

Sports



Staff photo by John Zoz
Trent Scarlett drives for the basket during Saturday's Nebraska-Southwest Missouri State basketball game. Nebraska trounced the Bears 98-46.

Huskers 'cage' the Bears, 98-46

By Kevin Warneke and Bob Asmussen

Southwest Missouri State had its moment. Fifty-seven seconds to be exact.

That was the amount of time that elapsed after Southwest Missouri State center Ricky Johnson scored the first bucket of the game until Nebraska assumed command and went on to devastate the Bears 98-46 in men's basketball action Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Southwest Missouri State, boasting a four-game winning streak entering the game, went more than nine minutes before its second basket of the game was scored by Anthony Boggs.

Meanwhile, Nebraska poured in 25 consecutive points, including six each by Stan Cloudy and Greg Downing.

Nebraska then went on another scoring binge racking up 10 more points until Basil Robinson gave the Bears their fifth point of the game with less than seven minutes left in the first half.

Nebraska's defense slackened in the final minutes of the half, allowing the Bears to tally seven more points, while Nebraska scored 10.

In holding Southwest Missouri State to 13 first-half points, the Cornhuskers tied a sports center record for allowing the fewest points in a half. The Huskers also held South Dakota State to 13 last season.

The second half saw the Huskers continuing their play of tenacious defense and explosive offense. Kenny Walton's jumper from the right side with just little more than 5 minutes left in the game gave the Huskers a 50-point margin.

With the outcome of the game easily determined, the crowd of 9,287 came to life as the Huskers neared the century mark. But Nebraska only came as close as 98 points. With 21 seconds remaining, Terry Smith gave the

Huskers their final basket when his shot was counted as good because of goaltending by Southwest Missouri State.

"We wanted to hit 100, but it just didn't come this game," Lenard Johnson said.

"If he had hit his free throws..." Downing said jokingly from across the locker room.

Free throw shooting may have been Nebraska's only weakness as they shot 10-20 from the charity line during the game.

But this was far overshadowed by the 62.8 shooting percentage from the floor and Southwest Missouri State's 31.2 percent in the same category.

"The thing that I was happy with was the intensity they went out and played with," Nebraska Coach Moe Iba said. "We took them completely out of the game the first 10 minutes and it was over."

That intensity was showcased with a defensive play by Terry Smith with 9:48 left in the game which drew a standing ovation from the crowd. Smith dived to the floor, knocking the ball away from Southwest Missouri State's Chris Scott who was free on an apparent break away layup.

Smith also led a balanced Nebraska scoring attack, which saw all 12 available Huskers scoring, with 15 points. Cloudy and Downing followed with 12 and Dave Hoppen with 10. Smith also sparkled in the rebounding department pulling down nine Bear misses. Nebraska outrebounded its counterpart 56-29.

The victory over Southwest Missouri State climaxed the non-conference season for the Huskers. Nebraska will take a 9-3 record to Iowa State on Tuesday.

"It's going to be a dogfight," Iba said, referring to the Big Eight Conference race.

"We've just got to work hard in the Big Eight and play one game at a time," he said.

Wrestlers juggle lineup in come-from-behind win

By Randy Wymore

In 1942, Thornton Wilder wrote the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Skin Of Our Teeth." Forty-one years later, it may have appeared to the spectators at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday that Nebraska wrestling coach Bob Fehrs and his team were trying to write the sequel.

The Cornhuskers whipped Central State Oklahoma, 31-18, but not before finding themselves struggling with the returning National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics wrestling champions, who managed to build a 16-point lead mid-way through the dual.

In the first five matches, Nebraska gave up one forfeit, a draw, two decisions and a major decision to put the Bronchos, up 18-2.

"I was pretty shocked, really, up through 50, (150 pounds)," Central State Coach David James said. "We had an 18-2

lead. I was surprised. Nebraska's got a heck of a wrestling program."

James went on to say that the early lead was not enough to make him run to the parking lot and start the bus for home.

"I knew we had the Scherrs (Nebraska wrestlers Bill and Jim) and Oliver (Nebraska wrestler Ray) and them type of guys waiting for us," he said. "I just knew we had to build up any type of lead if we were going to have a chance."

Nebraska used some of the younger people on the team Saturday in order to give regulars Matt Campbell and Al Freeman a day off. Fehrs explained that he knew the Cornhuskers would start off in a hole, but he wasn't sure just how deep that hole was going to get.

"I knew we'd get behind," Fehrs said. "But I was hoping it wouldn't be as far as that."

Fehrs said that the early deficit put Nebraska in a position of having to wrestle error-free through the last half of the dual. Nebraska did just that.

In the first match of the afternoon, 118 pounds, Nebraska had to forfeit, giving up six team points, because no one could make the weight limit. Fehrs said that he takes the blame for that because he thought he had arranged for someone to fill in so that Campbell could take the day off. Unfortunately, a communication problem resulted in no one at 118 pounds and therefore a forfeit.

In the next match, 126-pounder John Shearer could only muster an early take-down for two points, while his opponent picked up two one-point escapes. The match ended in a draw, with each team getting two points.

Nebraska was down 8-2 and went on to lose the next three matches, one of which was to a returning NAIA champion.

For the remaining five matches, Fehrs did some lineup juggling that shows evidence of Nebraska's great flexibility.

Freshman Dave Goldman picked up the first Cornhusker win of the day with a

13-1 superior decision at 158. Rory Cahoj, who usually wrestles at 158, moved up to 167, and consequently, everyone else also moved up a weight class. Cahoj went on to score a 4-26 pin.

Ray Oliver, usually a 167-pounder, picked up a pin over last year's 177-pound NAIA champion. Oliver's fall also gave Nebraska its first lead of the day. Jim and Bill Scherr followed Cahoj and Oliver's example with pins of their own. Bill Scherr, who usually wrestles in the 190-pound slot, got his against a 330-pound opponent in only 2:40.

With the win Saturday, and a 38-5 win over Missouri last Thursday where Fehrs picked up his 100th career win, the Cornhuskers now stand at 9-3 in dual competition and hold a fifth place national ranking.

Nebraska goes on the road for a dual Friday against the University of Wyoming and Saturday for duals with Colorado State and Colorado School of Mines.

Arkansas dominates swim invitational; Huskers battle 'quality competition'

By Mark Quandahl

Nebraska sophomore, Aaron Drake, found it easy to summarize Friday and Saturday's Mid-Winter Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Arkansas ran away with it," Drake said.

The Arkansas swim team scored a whopping 509 points to capture the fifth annual Mid-Winter Invite. Southern Illinois was second with 339 points and the Cornhuskers garnered third place honors with 299. Rounding out the field were Southern Cal in fourth place, Iowa in fifth, Iowa State in sixth and Minnesota seventh.

"It was really quality competition," Drake said.

Auderz Guillhammer of Southern Illinois started the invite by winning the 500-meter freestyle in a meet record time of 4:31.37.

Chris Cavanaugh of Southern Cal won

the 200-meter individual medley in 1:54:01. Husker Rick Gilbertson was fourth with 1:55.56.

Neil Brooks of Arkansas was victorious in the 50-meter freestyle in a meet record time of :20.62. UNL's Cliff Looschen was third with :20.84.

Arkansas also captured the 400-meter medley relay and the Razorback's Danny Balint won the 400-meter individual medley.

Nebraska had its first champion when Kevin Weires won the 200-meter freestyle in 1:41:29. After Minnesota's Bob Barrett won the 100-meter butterfly, a Husker again graced the limelight as Looschen took the 100-meter backstroke in :51.39.

Arkansas' John Ulibari grabbed the 100-meter breaststroke, USC won the 800-meter freestyle relay and Guillhammer of SIU smashed the old meet record in the 1,650-meter freestyle which he won in 15:46:13.

Continued on Page 9



Staff photo by Dave Bentz
Nebraska's Jim Korff gets ready to go in the 50-meter freestyle during Friday's Mid-Winter Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool. Nebraska finished third behind Arkansas and Southern Illinois.