

Second half play boosts women's team to victory

Women's Basketball Coach Colleen Matsuhara may have felt as if she were directing two different teams Friday night, but one of them was enough for Central Missouri as the Huskers won 83-65 before a small audience at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"The first half was terrible," Matsuhara said, even though the Huskers were on top

by six. "They were outthrusting us. I think both teams tried to outrun each other without worrying about defense."

The Jennies were unable to take full advantage of a Husker breakdown early in the second half through six consecutive points by guard Karla Redo tied the score at 47. A basket by Janet Smith broke that tie and over the next eight minutes, the

Huskers outscored the Jennies 21-8.

The second half play was the best running exhibition the Huskers had shown in quite sometime, Matsuhara said.

"I thought Donna Unwin did an excellent job for us defensively, and I thought Susan Keith came in and gave us good support, and Kelli Benson helped us by filling some defensive lanes," she said.

"It was nice to see that type of play in that half. I hope someday we play 40 minutes like that. I joked with my team after the game that it was their clones that played in the second half," she added.

The Jennies, whom the Huskers defeated earlier in the season by 10, dropped to 2-2 in the regional conference and 19-6 overall. Coach Jorja Hoehn blamed the second half dry spell on the Jennies' failure to connect on easy shots.

"We got some good shots, but we just couldn't put it in," Hoehn said. "We were also not getting up and down the court

with them, and defensively we were getting caught out of position."

Redo, a 5-8 sophomore, led Central Missouri with 18, while Laura Clark and Denise Tollefson had 10. Matsuhara was proud of the way the Huskers—and Unwin in particular—shut Redo down in contrast to the last game, in which she was "picking us apart."

Another key to the victory was Nebraska's height advantage, which showed throughout the game with the Huskers outrebounding Central Missouri 42-31, and 6-2 junior Janet Smith being able to connect on 11 of 15 shots for 22 points. The Jennies' tallest player was 5-11 Suzy Barcomb, as 6-0 Janet Johnson was injured in a Tuesday game.

While both coaches agreed Johnson's presence could have made a difference, Hoehn added, "I don't want to take anything away from Nebraska. They're greatly improved over last year, and tonight they just played well."

Women swimmers lose 2 duals

By Deb McGinn

Being idle since Dec. 6 hurt the Nebraska women's swimming team as it dropped back-back duals against Iowa and Missouri Saturday, Husker diver Stacey Porter said. The Huskers lost to Missouri 102-47 and to Iowa 86-62. The Missouri Tigers then went to beat Iowa 79-70.

"This is the first meet for us since the Husker Invitational. I don't like waiting so long between dives," Porter said.

"One of our main objectives in this meet was to qualify for Pre-Quals, a national qualifying meet. Ann Stahlnecker said I qualified in the one-meter diving," she added.

Captain Rene Sullivan said she was pleased with the team's performance and expects it to keep improving.

"We basically are pretty good, considering how small the team is," Sullivan said. "People can expect good things from us at the Big Eight meet. Our team won't be on top, but some individuals will do well."

"I think we are showing that we're a lot stronger in our events. We've come a long way and we are beginning to pull together," Marie Suppes said.

Sharrie Hayward was the only Husker to win a first place medal. She won the 50-yard backstroke in :28.9, the 200-yard backstroke in 2:11.56 and the 500-yard medley in 4:46.89.

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