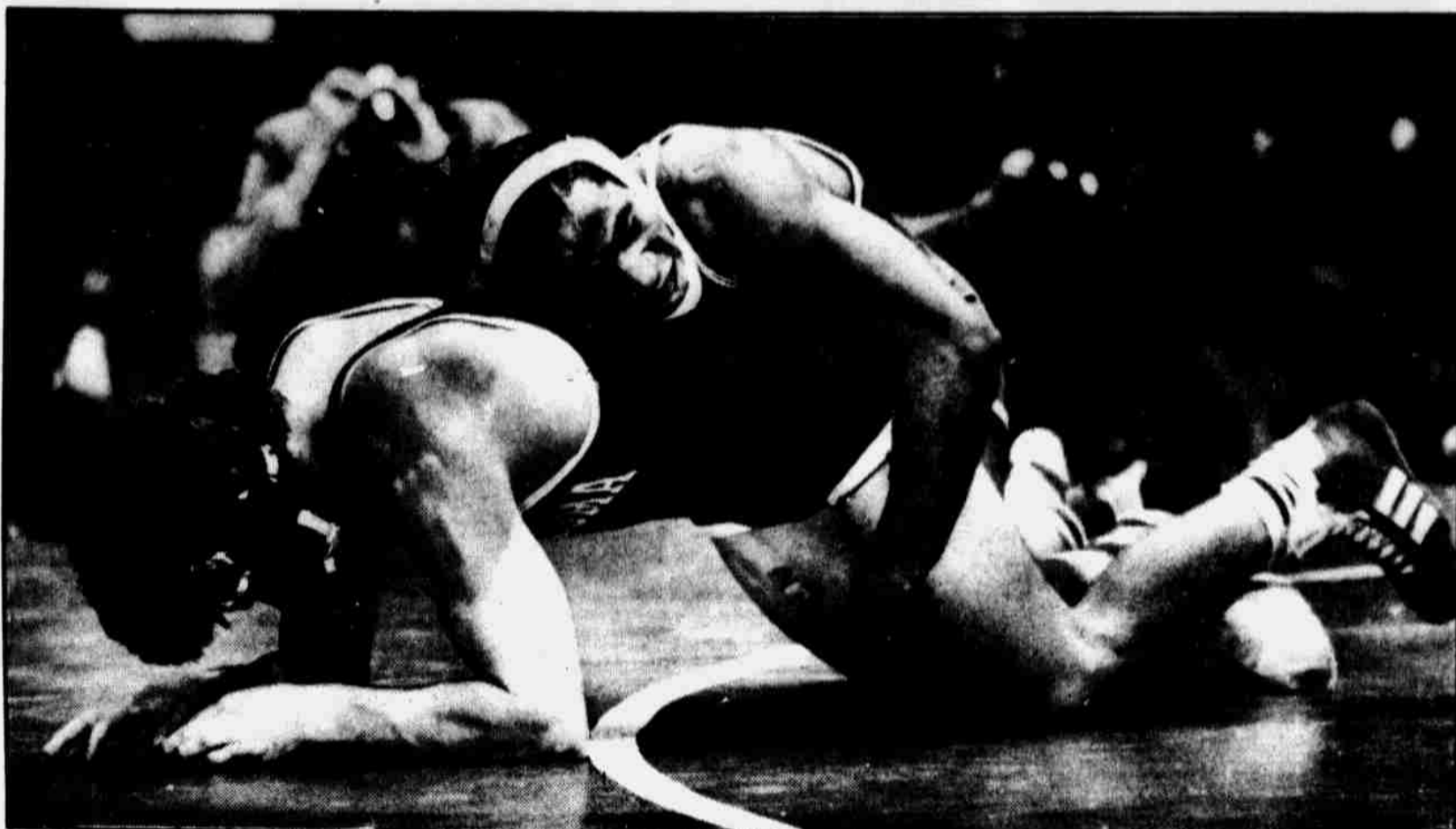


Sports



Johnnie Selmon (top) grapples with OU wrestler Andre Metzger in the Big Eight Conference wrestling championships. Selmon won the match by a 15-11 decision and placed first in the 142-pound weight division. Metzger was rated first in the nation; Selmon was rated fourth in the nation.

Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Husker wrestlers finish fourth, Iowa State takes Big Eight title

By Ward W. Triplett III

Iowa State was the winner on the scoreboard Sunday evening, but the Nebraska wrestling team, finishing fourth out of the five-team Big Eight tournament field, walked away with plenty of moral victories.

The Cyclones, rated second in the U.S., won the meet with 80 points and three champions. Oklahoma, rated third, finished second with 65, while fourth rated Oklahoma State scored 60.75. Nebraska repeated its fourth place finish from a year ago with an all-time point high of 54.25, outpacing Missouri which finished with 25.

"Our goal at the start of the season was to improve in the Big Eight," said Nebraska Coach Bob Fehrs, who was voted the conference coach of the year. "We didn't exactly do that placewise, but we did put pressure on third place. There has always been that gap there between third and fourth, and this year we did close it a little," Fehrs said.

Iowa State clinched the team title with the opening weights as Kevin Darkus upset Oklahoma State's Randy Willingham 5-4 in the 118-pound match. Joe and Jim Gibbons followed with decisions over Mark Zinner of Oklahoma and Carl Anderson of Oklahoma State.

In the 142-pound final, Johnny Selmon, one of three Nebraska finalists, brought a crowd of 1,212, to its feet with a 15-11 upset of Oklahoma's Andre Metzger. Metzger came into the match ranked number one at the weight, but fourth ranked Selmon escaped and scored a takedown with 36 seconds left to go ahead 15-8.

"Some guys tend to relax in the last seconds, and if you just put pressure on them then, you can usually score some points," Selmon said after the match.

"He (Metzger) was rated number one, so this win means a lot to me," he added.

Selmon, who won the 142-pound division repeated as the meets outstanding wrestler.

The 150-pound match turned into a battle between the two top rated wrestlers in the country at the weight,

as Cowboy Kenny Monday, number one, met Cyclone Nate Carr. Monday trailed 1-0 before taking Orr to the mat with 1:03 left in the second period and pinning the defending national champion with 27 seconds left in the period.

The Cowboys won the next two matches, leaving the Huskers in third place. At 158, Ricky Stewart, a two time national champion and undefeated this year, decided Oklahoma's Isreal Sheppard 10-4. One hundred sixty-seven pound Mike Sheets upset Dave Schultz of Oklahoma in another 1-2 battle, 4-3.

At 177, Mark Schultz avenged his brother's loss with a 4-3 overtime decision over Iowa State's Perry Hummel, setting the stage for Nebraska's Bill Scheer and Iowa State's Mike Mann at 190.

Scheer, trailed top ranked Mann 4-3 with six seconds left but forced a flurry in a two point Scheer takedown with two seconds remaining. The last second move gave Nebraska two champions for the first time in 12 years.

"I really don't know how it happened," Scheer said. "I was just underneath and he overcompensated. I got behind him for the takedown," he said.

Nebraska heavyweight Gary Albright wasn't as lucky in his long awaited match against Oklahoma's Steve "Dr. Death" Williams. Albright tried in vain for a last second takedown but the match ended in a 5-5 tie. Williams was awarded the match because of riding time that exceeded one minute.

"I'm not disappointed," Albright said. "He (Williams) is the best guy I ever wrestled. I'm just a freshman, and Williams has a lot more experience," Albright said.

Fehrs was pleased with the entire team effort, he said. He pointed out Jim Scheer's defeat of Missouri's Dave Young, whom he had dropped a 13-0 decision to earlier this season, Lance Milsap's pin of Oklahoma's Derek Glenn and Rory Cahoj's two victories and narrow loss to Stewart. Scheer finished third at 177 while Cahoj finished third at 158. Ray Oliver, Scott Morgan, and Milsap all finished fourth in their respective weights.

Husker shooting woes, inability to catch up cause Nebraska's loss

By Bob Asmussen

MANHATTAN, Kan. — As each member of the Nebraska basketball team was introduced here Saturday, the K-State crowd shouted in unison. It shouted such greetings as "who cares," "big deal" and "so what." The Wildcat team didn't treat the Huskers much better than the crowd as it rolled up a 67-50 victory against UNL.

Things started badly for the Huskers as the Wildcats grabbed a quick 4-0 lead. Nebraska fought back and tied the game at 6-6. The Wildcats then ran off six straight points to take a 12-6 lead at 10:26 of the first half. The Huskers never got closer than four points for the rest of the game.

Nebraska tried to stay with the Wildcats throughout the rest of the half, trailing by only five points with 4:49 left. The Wildcats scored the last nine points of the half. The scoring spurt was capped by a dunk by Tyrone Adams on a feed from Ed Nealy. The basket gave the Wildcats a 28-14 lead and brought the capacity crowd of 11,229 to its feet as the two teams ran off the court.

Nebraska's main problem in the first half was shooting. The Huskers made only six of 25 shots from the field for 24 percent. The Wildcats hit 57 percent of their first half shots.

Nealy scored 10 points in the first and Adams added eight. No husker had more than four in the first half.

"We had good shots early and they just wouldn't drop," Nebraska Coach Moe Iba said of the Huskers first half shooting woes.

"We took the shots we wanted but we just couldn't get them down," Nebraska guard Handy Johnson said. "We played good defense which kept it respectable."

The second half wasn't any better than the first for Nebraska. The Huskers were never able to get closer than 11 points and trailed by as much as 20.

Iba replaced most of the starting team with 4:07 left in the game and the Huskers down by 17. Kansas State Coach Jack Hartman also substituted for his starting line up.

The Huskers were able to close within 12 with 2:41 left and Nebraska in possession. The Wildcats ran off five quick points and ended any comeback hopes the Huskers had.

Late in the game, Iba met Hartman near half court. Iba was upset by the officiating on a few calls.

"I just asked him what he thought of the officiating," Iba said. "He just laughed. When you're 20 points ahead you can laugh a lot."

The Wildcats were led in scoring by Les Craft's 16 points. Nealy and Adams added 14 and 12. Randy Reed was held to eight points but did contribute 11 rebounds.

Terry Smith led the Huskers with nine points. The Wildcats held the Huskers leading scorer, Jack Moore, to six points. Claude Renfro was Nebraska's leading rebounder with five.

The Huskers were out-shot 53 percent to 36 percent and out-rebounded 44-26.

The Huskers attention now turns to Tuesday's Big Eight playoff game against Oklahoma State in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. In two earlier games with the Cowboys, the Huskers defeated them 75-63 at home and lost by two at Stillwater.

"We just got to go home and regroup for Oklahoma State," Iba said.

Big Eight conference mixes Husker athlete's highs, lows

By Jeff Goodwin

For Husker track fans, this weekend's Big Eight indoor championships were a mixed bag.

The Nebraska women's team ran away from the rest of the field, beating second-place Oklahoma, 159-96.

The men's team finished a disappointing fifth, behind Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Iowa State and Kansas.

The women completely dominated the running events winning seven of the 13 events.

As usual, the Huskers were led by Merlene Ottey, who won the 60-yard dash and 440-yard dash and ran a leg on the Huskers' winning 4 x 220 relay team.

Ottey led a Husker sweep of the 60 as Janet Burke, Alicia McQueen and Deborah James finished behind Ottey.

"The one-four finish makes the victory even sweeter," Ottey said. "I'm happy with it."

"We felt going into the meet that we had a good chance to win it if we lived up to our potential," UNL Coach Gary Pepin said. "We did that."

Ottey wasn't the only star for the Huskers, however.

Rhonda Blanford set a meet and Bob Devaney Sports Center record in winning the 60-yard hurdles in :07.82. The mark was also a national qualifying time.

Tami Essington won the 1000-yard run and placed third in the 600-yard run.

Other winners for the Huskers were Janet Burke in the 300-yard dash, Nancy Kindig in the pentathlon, and Sharon Burrill in the high jump.

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Photo by D. Eric Kircher

Charles Lawrence (right) hands off to Mike Cielocha who ran the third leg of the mile relay for Nebraska Saturday at the Big Eight Track and Field Championships in Lincoln.