

Women Huskers fall to Sooners

By Stu Pospisil

Oklahoma women's basketball Coach Maura McHugh was a bit more generous this year when she checked off the referees' gray card after Wednesday's 96-85 victory against Nebraska.

Last year, McHugh criticized the officials after an 85-78 Nebraska win in Lincoln.

"This time it was even. The calls were fair," McHugh said. "Last year, no way. I was very upset about that."

McHugh wasn't upset with the way the Sooners played. Oklahoma outscored the Huskers 12-2 in the first three minutes of the second half to take a 59-42 lead.

Nebraska did not get closer than 11 points after that, as the Huskers fell to 13-7, 3-4 in the Big Eight.

"We lost a little bit of our defense's intensity at halftime," said Nebraska Coach Kelly Hill. "I don't know what happened."

Nebraska played without reserve guard Ronda Pieper, who was out with bronchitis. Starting guard Cathy Owen played in spite of the flu.

Oklahoma's guards, who had battled the flu themselves, were healthy for the first time in weeks.

"Mentally we were ready," McHugh said. "Our guards being healthy was important because we knew they would have to break Nebraska's press."

"We needed some guard play tonight," Hill said. "That's exactly where we were lacking depth. They lobbed on us all day."

Oklahoma's second half explosion was keyed by sophomore forward Jacquetta Hurley. Hurley scored 22 of her game-high 37 points in the second half.

"Jacquetta played a real nice game," McHugh said.

"She's really smooth and very deceptive. She got a lot of easy baskets tonight. We usually don't have a team press us like that, but that's what they live by."

Hill said she was disappointed with Nebraska's defensive play.

"We were tired and didn't hustle until the second half and it was too late," she said.

Nebraska kept pace with Oklahoma in the opening moments as freshman center Angie Miller scored six of her team-leading 20 points.

The Sooners outscored Nebraska 16-6 during a six-minute stretch. Seven Sooners scored in that time.

Oklahoma opened a 35-20 lead on an 18-footer by Toni Eldridge with 8:38 left in the first half. The Huskers, led by Debra Powell, came back.

Powell scored all of her first-half points during the last eight minutes, including a 20-footer with eight seconds remaining. The basket at Oklahoma's lead to 47-40.

"Debra tries too hard sometimes," Hill said. "She's trying to pick up the scoring slack left by the loss of Crystal (Coleman) and Jacquie (Shackelford)."

Hill warned that the Huskers were only halfway through the Big Eight.

"We finally get some games at home," she said. "I think that will be to our advantage."

Six Huskers scored in double figures. Cathy Owen, Stacie Imming, Kelli Benson and Terri Parriott all had 10 points.

"Parriott finished 5 of 9 after hitting only 40 percent of her shots in the preceding six conference games.

"Terri came out of her shooting slump," Hill said. "I was glad to see that."



Craig Andrepun/Daily Nebraskan

Kelli Benson is surrounded by Oklahoma's Shirley Fisher (10) and Lynn McCurdy (21)

Husker qualifies to compete in national tournament

By Kevin McCoy

For the first time ever, a Nebraska women's tennis player has qualified to play in a national tournament.

Junior Jamie Pisarcik will play in the inaugural Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches' Association National Tournament beginning today at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Pisarcik qualified for the tourney by placing second in the ITCA central region tournament Dec. 2 and 3 in Oklahoma City. She was the only Big Eight player to qualify in women's singles.

Fourteen players qualified by finishing first or second in the seven regions, while 18 more received at-large berths in the 32-team, double elimination field.

Women's Coach Kathy Hawkins

said, "As far as I know Jamie is the first Husker to individually qualify for any national tournament."

"She should get two really good matches. That should help her a lot. She's been playing with a lot of confidence," Hawkins said.

Pisarcik doesn't currently rank in the ITCA's Top 50, but Coach Hawkins felt a win would give her an excellent chance of breaking into the rankings.

The strong points of Pisarcik's game, according to Hawkins, are her sharp ground strokes and ability to move opponents around with her placement.

"It really doesn't surprise me that she qualified," said Coach Hawkins. "She had a great tournament. I thought she was one of the best players out there."

UNL men's tennis coach envisions team in dogfight for second in conference

By Kevin McCoy

The Nebraska men's tennis team will try to improve on last season's 14-6 record and third-place Big Eight finish as it begins its season this weekend at the Aggie Invitational at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces.

New Mexico, Ft. Lewis Jr. College, New Mexico Military Institute, Texas at San Antonio and the host New Mexico State Aggies will also compete.

"We've never played any of these teams before, but I think we should do pretty well in the tournament," Coach Kerry McDermott said. "I don't really know how good New Mexico is, but we should go 2-1 or possibly 3-0."

McDermott cited the difficulty of finding good teams to schedule.

"We're trying to get out on the road a little earlier so we will be better prepared for the Big Eight," he said. "I think our schedule should have a bit more variety this season."

Junior Craig Johnson leads the Huskers. He is in his third year playing No. 1 singles. Coach McDermott said Johnson realizes he doesn't need to put as much pressure on himself.

The No. 2 singles position will be held by returning senior Ashwin Vasana. The India native spent this winter on India's Satellite Circuit,

qualifying for two tournaments.

Brian Edwards, Ridge Smidt, and Jim Carson are vying for the third through fifth singles spots with Tony Sloboth and freshmen recruits Jim Burton and John Rhodes competing for the final singles spot. Burton was Nebraska's Class A state champion as a senior at Lincoln Southeast High School last year while Rhodes was a state champ in Nevada.

Nebraska's top doubles team of Carson-Johnson also returns, with Vasana-Edwards and Sloboth-Smidt holding down the other doubles spots.

McDermott said the Huskers should have an excellent chance of a high finish in the Big Eight Conference. He said Oklahoma State is the team to beat, with Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas in a dogfight for second place.

"Oklahoma State is loaded," McDermott said. "Five of their top six players are foreigners and their top two players both qualified for the national tournament this weekend. They also have two new transfers this semester who should push those two for the top spots," he said.

Nebraska compiled a 2-1 record and a second-place finish out of seven teams in the Kansas Invitational during the fall season. Since Christmas, the team has been practicing at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Rec Shorts

Intramural Co-Rec volleyball playoffs began Wednesday at Mabel Lee Hall.

The Class A championship will be Thursday, Feb. 17, at 7:20 p.m. The Class B championship will be the same night at 6:30 p.m. All games in both tournaments are in 313 Mabel Lee.

Campus Recreation is sponsoring four trips during spring break. A cross-country ski trip to Crooked Creek Ranch, Colo., a canoeing vacation on the Rio Grande River and backpacking in the Grand Canyon cost \$200 each. Exploring and skin diving in Mayan Mexico will cost \$500. Contact Campus Recreation for more information.

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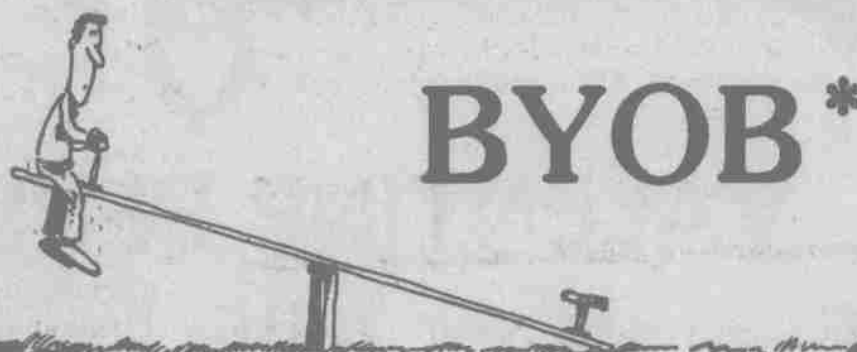
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