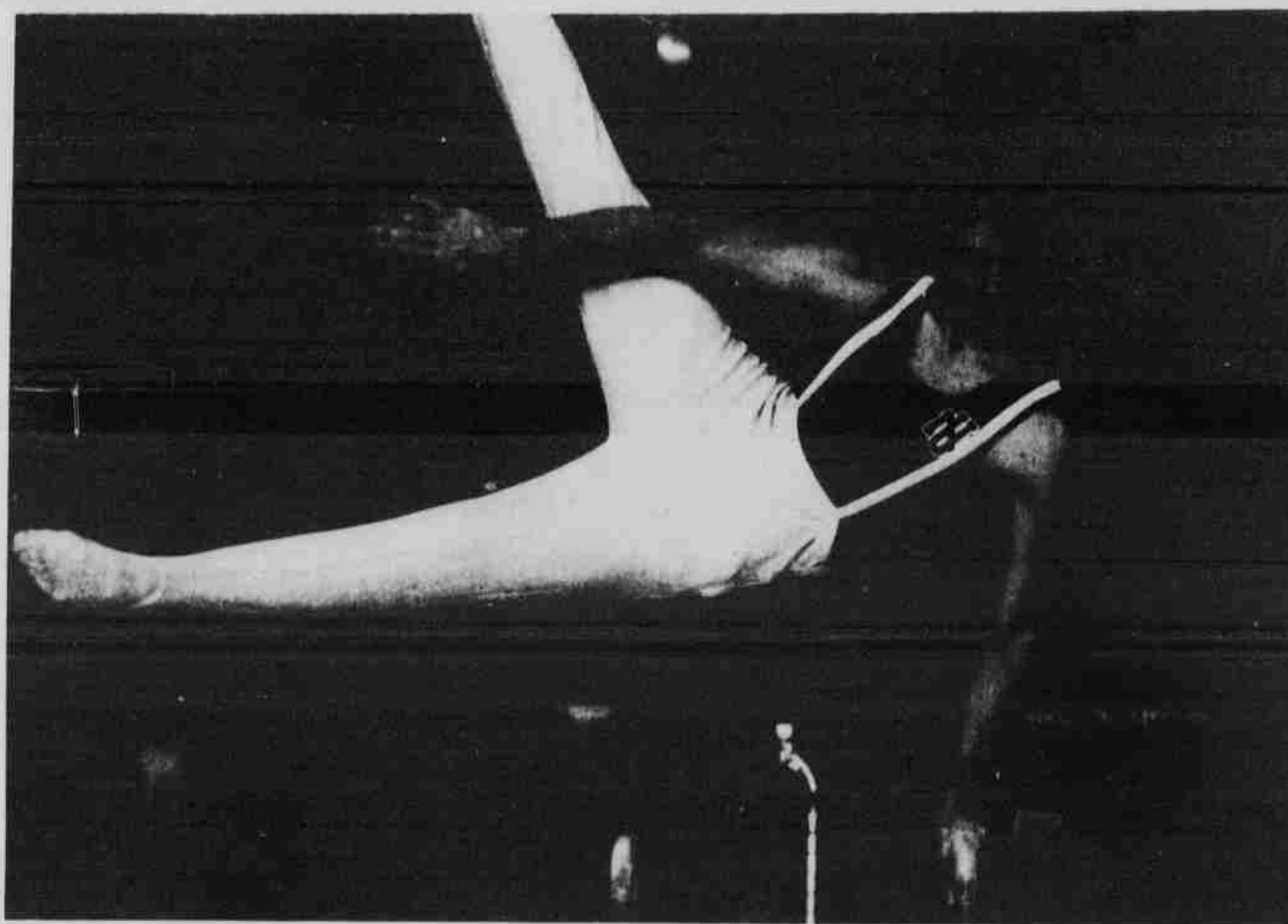
Allen was also pleased with the Huskers' showing on the pommel horse. The team took the first four places with Larry Evermann winning the event with a score of 9.3. Evermann was followed by teammates Hal Traver, 9.2; Steve Dickey, 9.1; and John Kocourek, 8.75.

"The pommel horse really hit," Allen said. "That's the best they've ever done, in fact, that's the best score we've ever had."

The team's other champion was Barry Cross. He tied with Mike Thomas of Kansas State for first place in the parallel bars and won the all-around award.

The only event the Huskers did not win was the still rings. The event was won by K-State's Jerry Simmons.

The Huskers, now 2-1, will play host to Kansas, at 2 p.m. Friday in Henzlik Hall.



Gymnast Larry Evermann . . . goes through his paces on the sidehorse at Saturday's meet.

Wrestlers stifle NW Missouri

The wrestling team stopped Northwest Missouri State's 10-match unbeaten streak Saturday night 36-6 in the Coliseum.

Bob Johnson, John Bell and Jeff Class gained pins while Monty Halstead, Ralph Manning, Tom Lotko, Len Dickinson and Steve Ravenscroft won by decisions.

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