

Moment of truth comes tonight for Lady Huskers

By Rob Barney

It is do or die for the UNL women's basketball team. If the Huskers lose to the University of Nebraska at Omaha at 7:30 tonight in the Coliseum, their season will be finished.

But if UNL wins, a playoff game will be Saturday in Omaha. The winner of that game will represent Nebraska in regional play March 10 through 12 in Decorah, Iowa.

UNO forced the do or die situation for the Huskers with a 52-36 victory last Wednesday in Omaha.

Coach George Nicodemus' team was scoreless for the first 6:13 of the game and shot only 22 per cent from the field.

"We're going to have to shoot better than 25 per cent to win," Nicodemus said. "We practiced today (Sunday) and I think we ironed out a lot of our problems."

One problem the Huskers can't solve is their injury situation.

Sophomore forward Jan Crouch, the team's leading scorer and second leading rebounder, will not play

tonight. She has been out with a broken foot for three weeks.

"Jan means a lot to us," Nicodemus said. "She means 15 points a game offensively and 10 to 12 points a game defensively."

Adding to the Huskers' problem on the front line is a knee injury suffered by Deb Lee. Lee turned the right knee coming down with a rebound with eight seconds to go in UNL's 61-40 loss to Tarkio State Saturday.

Nicodemus said the extent of her injury is unknown, but she will not play tonight.

In the third game of the season the Huskers lost Darcy Williamson for the year. She was the Huskers' leading scorer last season.

"In all of my years of coaching I've never had a situation like this," Nicodemus said. "I've never lost three players to injury before."

Kathy Hawkins and Sherry Brink are the only two starters left from the beginning of the season, Nicodemus said.

"With the injuries the past couple of weeks we haven't

had a lot of time to regroup. The injuries have especially hurt us defensively."

Other Huskers, including starting center Jeanne Boller, Linda Janssen, Laura Tietjen and Kathy Foley have been suffering from colds.

"Jeanne only jumped ball for us Saturday, then we took her out," Nicodemus said. "She was a little weak at practice but she should be ready to go."

"A lot depends on Boller. We need somebody inside to rebound. Everybody that has a cold will play but I'm worried about stamina."

UNO features 6 ft. 4 in. center Joni Blass and 6 ft. forward Niece Jochims. Jochims scored 16 points in Wednesday's game and Blass scored six.

"Blass didn't score much but she sure got those rebounds," Nicodemus said.

Elaine Johnson led the Maverick attack in last week's game, scoring 21 points.

"She has done well in all three games against us," Nicodemus said. "We're going to have to keep our hands up. She has a good 15-foot jump shot from the baseline."

sports

Missed shots spark KU win

By Jim Hunt

Lawrence, Kan.—Bad bounces for UNL's basketball team turned into good luck for the University of Kansas (KU) Saturday as the Jayhawks topped the Huskers, 74-66, in Lawrence.

Husker center Carl McPipe had a stuff shot bounce off the back of the rim with 15:36 remaining which would have given the Huskers the lead at 43-41. The Husker's misfortune spurred a Jayhawk surge that saw them outscore the Huskers 11-2 and take a 52-43 lead with 12:11 remaining.

The Huskers came within one point of the Jayhawks and had a chance to take the lead with five minutes left in the game.

Husker guard Brian Banks stole the ball from KU's Milt Gibson but could not hit the layup which would have put the Huskers in the lead by one point.

After the missed layup by Banks, KU's Ken Koenigs put the Jayhawks ahead for good with baskets from 11 and seven feet.

"It was disappointing," Banks said. "We just lost the tempo of the game. When I missed the layup, that was the turning point of the game."

Husker coach Joe Cipriano said the Huskers had their chances, but could not capitalize on them.

"We felt we were in the game until we missed the easy lay-in and the stuff,"

Cipriano said. "We had our chances but we just couldn't put it away."

The game was close throughout the first half with the lead changing hands six times and the game tied six times. The Jayhawks led by one point at halftime, 35-34.

The Huskers were led in their second half rally and for the night by McPipe and seniors Bob Siegel and Allen Holder. McPipe scored a game high 23 points and collected 12 rebounds before fouling out with 3:41 remaining. Siegel added 14 points and guard Holder added 10 in the Huskers' losing effort.

The Jayhawks were led by guard John Douglas and Koenigs with 19 points each. Forward Herb Nobles added 12 for the Jayhawks.

The win raises the Jayhawk record to 17-8 for the season and 8-5 in the Big 8. The Huskers fall to 15-12 overall and 7-6 in the Big 8.

The win aided the Jayhawks in the quest for the fourth home-court advantage in the Big 8 playoffs. The Huskers would have to beat Oklahoma State University and the Jayhawks would have to lose at the University of Colorado before a coin toss would be necessary to resolve a tie between the two teams.

The game, played before 12,380 at Allen Fieldhouse, was marred by a fight in the closing moments between the Husker bench and a few spectators.

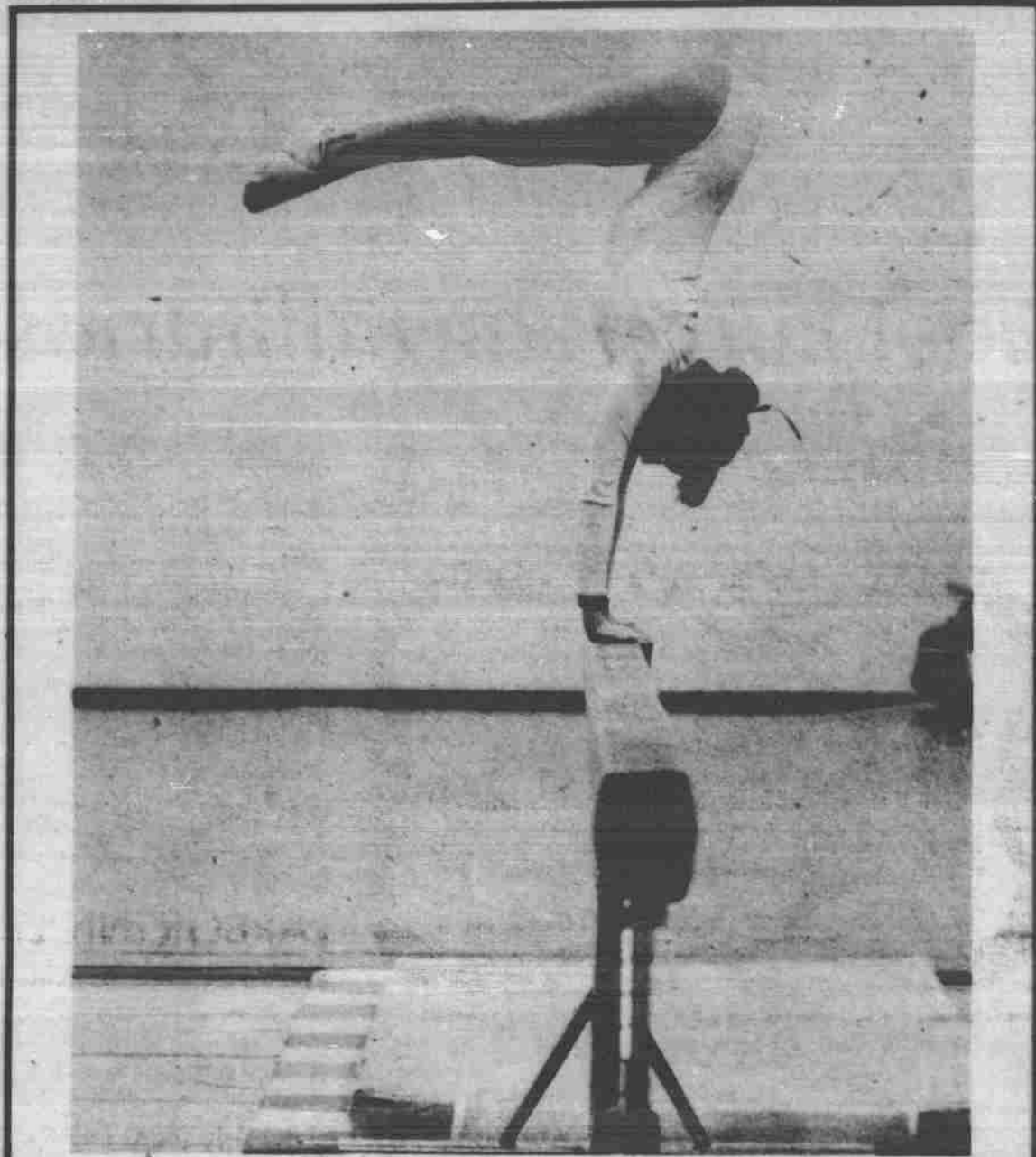


Photo by Ted Kirk

Freshman gymnast Crissy Robertson does a handstand on the balance beam during the Huskers' dual meet with nationally-ranked Southwest Missouri State University Thursday night in Mabel Lee Hall. The Huskers lost 134.15 to 124.40.

UNL trackmen break nine records against ISU

By Mike McCarthy

Sophomore Jeff Lee led the Huskers in breaking nine meet records Saturday at the UNL Sports Complex as the Huskers outdistanced Iowa State University (ISU), 102-38.

Lee ran a 6.6 60-yard low hurdle mark to break the old record of 6.7. Lee and five other Huskers had held the old mark.

However, Lee said he wanted the 60-yard high hurdle record, but was disqualified because of a false start.

"I actually wanted the other record," Lee said. "The record I set today was not the one I wanted."

Although Lee said the record is satisfying, he wanted to show the crowd what he could do in the hurdles.

"I really didn't have a good start (in the low hurdles)," he added. "I was also experimenting with my trail leg for the Big 8 meet."

Record breaking

Freshman Scott Poehling did some record breaking by recording the second best Husker 880-yard mark and the best time in the Big 8 Conference this season. His 1:51.7 is second only to Roger Chadwick's 1:51.4 set in 1974. Saturday was the first time Poehling ran the 880 for UNL.

Close on Poehling's heels was Husker junior Paul McClain. McClain finished second with a 1:52. Both Poehling and McClain qualified for the NCAA Indoor championships.

"I've been improving every week," McClain said. "But just look at the competition, on our team. We have five guys who could qualify for the NCAA in the 880, and right now we have four out of the five best times in the Big 8."

McClain made a charge on the straight away at Poehling, but Poehling maintained the lead.

"I make it a policy never to pass anyone on the curve," McClain said, "especially someone with the capability of Poehling."

Record tied

Junior Dean Herzog paced UNL in the field events by tying the 6-11 Husker indoor high jump record he set last year against ISU.

In the two-mile run Junior Harold Stelzer broke the track record he set two weeks ago by more than two seconds. He ran a 8:57.9, his best this year.

In a meet where Husker coach Frank Sevine juggled his runners to different events, UNL sophomore Ron Fischer won the 600-yard dash in 1:11.2.

Other winners for UNL were Rex Davies in the long jump, Neville Murray in the triple jump, Matt Reckmeyer in the mile run and Ron Hoagland in the 60-yard dash. Hoagland also took the 300-yard dash, while Ray Mahoney won the 440-yard dash.

Husker senior Ron Nitzel won the 60-yard high hurdles after Lee's disqualification.

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