

Man-to-man defense leads Wildcat comeback

By Dennis Onnen

Kansas State, led by the hot shooting of Larry Williams, pulled away from Nebraska late in the second half and defeated the Huskers, 73-65, in the Coliseum Tuesday night.

The Huskers held their biggest lead of the night, 48-43, when the Wildcats called a time out with 13:04 left in the game. Kansas State then switched to a man-to-man defense, which the Huskers had trouble adjusting to.

During the next nine minutes, the Wildcats outscored Nebraska, 22-6, to take a 65-54 lead, their largest of the

night.

"We didn't adjust after they went to the man-to-man," Husker Coach Joe Cipriano said, "and their clutch players really came through."

Williams was one of those clutch players, as he scored 15 points in the second half and 25 for the game to lead Kansas State. Lon Kruger, All-Big 8 guard, added 16 total points.

Kansas State made 53 per cent of its shots from the floor, while Nebraska made 40 per cent.

Another factor Cipriano mentioned that might have contributed to the

second half Wildcat surge was the fatigue of his players. Nebraska used only seven players in the game.

One of the players the Huskers missed was freshman forward Bob Siegel, who was hospitalized with bronchitis.

Guard Tom Novak led Nebraska to its second half lead with six points after the Huskers trailed at halftime, 35-32. Neither team led by more than four points during the entire first half.

Novak said he though he had the

normally cool Kruger rattled early in the game.

"He was telling me that he was trying to get me out of the game real quick (by forcing Novak to foul)," Novak said. He tied a career high with 10 points.

Jerry Fort led Husker scorers with 21 points. He and Brendy Lee tied for rebounding honors with 11 each.

In the preliminary game, Nebraska's junior varsity defeated Kansas State's junior varsity, 86-83.



Photo by Mike Theller

Jerry Fort (14) led the Huskers in scoring and rebounding.

Optimistic outlook holds Husker matmen together

Talk to a Husker wrestler about UNL's wrestling program. Odds are he'll have a pretty optimistic outlook.

Members of this year's predominantly freshman and sophomore Husker mat team honestly think they soon will be of championship caliber.

Wrestling at Nebraska takes a distant second to the programs at Iowa State University and Oklahoma State University, perennial Big 8 and national powers. However, the optimism of the youthful Huskers is reflected in freshman Mike Vranich's statement, "Give us a couple years, and we'll be right up there with Iowa State."

Blessed with an outstanding crop of underclassmen as a result of Coach Orval Borgialli's most successful recruiting year ever, one obvious characteristic of this team is its attitude.

"This team is as close as any I've ever had," said Borgialli. "There's a feeling of all for one, one for all throughout the squad."

Marshall Oliver, a freshman from Omaha, described the team attitude as "the feeling that when going out to wrestle, you know the whole team is behind you."

One important part of the team's attitude is that each member has set high goals for himself and the team. Each seems to recognize that he must improve and that it will take hard work.

According to Borgialli, this attitude alone won't be enough to build the Huskers into future Big 8—and possibly national—contenders.

"We've got the talent," said Borgialli. "Believing you can win is 80 per cent of it. But we'll also need another bunch of top

notch recruits, more hard-working kids that will stay with it."

Sophomore team co-captain Bob Johnson also said attitude will be the key. "Everybody must come back," he commented, "and we've got to keep improving."

Sophomore Mark Borer is one of a few wrestlers on the team who thinks larger crowds would help the effort. Borer said, "We'll have to give them a show before they'll come back. I wouldn't want to watch a loser."

Larry Stunkel on record

Despite talk of the future, this season is not being overlooked. Coming off three straight dual meet wins, the Huskers are looking toward their conference opener Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Coliseum with Kansas State.

Borgialli described the Wildcats as the most improved team in the Big 8. "They've got some outstanding individuals and an energetic new coach in Fred Fozzard."

So while the Huskers will strive for what they can this season, they'll have one eye looking toward the future. However, what that future holds depends on too many things that can't be controlled or foreseen.

Even though a Big 8 championship, much less a national title, may seem like an impossible dream, the Huskers believe they can do it.

Hansen's appearance distinctive in victory for women cagers

By Steve Taylor

Twenty-eight-year-old Nancy Hansen is not what you'd call your typical college student. Besides her age, Hansen has achieved distinction that sets her apart from the girl next door.

Saturday night at the Coliseum, Hansen led the UNL girls' basketball team to a resounding 52 to 12 triumph over Concordia. Sparring rebounds, the 5 ft. 10 in. Hansen exhibited incredible stamina that kept her sprinting all the way. Few, if any, in the crowd could have guessed her life also includes a husband and 5-year-old son.

It's not as if she wears bobby socks and lipstick, yet Hansen admits her situation puts her in a position without any peers.

"At the beginning of the year everyone in my classes thought I was a junior or senior, but they soon found out how old I was," Hansen said. "Now I have the reputation as the old lady of the P.E. (Physical Education) department. In fact, I think I'm older than some of my instructors."

The crowd at the women's game Saturday night was impressive, larger than any single game attendance at the World Invitational

(basketball) Tournament played in Omaha a few weeks ago. But Hansen couldn't care one way or another.

"I'm conscious of the crowd only for the first few minutes," she said. "After that, I get so wrapped up in the game I sometimes can't even hear my coach shouting."

Hansen said her long-range goal is to be a physical education instructor or women's basketball coach. The Bettendorf, Iowa, native says she would like to work someplace where she could play golf, a sport in which she scores consistently in the 80s.

Hansen's heroic Saturday night are all the more impressive when you consider it was only the fourth game of basketball she had played in her life. When Hansen was in high school, girls' basketball was about as prominent as X-rated movies.

"There just wasn't the money or the room or the time," Hansen said. "Now that I'm back in school, I'm taking advantage of the opportunity to play."

Hansen's next opportunity to play before a home crowd will be Jan. 29 against the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

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