

Sports

Huskers defeat Jayhawks in Big Eight opener

By Bob Asmussen and Pat Higgins

Don't be surprised if the Kansas Jayhawks try to finish their way out of their next scheduled appearance at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The reason? Nebraska, behind a well balanced scoring effort, defeated the Jayhawks 75-55 Wednesday.

"It's not this place," said Jayhawk coach Ted Owens. "We can't continue to come up here and spot them seven or eight points because that makes it their game."

The Jayhawks were in the hole from the beginning. Handy Johnson hit a 20-foot jumper to give the Huskers a quick 7-2 lead.

After Kansas closed to within two the Huskers put on another spurt to go up 19-9. The Huskers, however, were unable to completely bury the Jayhawks.

"We got up eight to ten points then really took some bad shots," Nebraska coach Moe Iba said.

The Huskers continued to build their lead going up

36-23 at halftime.

"A 13 point lead against them is a good lead but not the way we were playing," Iba said.

Tight coverage by Ray Collins held David Magley to no points in the first half. Magley entered the game as the Big Eight's second leading scorer. He was 0 for 6 from the field in the first half.

"I don't think Magley was looking for the shot," Collins said. "I think the crowd had something to do with it."

"I didn't think we could defend them," Iba said. "I didn't know if we could cover Guy and Magley."

Kansas as a team shot a pathetic 26 percent from the field in the first half. They shot only 35 percent for the game.

"Nebraska did a good job on us but that was no surprise," Owen said. "We did not take good percentage shots."

The Huskers continued to roll in the second half. Kansas closed to within 10 at 8:37 in the second half but

never got any closer. Back to back fast break dunks by Claude Renfro and Jerry Shoecraft gave the Huskers a 59-45 lead. The Huskers were never seriously threatened through the remainder of the game.

"I thought Claude and Jerry came in and played hard," Iba said.

Ray Collins led the Huskers with 16 points. Claude Renfro had 13 and Jack Moore contributed 12. Shoecraft came off the bench to pull down a game high, 11 rebounds.

"I think I'm playing the best ball I've ever played here," Shoecraft said. "I was excited because I've never done too well against the Big Eight schools."

Kansas had three players in double figures led by Kelly Knight's 13 points. All-American candidate Tony Guy hit only four of 18 shots.

"That's the easiest time we've had against Kansas in a long time," Iba said.

Rimington to stay at UNL

Nebraska center Dave Rimington announced Tuesday that he will finish out his football eligibility at UNL.

Earlier, Rimington had indicated he might pass up his final year at Nebraska to play in the National Football League. To turn professional, Rimington would have had to complete 40 credit hours by the time training camps open in July, or received a special waiver from the NFL.

"Our coaches have been honest with me about my options and I feel that this is the best decision for me. Right now, all I want

to worry about is coming back and having a great year next year. I want to get that national title before I leave," Rimington said in a prepared release from the UNL Sports Information Office.

Husker Coach Tom Osborne is away on a recruiting trip but was also quoted on the release.

"Obviously, we're glad to have Dave stay. I know that I speak for the entire staff when I say that we are glad to have Dave with us again next season," Osborne said.

Women cagers play tonight

By Ward W. Triplett III

After snapping a four-game losing streak against Arizona, the Nebraska women's basketball team will open play in the Big Eight tournament tonight at 6 p.m. against Oklahoma State in Manhattan, Kan.

The Huskers will take a 6-7 record into the tournament that will determine the Big Eight's representative in the NCAA tournament in March.

"It seems like a very balanced year in the Big Eight," Nebraska coach Colleen Matsuhara said. "It will probably be one of the more balanced tournaments the Big Eight has ever had."

For the first time in the tournament's three-year history, one team does not figure to dominate. Kansas has won all three previous tournaments, and although the Jayhawks are rated in the top 20 again this season, the Kansas State Wildcats are the tournament favorite. Nebraska is predicted to finish sixth.

"We would like to go in as an underdog and sneak up on everybody," Matsuhara said, adding that her team, like four others, shouldn't be ruled out. One of those is tonight's opponent, Oklahoma State, whose 14-2 record is the second best among the conference schools.

"I anticipate a close game with them. Twice last year we went right down to the wire with them, and this game could be a tossup as well. It all depends on how well we can box out and rebound with them," Matsuhara said.

The Cowgirls are led by junior college transfer Rose Aldredge whose 17.9 points per game average is among the Big Eight's best. Matsuhara said the Huskers will have to prevent Aldredge from going one-on-one with the Nebraska defenders.

"We've been practicing some new options on offense and against presses because I hear Oklahoma State is heavy on pressure defense," Matsuhara said.

"We've worked a lot on our press and stealing the ball because we're going to need to do that a lot, being the smallest team in the Big Eight," Matsuhara said.

Matsuhara said it wasn't her idea to play for the NCAA bid this early in the year, and was strongly opposed to the early date.

"Here you are just getting through the pre-season, and suddenly you have to play for a tournament bid," she said.

"The tournament winner here could fall flat on their face the rest of the season, you never know. I had voted for a tournament at the end of the season, some time in March, but I got out-voted," Matsuhara said.

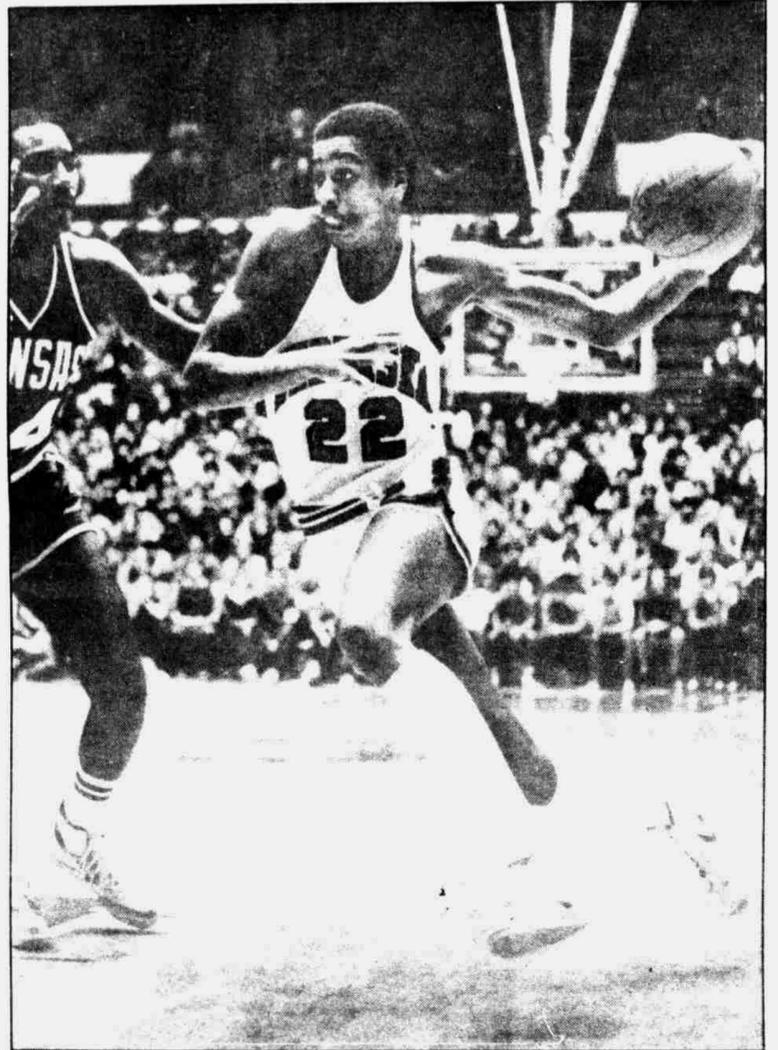


Photo by Jodie Fields

Nebraska guard Greg Downing (22) drives past Kansas' Tony Guy (34) in the Huskers Wednesday night Big Eight opener against Kansas. Nebraska went on to defeat the Jayhawks 75-55.

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