

Husker thieves...

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After Kansas tied the game in the fourth on a single, a double and a sacrifice fly, by Todd Schweigart, Nebraska regained the lead in the fifth inning.

Rich King walked, then scored on Mark Davis' double that a diving Schweigart failed to field.

Nebraska executed a double steal perfectly in the seventh inning, King outracing Kroeker's pitch to the plate.

Jeff Koenigsman went the distance to pick up his third victory, allowing five hits while striking out seven.

In Sunday's second game, Nebraska broke a 1-1 tie with two fifth-inning runs set up by four walks and a single.

Bill McGuire walked, and King reached base on a bunt that eluded the pitcher and first baseman.

After a fielders' choice, Jeff Carter walked and Hooper drove in King on another fielder's choice.

Hooper stole his 62nd base before Meyers and Mike Duncan walked to force in the second run.

Chris Knust, after giving up a first-inning run on Hugh Stanfield's triple and Bill Yelton's single, scattered five hits before giving way to reliever McGuire in the sixth.

Saturday, Nebraska came from behind in the opener with four seventh-inning runs, all scoring after two men were out. Phil Harrison and McGuire then shutout Kansas on four hits in the nightcap.

Nebraska will prepare for next week's showdown at league-leading Oklahoma by playing double-headers with UNO in Omaha Tuesday and Missouri Western in Lincoln Wednesday.

Tennis team drops matches, but performance pleases coach

By Ward W. Triplett III

If how you play the game is really more important than whether you win or lose, the Nebraska women's tennis team can look back on the weekend's conference dual losses with a bit of pride.

Friday, Oklahoma State, 25-4 and nationally ranked, crushed the Huskers in one sense by a score of 8-1. But four matches went to three sets and the one victory was an upset over the conference's No. 1 doubles team.

Then Oklahoma defeated Nebraska 5-4 on Saturday to improve its season dual record to 17-5. But last season, the Huskers lost 9-0 and all four victories were in singles. It was enough to lead Nebraska Coach Kathy Hawkins to believe the team is ready to give the conference powers a run at the Big Eight tournament in Kansas City April 28.

"We knew that if we played well, we could beat Oklahoma and play Oklahoma State close," Hawkins said. "After losing those three doubles to Oklahoma, I was very happy to see us come back in the singles. The scores there in the doubles indicated that on any given day, we could beat them."

In Friday's match against Oklahoma State, the Huskers also lost the first two doubles matches against the Cowgirls No. 2 and No. 3 teams.

But Liz Mooney and Jamie Pisarcik upset Robyn Lamb and Mary Boudreau at No. 1, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3, in a match that took two and a half hours to complete.

"We played well today," said Pisarcik, a junior from Pittsburgh, Pa. "We isolated on one of their players (Lamb) who was having an off day, and just took it one point at a time."

Mooney called it the biggest win of the season for the duo, now 6-5.

"They (OSU) usually clear every meet, and I think they won Big Eights last year at No. 1. We were really concentrating and we weren't letting ourselves get down," she said.

Hawkins wasn't the only one to notice an increased intensity on Nebraska's part. Oklahoma State Coach Ike Groce also said Nebraska looked like they were playing "out of their heads."

"Nebraska played as well as I've ever seen them play," Groce said.

"But everybody does that for us. It gets a little frustrating sometimes when everybody in the conference gets psyched up for us and nobody else."

Groce also got a second chance to see his daughter, Cari, the No. 5 singles and half of the No. 2 doubles team for Nebraska, play against his team.

"She almost beat us in doubles a while ago," Groce said, as Cari, after losing the first set to Stacy Swanson 6-0, won the first game of the second set.

"Playing against her is always tough, my wife told me she wanted us to lose No. 2 doubles and No. 5 singles, but win everything else. Me, I've still got mixed feelings."

Swanson, a junior from Grand Island, outlasted Groce 6-4 in the second set.

Against Oklahoma, the doubles teams failed to come through. Pisarcik and Mooney lost to Allison Ingram and Wendy Mikkelson 7-5, 2-6, 6-3, while Groce and Jill Pisarcik lost to Jasna Stefanovic and Tracy Wells 2-6, 7-5 and 6-4. The OU No. 3 team of Diane and Michael Fernandez had little trouble with Nebraska's Lisa Brooks and Jean Halahan, winning 6-1, 7-6.

But Pisarcik surprised Ingram, the top seen in the region at No. 1, with a 6-2, 6-3 decision. Mooney defeated Wells 6-2, 6-1, Groce beat Walters 6-4, 6-2 and Brooks defeated Fernandez 7-5, 4-6, 6-2. Jill Pisarcik lost a close match to Mikkelson at No. 3, 6-4 and 6-3, while Halahan took Stefanovic to three sets at No. 4 before bowing 6-2, 4-6, 7-6.

"We're still looking at the Big Eight tournament, and those four points will help us there," Hawkins said. "Depending on next weekend's play, we should be right behind Oklahoma going into the tournament."

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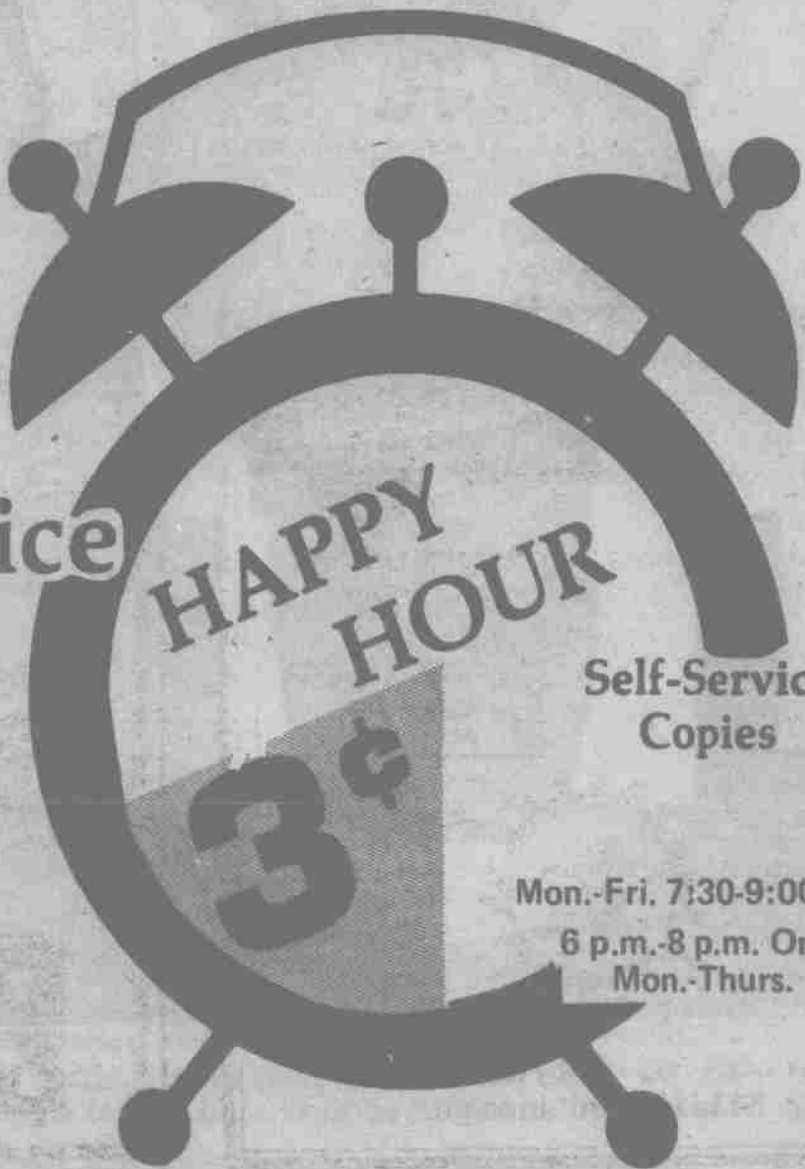
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