

## sports



Photo by Tom Gessner

## Look out behind!

Husker junior Carol Garey, from Sacramento, Calif., dribbles through the mob during Nebraska's 74-70 win over Oklahoma State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday night. The Huskers, now 17-12, travel to Columbia, Mo. Wednesday night to face the Missouri Tigers.

# Downing shots clinch 61-56 win

By Ron Powell

LAWRENCE, Kan.—UNL freshman Greg Downing admitted he felt pressure when he made his first start as a Husker Tuesday night in the Husker's 61-56 win over the Kansas Jayhawks.

But the real pressure didn't come until the last minute of the game.

With the Huskers ahead 57-56 with 44 seconds left, Downing sank two clutch free throws to give the Huskers a three-point lead. Then, on the other end of the court, Downing came up with the rebound of the game with 24 seconds left when KU's Johnny Crawford missed a 15-foot jump shot.

The Huskers' Jack Moore then added two more free throws with four seconds left to ice the Huskers' sixth conference win in nine starts.

Downing had to battle the crowd on his free throws, but he said the crowd didn't bother him.

"I just tried to block the people out," Downing said. "I just concentrated, set the ball right and followed through the best I could."

### Heart stopper

Downing said his heart stopped a little bit when the first free throw rolled on the rim before going in.

"But I think everyone's (heart) did," he said.

Downing said he worked hard to get good position on the rebound.

"I was surprised to get the rebound that clean," he said. "I thought they'd be all over me, but I was all by myself."

Downing played only five minutes in the first half, but he said he wasn't discouraged about it.

"Jerry (Shoecraft) did a good job," he said. Shoecraft came off the bench to score eight points in the first half, including a pair of three-point plays in a span of a minute.

"When I came in, I was set on going to

the basket," Shoecraft said. "Both times I saw a hole in the defense and I just drove to the basket. I wanted to draw the foul, so things worked out perfect."

Three-point plays seemed to be the difference in the game. The Huskers had three of them in the first half as well as a four-point play with 3:28 left in the first half on a Ray Collins basket and a pair of free throws by Andre Smith.

The Huskers came up with two more three-point plays in the second half. The first, by Moore, tied the game at 40-40 with 13 minutes remaining. The second came via Andre Smith, who pulled the Huskers within one with 5:37 left.

The Huskers took the lead for good at 55-54, but KU's Crawford cut it to one at 57-56 with 46 seconds left with his 20-footer.

### Downing heroics

That's when Downing provided the heroics to finally put it away. Acting Husker Head Coach Moe Iba said he was pleased with the Huskers' field goal percentage (68) but was not as pleased with the Huskers' 19 turnovers.

"We had 12 in the first half and that gave us something to talk about at halftime," Iba said. "We handled the ball better in the second half, though, and that's what counts."

Iba said the Huskers were impatient with the Jayhawk's man-to-man defense, but added that they settled down when KU switched to a zone.

"Our team played the way I wanted them to in the second half," Iba said. "That's the way we have to play to win on the road."

No one on the Husker team discounted the importance of the win that put the Huskers at 15-8 overall and 6-3 in the conference.

"It might have been the biggest game to date," Smith said. "We're keeping the heat on the first-place team and staying in contention for the crown."

## Huskers to face Colorado, SDSU

The UNL wrestling team heads into this weekend's matches looking to prove its season-long improvement, according to Coach Bob Fehrs.

Colorado University comes to the Bob Devaney Sports Center Friday night, and on Saturday the Huskers travel to Brookings, S.D. to wrestle the South Dakota State Jackrabbits.

"We'd like to think we've been improving all year long. Maybe it hasn't been apparent until lately," said Fehrs, whose team got off to a good start before a brief slump it apparently snapped out of last week.

The key to the Colorado meet, Fehrs said, is in the lower five weight classes, where the Buffs are the strongest.

"We'll have to beat somebody in the first five matches," he said, "or at least hold them down a little. Then we'll try to take them in the next five."

South Dakota State does not present the threat Colorado does, but they do have some fine individuals, Fehrs said.

Kirt Simet, a 158-pounder, was the Division II national champion last year, and 177-pound Jeff Horetz claimed second place in the nationals, according to Fehrs.

Their strength is in the middle weights, but we think our middle is fairly tough, too," said Fehrs. "I think we'll win, but it could be tough."

The middle weights have been the Huskers' strength so far, but Fehrs sees a more balanced squad in the near future. He pointed out that John Shearer and Brad Smith, the Huskers' 118- and 126-pounders, wrestled well against Oklahoma, and should continue to improve.

The year's most improved wrestler, though, said Fehrs, is heavyweight Daryl Meyer. Meyer, a sophomore, has an 11-5-1 dual record, as compared to his 4-9 mark last year.

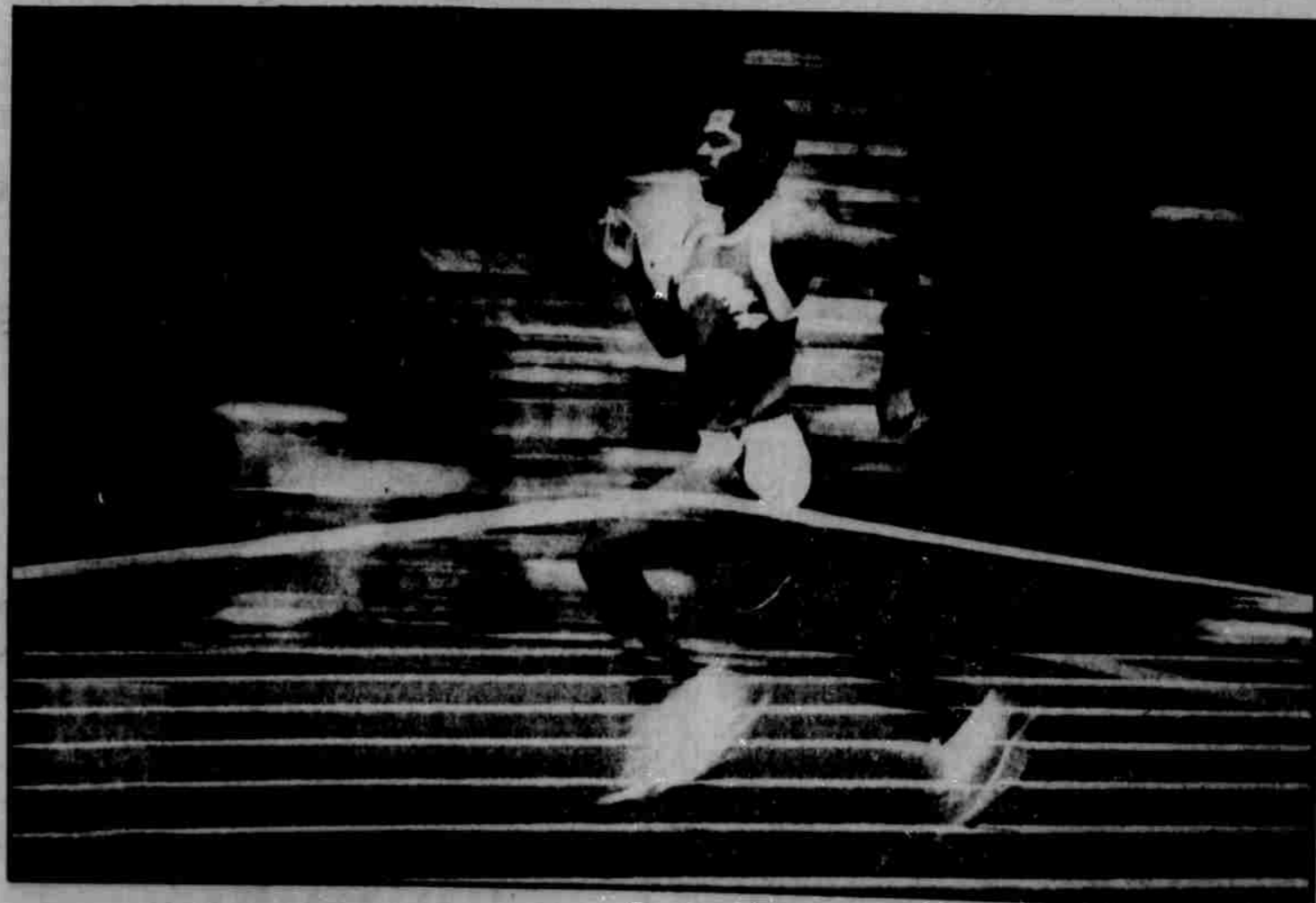


Photo by Mark Billingley

## NCAA qualifier

Husker Everton DaCosta, a junior from Manchester, Jamaica, took third place Saturday in the 600-meter dash behind Lester Mickens and Mike Ricks of Kansas at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. However, even with his third place finish, DaCosta's 1:10.36 time qualified him for the NCAA meet in that event.