

Sports

Kansas rallies to defeat Huskers

By Bob Asmussen
Senior Editor

Unfortunately for the Nebraska basketball team, Wednesday night's first half was the calm before the storm.

The storm came in the form of No. 8 ranked Kansas. A team that might have proved in Wednesday's first half that it can be vulnerable, but rallied in the second half for an 81-70 win.

Nebraska played a solid first half in building a 37-32 lead.

The biggest play of the half for Nebraska came with 1:03 left, when Kansas coach Larry Brown was called for a technical foul. Brown was protesting a foul called on 7-foot center Greg Dreiling, his third foul of the game.

Nebraska center Dave Hoppen sank the foul shots and Brian Carr hit both technical foul shots. Hoppen's dunk with :20 left in the half made it a six-point Nebraska possession.

But taking a five-point lead on the Jayhawks at halftime might be similar to getting into a war with Rambo, you usually end up only making them mad.

Harvey Marshall hit a basket with 18:57 left in the game to give Nebraska a 39-32 lead. On Kansas' next trip down the floor, Danny Manning hit an 18-foot shot and was fouled. He converted the free throw and Kansas trailed 39-35.

Dreiling followed Manning's three-point play with a dunk shot and the Jayhawks trailed 39-37. Nebraska got a 41-37 lead on a tip-in by Hoppen.

The turning point of the game may have been at 16:05 when Kansas' Cedric Hunter converted the first of back-to-back steals and layups. The second layup gave Kansas a 43-41 lead, its first lead since the 1:46 mark of the first half.

"In the first half, we had been careless and gave some turnovers, but they didn't lead to buckets," Nebraska coach Moe Iba said. "They did lead to buckets in the second half."

Iba said Kansas did a much better job defensively in the second half. Nebraska shot 59 percent from the field in the first half, but hit only 50 percent of its shots in the second half.

"I think they came out and covered people they wanted to cover a little tougher in the second half," Iba said.

After Hunter's basket gave the Jayhawks a 43-41 lead, Kansas scored the next four points to go up 47-41. The two

teams traded baskets until Chris Logan and Bernard Day hit consecutive buckets to pull Nebraska closer. Day was fouled on his basket and his free throw pulled the game to within 51-49.

With the momentum seemingly headed in Nebraska's favor, old nemesis Ron Kellogg came through again for Kansas. Kellogg, who scored a Sports Center record 39 points in last season's game, converted a three-point play with 11:38 left to put Kansas back up by five points, 56-51.

The team's traded baskets for the next eight minutes, with Nebraska never getting closer than three and Kansas never leading by more than eight. Kansas scored five consecutive points late in the game to go up 76-64, the Jayhawks biggest lead of the night.

Iba said the key to the Kansas victory was the way the Jayhawks executed, and the fact that Nebraska failed to execute, in the first five minutes of the second half.

Kansas		81
Player	points	
Manning	21	
Kellogg	14	
Dreiling	16	
Hunter	14	
Thompson	9	
Marshall	7	

Nebraska		70
Player	points	
Day	8	
Hoppen	25	
Marshall	10	
Carr	13	
Bailous	2	
Logan	12	

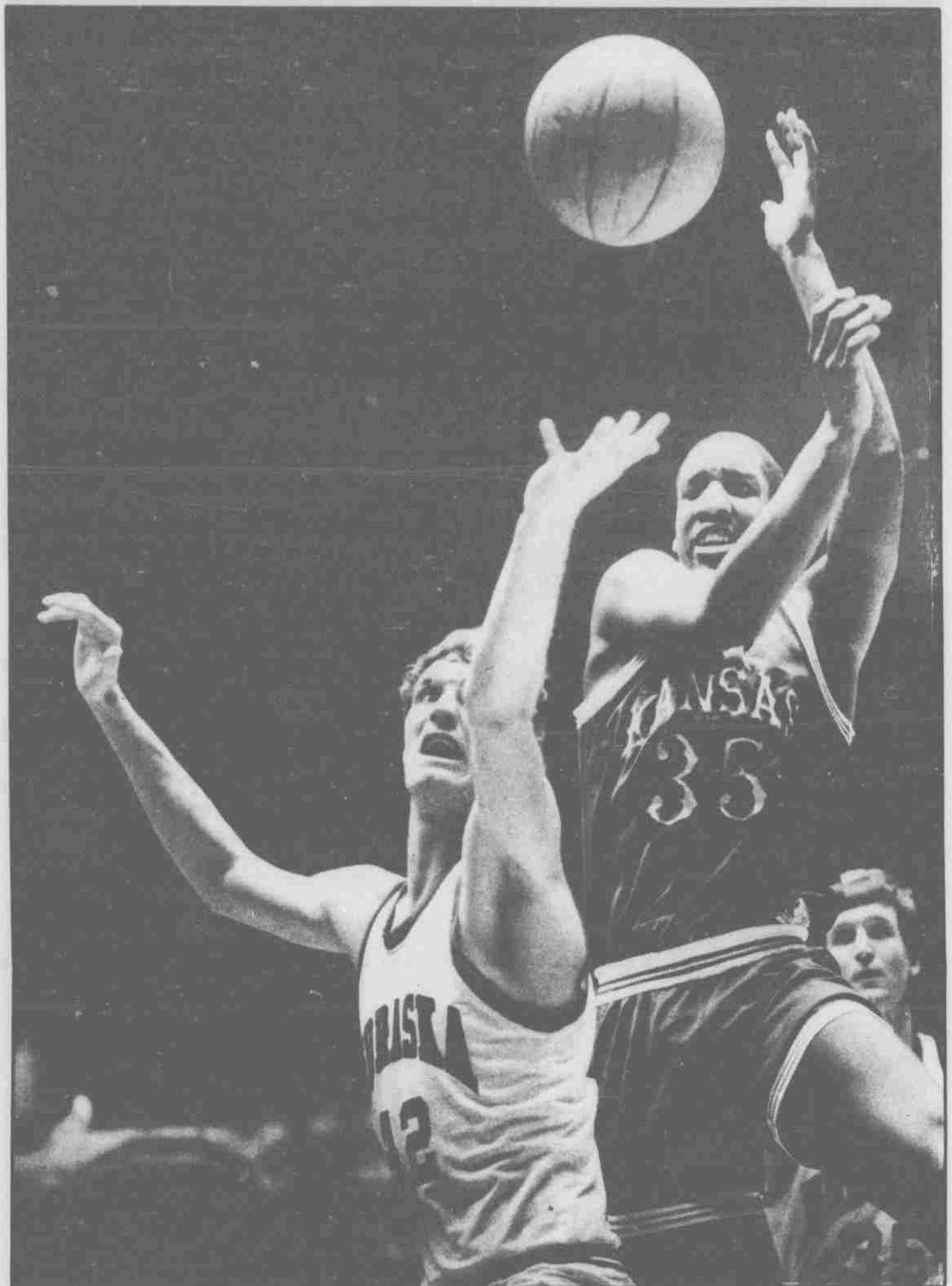
"I think Kansas came out and played a little harder in the second half than we did," Iba said. "In the second half, we stood around pretty bad five minutes and let them back in. They out-hustled us."

Kansas' shooting percentage in the second half was 74 percent and the Jayhawks shot 64 percent for the game. Manning hit 10 of 14 shots on his way to 21 points.

"Manning hurt us very badly in the ballgame," Iba said.

Dreiling scored 16 points for Kansas, Hunter and Kellogg scored 14 points each. Dreiling led the Jayhawks with

Please see **GAME** on 15



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Calvin Thompson grabs a rebound over Dave Hoppen in the second half. Kansas recovered from a five point second half deficit to beat the Huskers 81-70.

Jayhawk guard steals the show in homecoming

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Cedric Hunter enjoyed his homecoming Wednesday night in more ways than one.

The 6-0 junior from Omaha scored a season-high 13 points as he and his Kansas teammates defeated Nebraska 81-70 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center before a crowd of 14,273.

The Omaha South High School graduate said the game didn't mean any more to him just because it was against the Cornhuskers.

"I just took it as any other game," Hunter said. "I was really glad I got a chance to play in front of my family and some of my friends that I haven't seen in awhile. Other than that, it was just another game."

As a senior at Omaha South, Hunter had narrowed his choices of where he was going to play college basketball to Nebraska and Kansas. He said that he doesn't regret his decision to become a Jayhawk.

"I looked at (Nebraska) and they looked at me," Hunter said, "but it just didn't work out. I went and visited

Kansas and I liked what I saw and I decided to go there."

Kansas coach Larry Brown said he was pleased with Hunter's performance.

"Cedric is certainly in a class with Carr," Brown said. "He's our best defender and he's gotten so much better offensively."

Hunter said he didn't think this was his best game of the year, despite his season best of 14 points.

"I turned the ball over a couple too many times," he said. "I wasn't really that aggressive, either. I think if I'd have been more aggressive we wouldn't

have been down as much as we were (in the first half).

"We knew we had to put some pressure on (Nebraska) to make them start committing some turnovers so we could get back into the game," Hunter said of the second half. "We just put a lot of defensive pressure on them and they started turning it over."

"I've been talking about him long before I came back up here," Brown said of Hunter. "I'm not just talking about him to rub it in (the fact that he went to Kansas). I'm just thankful we got him. I can't say enough about him."

Gymnastic coach wary of Oklahoma, Iowa

By Kristi Reetz Staff Reporter

Francis Allen, Nebraska men's gymnastics coach, said he thinks his team is in for a tough time when they travel to Norman to face the Oklahoma Sooners and Iowa State Cyclones Saturday. "Oklahoma is the darkhorse to finish in the top three of the NCAA at the end of the season," Allen said. "They will be tough to beat on their home floor."

Nebraska goes into the meet having won and lost to both Oklahoma and Iowa State this season. The Huskers finished ahead of the teams at the Big Eight Invitational, but lost to them at the Windy City Invitational.

A big boost for the Huskers will be the return of all-arounder Kevin Davis. Davis, a sophomore from Lithonia, Ga., dislocated his ankle in September and

competed in only four of six events at the last meet.

"Davis' return means that we'll have six scores to consider instead of five," Allen said. "With him back we have a buffer for the others. They can compete better and not be as tense about doing well."

The gymnasts had Christmas off to recuperate from a long year of competition.

"Some of these guys have been competing all year long, including in the summer," Allen said. "They can lose their intensity when they have to perform constantly, so they deserved a break."

The 1985 NCAA all-around champion, Wes Suter, said he thinks the semester break helped him a lot.

"I think I'll do better in this meet than in the past because I had some

really good workouts over break since I didn't have any classes to worry about," Suter said.

Suter is up for the 1986 Nissan Award, which is awarded to the top senior collegiate gymnast in the country. Suter says he's not thinking of any individual awards now, but concentrating on a team championship at the NCAA meet in April.

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team is also in action this Saturday. It will meet Oklahoma State in Stillwater.

Women's coach Rick Walton said he is optimistic about the meet.

"We expect to win it," Walton said. "It's our conference opener and our first real NCAA meet. We hope to kick off the season with a win so we can establish ourselves as NCAA contenders."

The Huskers got a confidence boost

in December when they defeated Japan in an exhibition meet. Freshman all-arounder Crystal Savage of Sioux Falls, S.D., said she enjoyed the meet.

"I think it helped us a lot," Savage said. "It showed us where we are as a team and how we compare with everyone else."

The Huskers had Dec. 20 through 29 off for Christmas, then started practicing twice a day for 10 days before settling into the regular practice schedule.

Walton said he thinks his team is ready for the opening meet.

"I was actually a little surprised about the exhibition meet because even though it was a long meet, everyone performed with consistency," Walton said.

Walton said the injury situation is looking better. Freshman Mary Ocel

from Apple Valley, Minn., is coming off of a shoulder injury and will compete in two or three events. Janet Holling, a sophomore from Elkhorn, will perform on the uneven parallel bars after having knee surgery before Christmas vacation. The knee is still not completely healed, though.

"My knee is still giving me problems," Holling said. "I just started doing my routines this week, and that doesn't give me much time to prepare. It just needs a little more time to heal."

Freshman Jeaneane Smith, an all-arounder from Loves Park, Ill., said she thinks the Huskers have a good chance at winning the meet.

"If everyone performs as they're capable, we can definitely win it," Smith said. "A win would give us great momentum going into the heavy part of our schedule."