

Huskers get control early to defeat OSU 62-54

By Bob Asmussen and Bill Dunbar

The Oklahoma State Cowboys came into Lincoln Saturday night for just another basketball game with the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Usually by this time each year, the Cowboys are out of the title chase because they were never in it, and Nebraska is preparing for its late season collapse. Oklahoma State has not won a Big Eight title since 1965 and Nebraska has never won it outright.

But 1981 has brought a change as the Cowboys and Huskers were running 1 and 2. Trailing the Cowboys by only one game, Lincoln seemed to be the perfect place to knock off the league leaders. They haven't won in Lincoln since 1973.

So of all places to watch a Big Eight showdown, which the Huskers won 62-54, it happened at the Bob Devaney Sports Center before a record crowd and two unlikely foes. It also produced a warning to the rest of the Big Eight.

Nebraska, with the quicker start, built an early lead of 11-4 and with it the ability to control the tempo of the game. Oklahoma State's only lead, 14-13, came on a layup by Eddie Hannon, two of his team-high 16 points. No other Cowboy scored more than seven points.

The Cowboys applied some full-court pressure but it

didn't bother Nebraska. Andre Smith successfully clogged up the middle during part of the first half.

"There wasn't a lot of inside play tonight," Smith said. "Their center was trying to go one-on-one with me but they weren't successful."

A Jack Moore alley-oop pass, which Greg Downing slammed home, gave Nebraska an 11-point lead. With 3:45 left in the half, Kenny Walton connected on a baseline jumper off another pass from Moore and Nebraska had its biggest lead of the night, 35-22.

From there, Oklahoma State went on a 17-8 tear carrying through the next 10 minutes into the second half. A bucket by Randy Wright with 13:26 to play closed the Husker lead to 43-39.

Huskers pull away

Nebraska pulled away again and a bucket by Moore put Nebraska up 48-39. Another basket by Wright and Hannon brought the Cowboys back to within five.

Nebraska scored the next five points and built its lead to 10 on a reverse layup by Smith with 6:36 to play. It was one of only six field goals Nebraska made in the second half.

"We felt we had an opportunity to win here," Oklahoma State Coach Paul Hansen said. "Holding a team to six field goals in a half means something good but Nebras-

ka is really tough at home."

Matt Clark sat out most of the second half with an injured ankle, but Hansen put Clark back in the game with just more than two minutes remaining. Clark, lead scorer in the Big Eight with a 19 point per game average, managed to make three of four free throws down the stretch.

His last free throw pulled the Cowboys to 58-54, but Mike Naderer and Moore made four from the charity stripe for the final margin.

"The score was closer than 62-54 because we gambled a lot," Hansen said. "Eddie Hannon had a good game. Without him it would have been a lot worse. He had to take over after Clark went out."

Something else happened at the same time Clark went to the dressing room. Unknown to the crowd of 15,038, Moore's shooting touch left. Moore's layup on the same play in which Clark was injured proved to be his last basket for the next 18 minutes. It wasn't until 11:16 remained that he scored another layup, this time following an Andre Smith steal.

Moore hurt

"I hurt my ribs in the second half," Moore said. "Coach Iba didn't know I was hurting."

Moore made only one of his last 12 field goal attempts and finished with 16 points. He had five assists.

But this game belonged to Andre Smith as the two centers of Oklahoma State can attest. Leroy Combs and Brad Livingstone fouled four times when guarding Smith. They combined for 11 points and 11 rebounds.

"Andre Smith is so strong," Hansen said. "He's one of the top players in the conference."

Iba said Smith played both ends of the court well, which helped the Huskers get control of the tempo early in the game.

"Andre played very well offensively and defensively," Iba said. "If the team can just continue to play one game at a time and not get satisfied, we'll do real well the rest of the season."

Smith finished with a game-high 23 points and literally stole the Cowboy inside game as he had five steals to go with four assists.

"Coach Iba doesn't have to worry because I never get satisfied with my game," Smith said. "Right now, I'm picking us to win the Big Eight. I'm determined to get us a Big Eight crown."

Smith fouled out of the last game with the Cowboys and said revenge played a big part of this game.

"The officials were on my side tonight," he said. "Livingstone was holding me down low all night and the officials called it. It helped create a lot of one-on-one situations."

sports

Ottey breaks own record at meet

By Cindy Gardner

When Nebraska women's track member Merlene Ottey ran a world record :33.12 in the 300-yard dash Saturday at the Husker Invitational, the only one who seemed the least bit surprised was Ottey herself.

In last year's Husker Invitational, Ottey established the world mark for 300 yards at :33.64. She broke that mark Friday evening in the preliminaries with :33.29.

Ottey said she wasn't psyched for Saturday's finals, but, "Everyone told me to try for another record."

"I got a good start which is something I sometimes have trouble with," she said. "The first 110 went well. Then I knew I could do it."

Ottey, who was never seriously challenged in the race and doesn't expect to be before nationals, said she makes up for the lack of competition by talking to herself.

"I tell myself I've got to push. It's hard when there's no one running with me," she said.

Women's Track Coach Gary Pepin said, "nothing she runs will surprise me."

No one in the crowd was surprised when Ottey was named as the meet's outstanding track performer. Patsy Walker from the University of Houston was voted the outstanding field event performer for her Bob Devaney

Sports Center record 3,981 points in the pentathlon.

Ottey also won the 60-yard dash in meet record time of :6.83.

Other outstanding performances for the Huskers came from the newly formed two-mile relay team of Lisa Kramer, Pam Schubarth, Tami Essington and Julie Seaton. They covered the distance in a university record time of 8:53.03, which qualified them for the national championships.

Pepin praised his one-mile relay squad that finished first with a 3:51.87, a meet record and a national qualifying time.

"It was nice to be able to win that race," Pepin said. "Our girls were tired. In fact three minutes before the race, we weren't even sure who was going to run."

Cathy Seybold finished second in the pentathlon and qualified for nationals with a score of 3,748.

UNL middle-distance runner Tami Essington finished second in the 880 with a university record time of 2:10.04. Sharon Burril won the high jump for the Huskers with a leap of 5-10.

No team scores were kept at the meet, which included UNL, the University of Arkansas, Colorado State, Drake, Iowa University, Iowa State, Kansas State, Missouri, Wichita State and South Dakota State.

Husker sets indoor pole vault mark

By Cindy Gardner

California is said to be the land of sunshine and it certainly helped to brighten the day for the men's track squad Saturday. The Huskers lost 75-76 in a dual with Kansas, but native Californian Mark Newton added a little silver lining to the cloud.

Newton pole vaulted 17-4½ at the Bob Devaney Sports Center setting a Big Eight indoor record for the event. Newton, who set the previous best of 17-4½ two weeks ago in Kansas City, has gone over the 17-foot mark three weeks in a row.

"That's one thing I lacked last year," the senior said. "I had the right idea but I lacked consistency."

After clearing the record height on his second attempt, Newton took three tries at 17-8½. Although he was unsuccessful at the height Saturday, he said he hopes to jump near 18 feet.

Rodney Lewis won the 300-yard dash with a time of

:30.91 and teammate Brian Dunnigan took the honors in the mile by covering the distance in 4:05.8. Another Husker first came from Matt Minchow in the 60-yard high hurdles.

Nebraska's Everton DaCosta earned himself a trip to nationals with a 1:52.07 in the 880. DaCosta finished second in the race behind the Jayhawk's Leonard Martin.

Nebraska's Joe Staub won the shot put with a toss of 59-2½. Staub, also from California, failed to break the college record in the shot for the first time in four outings.

"My technique hasn't been at its best because I've been working on strength," he said.

Husker Coach Frank Sevigne said he was pleased with his team's performance.


"We had some very good performances," Sevigne said. "The pole vault was excellent and Rodney Lewis ran well. We thought we might win the meet but I'm pretty much satisfied."



Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka

Nebraska's Andre Smith (40) shoots over Leroy Combs (32) of Oklahoma State. Nebraska defeated the Cowboys 62-54 Saturday night in Lincoln.


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