

Sports

Last second tip-in collars 'Cats

By Jeff Browne

MANHATTAN, Kan — Kansas State basketball Coach Jack Hartman didn't want to talk to *anybody* after his team lost 47-46 to Nebraska Saturday at Ahearn Fieldhouse.

But as is customary, he obliged writers by fielding questions in the junior varsity locker room. Minutes earlier, Ronnie Smith tapped in a Stan Cloudy miss with seven seconds remaining to give Nebraska the win.

Did Hartman have any words of praise for his defense — a defense that held Husker center Dave Hoppen to 10 points?

"They did a good job."

How did your offense play?

"Not very well."

What is your overall assessment of the game?

"We lost by one."

The Wildcats dropped to 1-5 in the Big Eight and are virtually eliminated from the conference race. Hartman said he didn't want to think about the rest of the season.

"We just lost a tough ball game," he said. "How the hell we're supposed to look at the rest of the season, I don't know."

Nebraska was buoyed by their performance. The Huskers are now 3-3 in conference play and tied for third with three other teams.

"I thought that maybe for the first time since the Arkansas game we played a full 40 minutes," Coach Moe Iba said. "Defensively, that was the best ball game we've played all year."

Both coaches were miffed about the officiating in the game. Iba complained that Hoppen, who fouled out, seems to be getting too much attention from the officials.

Iba said that former Missouri center Steve Stipanovich fouled out of fewer games in his entire career than Hoppen has this year.

Hartman was fuming about an offensive goaltending call late in the second half. The call led to a technical foul on Hartman and two made free throws by Nebraska guard David Ponce.

Wildcat forward Ben Mitchell apparently made a shot from inside the lane. However, the officials said forward

Alex Williams tipped the ball in while it was still on the rim.

"I had a great profile of the play," Hartman said. "The kid didn't even touch the ball. It wasn't even close."

Kansas State was leading 40-38 at the time of the call. Ponce's free throws tied the game. The Huskers took the lead on a basket by Eric Williams from an offensive rebound.

Nebraska increased the lead to 44-41 on a layup by Smith after a feed from Ponce. Kansas State countered with two Mitchell free throws.

A free throw by Williams put Nebraska ahead 45-43 with 1:32 left, but the Wildcats gave the 10,000 fans one last chance to scream before Smith's game winner.

Mitchell got a pass from Eric Watson inside the lane and put up a shot with Stan Cloudy on his arm. Mitchell made the shot and Cloudy was called for a foul. Mitchell made the subsequent free throw. The Wildcats were ahead 46-45 with 1:17 left.

The Huskers stalled much of the game's final five minutes. They preserved a narrow lead, but were forced out of their stall. Cloudy was called for traveling, however, and Kansas State was apparently in control.

Ponce fouled Wildcat guard Jim Roder with 17 seconds remaining. Roder missed the front end of a one-and-one opportunity.

Nebraska had one last chance.

Ponce pushed the ball up the court quickly. Under Iba's instruction, he passed to Cloudy. Cloudy was seven of 11 up to that point, most of his shots being from long range.

Cloudy missed an 18-footer from the left side. Smith was left alone underneath the basket and converted the rebound into the winning points.

"I could see the defense shift over to that side," Smith said. "After the shot went up, I guess they felt that that would be the game. I just happened to be there to put it in."

Smith finished with six points, his first in Big Eight play. Iba was happy to see him finally contribute.

"Ronnie's only played a year and a half of basketball but he's made a lot of improvement," he said. "I was glad to see him tip in the basket."



Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Dave Hoppen (42) goes up for a shot over Kansas State's Eddie Elder (50) in Saturday's 47-46 win against the Wildcats in Manhattan.

Miler Adam credits 'rabbit' for record-breaking pace

By Bob Asmussen

Nebraska miler Marc Adam isn't a magician but he gave credit for his school record 4:03.79 mile Saturday to a rabbit.

Adam's record was just one part of Nebraska's 95-26 dual defeat of Kansas at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The "rabbit" was Jean Verster of South Africa, who has joined the Nebraska track team but is ineligible to compete until the 1985 indoor season. Verster set the pace until the three-quarter-mile mark, then stepped off the track.

Adam had spent the whole week seeking out a "rabbit" for the race so he could break the school record. He didn't expect to get any push from the Kansas milers, so it was up to Verster.

"The coaches made some phone calls to see if ineligible transfers could run unattached," Adam said. "All we needed was approval from the Kansas coaches. They knew the meet wasn't going to be competitive and if you're going for a time no one's going to stop you."

The Nebraska men won all but the 880-yard run in defeating Kansas. The Husker women were equally dominant as they lost only one event in defeating the Jayhawks, 84-27.

The Jayhawks are the defending mens' Big Eight indoor champions, but lost most of that team to graduation.

"I'm pleased with the meet, though it's tough to tell how good you are without strong competition," Nebraska Coach Gary Pepin said.

The meet's only double winner for the men was Nebraska's Anthony Small. Small won the 60-yard

dash in 6.40 seconds and the 300-yard dash in 32.02 seconds. It was only the second 300 Small has run in his life.

"I never really thought about 300," Small said. "I just wanted to finish."

Small, a native of Scarborough, Canada, was the Canadian junior champion in the 100 and 200-yard dashes.

"I'm enjoying it down here," Small said. "The facilities I love."

Triple-winner Angela Thacker and double-winner Laura Wight led the women's team. Thacker won the 60-yard dash in 6.83 seconds, the 300-yard dash in 35.99 and the long jump with a leap of 19-5½. Wight, a native of Letchworth, England, won the 880-yard run in 2:12.24 and the mile run in 4:50.40.

Darren Burton set another Nebraska record when he broke Doug Phelps' high jump mark with a 7-1½ leap. Phelps' record of 7-1 was set in 1979.

Two Husker women met three NCAA indoor qualifying standards. Both Thacker and Rhonda Blanford qualified in the 60. Blanford also qualified in the 60-yard hurdles.

The 1,127 people in attendance at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track got Nebraska's first look at Nicole Landmann in competition. Landmann, a native of South Africa, ran her first collegiate race when she won the 1000-yard run with a time of 2:36.39.

"I was looking for a faster time," Landmann said.

Landmann has been in the United States only two weeks. Not only was Saturday's race her first collegiate competition, but her first indoor race as well.

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Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan

Coach Moe Iba shouts instructions to his team during the Huskers' victory in Manhattan Saturday.