

Sports

Kansas State crushes Huskers, 64-54

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Kansas State basketball Coach Jack Hartman received a standing ovation before the game with Nebraska Wednesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center as he was presented with a gift for his retirement by the Nebraska Rebounders' Club.

Most of the 9,376 fans didn't think as highly of Hartman and the Wildcats for the rest of the night, however, as Kansas State defeated Nebraska 64-54.

Nebraska was without center Dave Hoppen for the first time in 3½ seasons. Nebraska coach Moe Iba said Hoppen's absence is Nebraska's main problem now.

"We've got problems right now," Iba said, "but we'll try to work them out. We'll have to work hard and see if we can get it together."

Iba said Nebraska's problem against Kansas State was a combination of the Huskers' inability to play as a team and that "Kansas State is a good ball team."

"We had excellent effort in practice for two days, but when things didn't go right tonight, we just panicked," Iba said. "We've got to get our intensity up. We weren't getting offensive or defensive rebounds tonight."

Nebraska 54

Day	17
Marshall	13
Carr	8
Logan	6
Matzke	6
Jackman	2
Neubert	2
Bailous	0
Brown	0
Martz	0
Sealer	0

Kansas State 64

Coleman	26
Wright	21
Mitchell	9
Green	6
Muff	2
Dobbins	0
Meyer	0
Smith	0
Walker	0

Nebraska's first offensive rebound came with 8:10 remaining in the first half. The Huskers led 10-7 with 14:12 left in the first half but lost the lead for good two minutes later after Kansas State forward Ben Mitchell scored on an alley-oop from Ron Meyer and then sank a free throw after a foul. The Wildcats led at halftime 30-23.

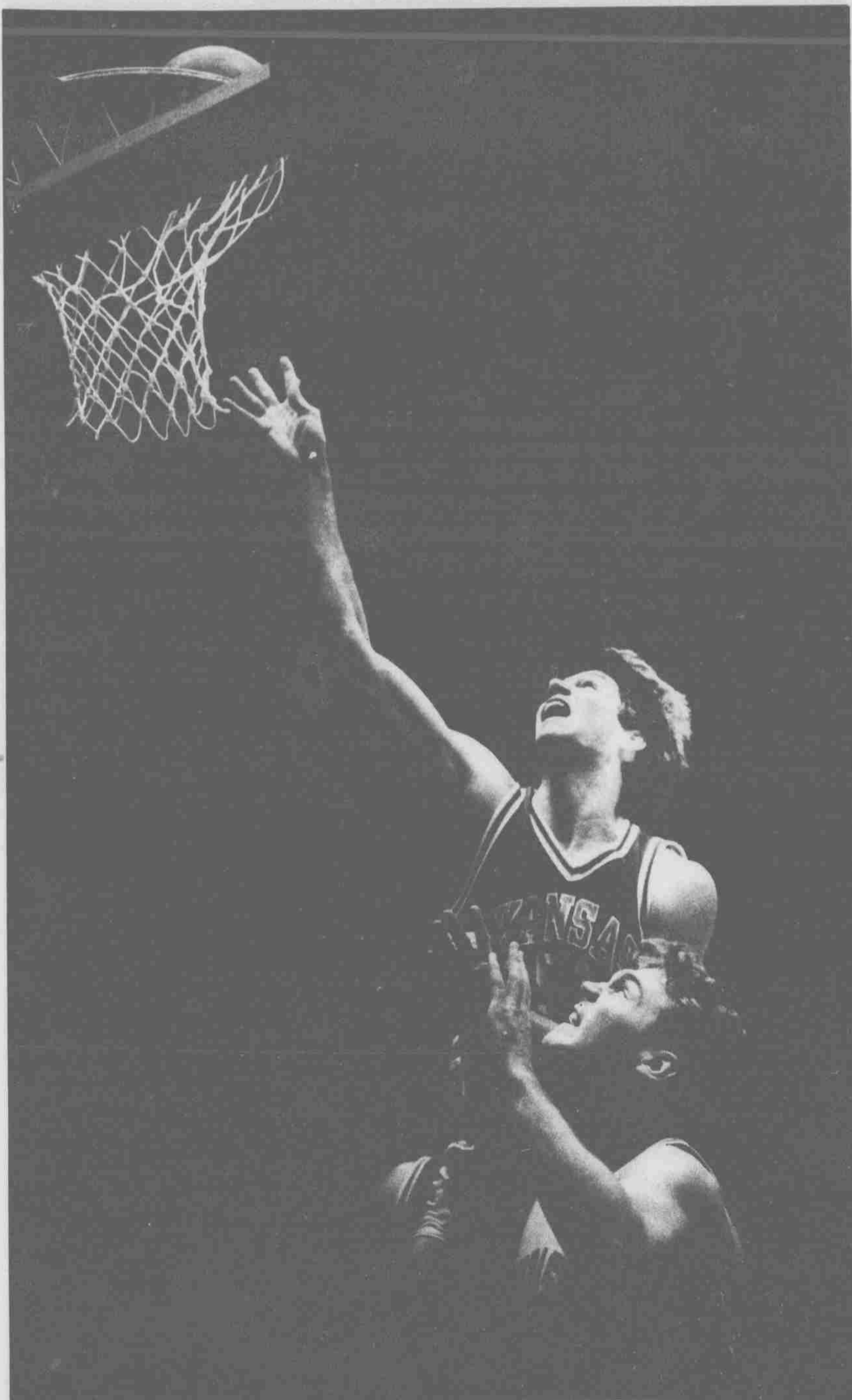
Kansas State's largest lead of the game came with 6:06 remaining in the game when forward Norris Coleman scored on a follow-up shot.

But Nebraska narrowed the margin during the last three minutes of the game as the crowd began filing toward the exits. After guard Harvey Marshall connected on a jumper from the right wing with 39 seconds left, the Wildcats' lead was cut to 63-52. Forward Bernard Day fouled out with 10 seconds remaining, and the ensuing free throws by guard Lynn Smith and another free throw by guard Joe Wright accounted for the final score.

Nebraska connected on only 22 of 64 shots from the field for a percentage of 34.4, their lowest performance of the season. Day led Husker scorers with 17 points, while guard Harvey Marshall added 13. Coleman led the Wildcats with 26 points and Wright scored 21.

The loss drops Nebraska to 3-4 in the Big Eight and 13-7 overall this season.

"You win by the jumper and you die by the jumper," Husker guard Brian Carr said. "We kinda got axed tonight. It's a real change not having Dave (Hoppen) in there. It's like starting the whole season over again. It's going to take us awhile, but we're going to keep our heads up and just do the best we can. It's the only thing to do right now."



Kevin Muff takes in the ball over Keith Neubert in first half action in Wednesday's conference loss to Kansas State, 64-54.

Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Huskers miss Hoppen, KSU coach says

By Bob Asmussen
Senior Editor

Yep, they missed him. But Kansas State sure didn't.

Nebraska played its first game in more than three years without center Dave Hoppen. Kansas State Coach Jack Hartman said Nebraska was a much different team without the 6-11 All-American candidate. Hoppen injured his knee Saturday against Colorado and is out for the season.

"They (Nebraska) miss him tremendously," Hartman said. "He's always a tremendous threat anywhere on the floor."

Hartman said that he was concerned before the game that the absence of Hoppen would fire up the Nebraska players. Hartman said he was surprised by the 64-54 margin.

"I thought the other kids were going to play a

lot harder to make up for Hoppen not being there," Hartman said.

Because the Nebraska offense has been centered around Hoppen, Hartman said he didn't know how Nebraska would attack his team.

"I didn't know what they were going to do," Hartman said.

Kansas State played 40 minutes of zone defense for the first time this season. Hartman said he thought his team's defense made Nebraska pass the ball more than it wanted to.

"Nebraska's known for their patience, but I think our defense was making them go beyond patience," Hartman said.

Before the game, Hartman received a gift from the Nebraska athletic department and also a standing ovation from 9,679 fans. Hartman announced last week that this would be his final season as Wildcat coach.

"It made me feel very, very good," Hartman

said of the ovation and gift. "Nebraska fans have always been great to me and my team. It was a real nice gesture."

Kansas State's Norris Coleman finished the game with 26 points. Coleman had not played well in the Wildcats last two games, losses to Oklahoma State and Kansas.

"I basically fault myself for the last two losses," Coleman said. "I had terrible games. I hope it (the cold streak) is over with. We'll see Saturday."

Coleman said Nebraska had problems matching up with the Wildcat's height.

"The zone defense seemed to bother them a lot," Coleman said. "I think they anticipated that we'd be playing man (man-to-man defense). That was a good game plan."

Hartman said he was glad to see Coleman have a good game.

"He got it back on track," Hartman said. "I

think Norris was feeling the effects of the last two games."

Kansas State senior guard Joe Wright finished the game with 21 points. Three of Wright's baskets came on layups off of Ron Meyer passes. Meyer, the Wildcats starting center, finished the game with a team-leading six assists.

"Those (baskets) came from reading the defense and Ron getting me the ball," Wright said. "That's just good offense. They expected me to go out and take the shot, so I just went back underneath."

Wright said he didn't think the Wildcats would win the game by 10 points if Hoppen had played.

"It was a big difference," Wright said. "You can tell they need him. It's a big loss for them. It would be like if we lost Norris."

"It would have been a rough game (with Hoppen playing), I wouldn't have got those shots underneath."