

UNL pushes powerhouse Kansas from track throne

By Rick Huls

Three Huskers qualified for the NCAA track championship in the first meet of the season Saturday as UNL's indoor track team defeated perennial power Kansas, 85-85.55 at the Sports Complex.

Scott Poehling, a Fremont sophomore, edged Kansas' Lester Mickens at the tape to win the 600-yard dash in 1:09.10, breaking the UNL school record and Sports Complex record. Poehling's time also is the fastest 600-yard dash clocking in the nation this year.

Freshman Everad Samuels from Kingston, Jamaica, qualified for nationals by running 6.1 in the 60-yard dash, finishing second to Cliff Wiley of Kansas, who set a Sports Complex record (6.0).

Jeff Lee, NCAA defending high hurdle champion, tied a UNL record and Sports Complex record by winning the 60-yard high in 7.1, qualifying him for nationals again.

One other UNL school record and a Sports Complex record were broken. UNL's Dean Ross pole vaulted 15 feet 6 3/4 inches for a school record and Kansas' Stan Whitaker raced past everyone for a 47.8 clocking in the 440-yard dash breaking the Sports Complex record.

UNL coach Frank Sevigne said he wasn't shocked by the margin of victory over KU's reigning outdoor and indoor champions.

"We thought it might go this way if we got the right performances," Sevigne said. "We've had good workouts and were confident of beating them."

"Everyone else performed well also today, because we were really ready for Kansas," Sevigne added. "We're definitely better than last year."

Poehling came from behind in the 600-yard dash to win the most exciting finish of the day.

"I knew he (Mickens) would be tough. He's a 9.5 sprinter and I expected it to be very close," said Poehling, who also was anchor man on UNL's winning mile relay team.

"The crowd really helps when you're behind," Poehling added. "Listen, I've got a great deal of respect for Mickens. He'll be back."

UNL's Everad Samuels and Kansas' Cliff Wiley also excited the crowd of 3,000 in the 60-yard dash.

Samuels, who qualified for nationals although losing the race, said he was mentally ready for the meet and felt that the entire team was in great condition.

"It feels good to qualify for nationals but that Wiley is really good," Samuels added. "I gave 100 percent and it was close."

Wiley said he was impressed with the crowd at Nebraska.

"I always like competing here because the crowd is so enthusiastic," Wiley said. "They seem to appreciate a good performance, no matter which team it is."

UNL's Jeff Lee and Kansas' Anthony Coleman split in the hurdles when Coleman edged Lee in the lows.

"Jeff's a great competitor and he'll always be tough," Coleman said. "It was easier for me in the lows because I didn't have to jump as high and strain myself."

Lee said he has equal respect for Coleman.

"I always have a close race with him. I guess the rivalry started last year in the Big 8," he said.

Kansas coach Bob Timmons definitely was surprised by the outcome of the meet.

"We knew they would be good but we didn't expect to get blown out," he said. "They are definitely a contender for the Big 8 title."

sports

Hedberg, Banks balance attack as UNL guns down Cowboys

By Jim Hunt

Juniors Curt Hedberg and Brian Banks led a balanced UNL attack as Nebraska defeated the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Cowboys 63-57 in Big 8 Conference basketball action Saturday.

Hedberg scored 10 of his 12 points in the first half as fans at the UNL Sports Complex and a regional television audience looked on.

"In the first half they (OSU) were giving us the corner (shot)," Hedberg said. "In the second half they were giving us the inside shot."

"I didn't shoot much the second half. I took a couple shots and wasn't hitting so I didn't shoot," he said.

However, it was Hedberg's 10 first-half points and freshman guard Gerard Myrthil's eight points which enabled the Cornhuskers to tie the Cowboys 32-32 after a seesaw first half.

The game was tied eight times and the lead changed hands five times in the first half.

In the second half, UNL coach Joe Cipriano replaced center Carl McPipe with freshman Andre Smith because McPipe was ineffective against the Cowboy defense, according to Cipriano. UNL took the lead for good, 47-45, on two free throws by Smith with 11 1/2 minutes left in the game.

Smith had nine of his 11 points in the second half. Seven of them were free

throws. With about two minutes left in the game, OSU's guard Mark Tucker was thrown out of the game for colliding with Myrthil.

"I was just going for the ball at the end," Tucker said after the game. "He had the ball sticking out there."

"It was physical, but not more than any other game. Just because of that thing at the end doesn't mean it was more physical," he said.

Myrthil said he didn't think Tucker intentionally came after him.

"I just saw a shirt coming at me and I got myself ready for the impact. I wasn't hurt, but I will probably have a raspberry on my leg after sliding across the floor."

"Coach (Cipriano) pulled me because I was still kind of shaken up," Myrthil said.

However, Banks was upset with the incident.

"The play before that Tucker tried to hit me in the face with the ball, but missed," Banks said. "The next play he dove at Gerard's knees and if he would have hit him right it could have ended his career."

The win boosted Nebraska's record to 16-3 for the season and 5-2 in the Big 8. The Cowboys dropped to 7-11 for the season and 1-7 in the Big 8.

UNL will be at home again Wednesday with a 7:35 p.m. tipoff scheduled against the University of Colorado.

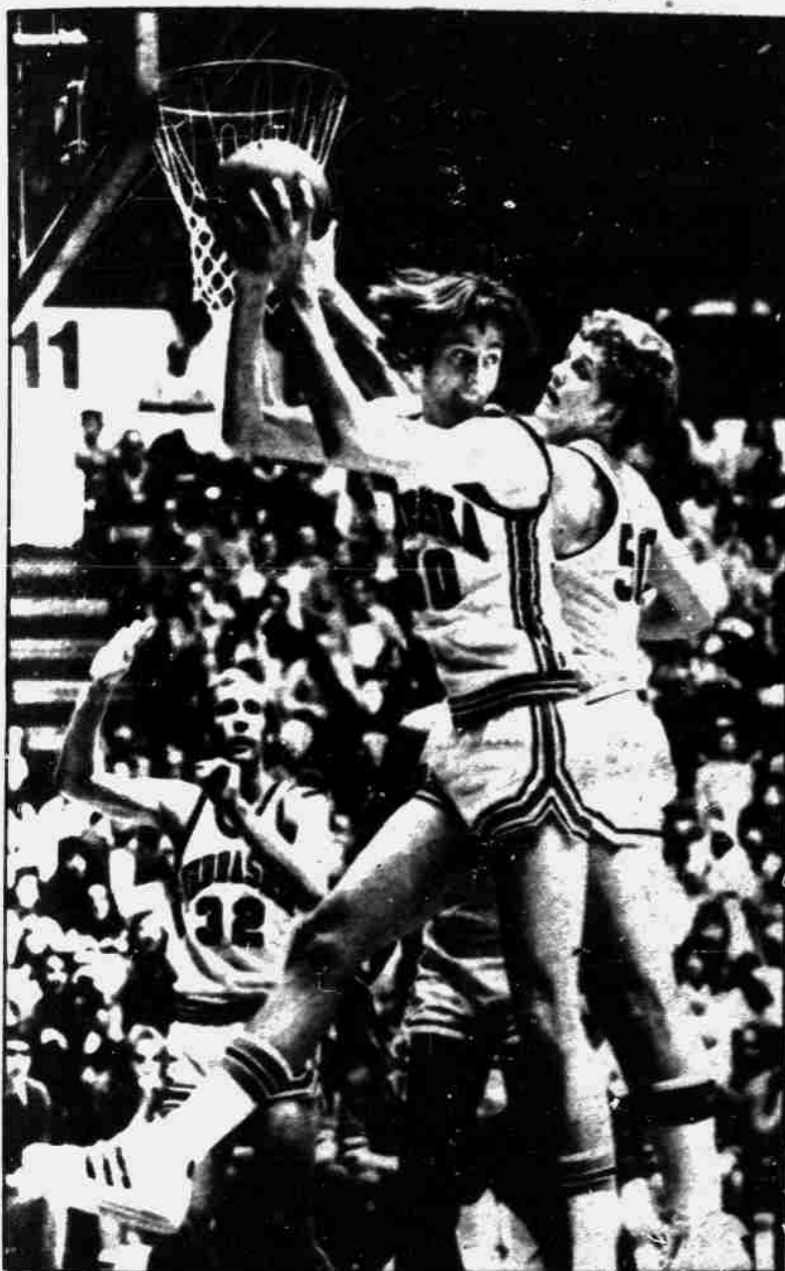


Photo by Ted Kirk

Nebraska forward Curt Hedberg snares a rebound in Saturday's UNL-Oklahoma State University basketball game. Balanced efforts by Hedberg and guard Brian Banks sparked the Huskers to a 63-57 win over the Cowboys.

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