

Sports

Jayhawks bounce NU

By Chuck Green
Sports Editor

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Nebraska's 86-65 loss to Kansas Thursday night at the Allen Fieldhouse was both a new and old experience for the Cornhuskers.

The loss marked the first time the Nebraska men's basketball team had lost back-to-back games this season. Nebraska dropped a 91-75 loss to Iowa State on Tuesday.

But, unfortunately for the Huskers, losing to Kansas is nothing new. Nebraska has now lost its last eight games to Kansas.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was impressed by the Jayhawks.

"As far as the teams we've played," he said, "they're the best. The game could have been a lot worse if we had laid down."

Nebraska opened the scoring on a jump shot by Derrick Vick, but Kansas answered with a 13-0 spurt in the next 4 1/2 minutes. A layup by Vick cut the Jayhawks' advantage to 11, 15-4 with

15:00 left.

Kansas responded with a three-point jump shot by Kevin Pritchard.

Nebraska cut the Jayhawks' lead to 7, 18-11, on a Richard Van Poelgeest free throw, but that was as close as Nebraska came the rest of the night as Kansas led by at least 10 through the last 30 minutes of the game.

"The game went in spurts," Nee said. "Anytime you let Kansas start running with the ball, they get seven or eight points. We'd stop them, but then they'd get seven or eight more."

Kansas shot 50 percent from the field, including 57 percent in the second half. The Jayhawks outscored Nebraska 44-37 in the second half.

Nebraska shot only 40 percent from the field.

Henry Buchanan and Vick led Nebraska with 12 points each. Danny Manning of Kansas led all scorers with 22 points.

Former Omaha South standout Cedric Hunter had 14 points.

Gymnasts traveling into lair of the Lions

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's women's gymnastics team will have its hands full tonight when it competes in a triangular meet against No. 6 ranked Penn State and No. 10 ranked Ohio State in University Park, Pa.

Nebraska, 0-1, last weekend scored 181.90 in its loss to Arizona behind the strong performances of sophomores Jeaneane Smith and Crystal Savage. Smith won the all-around title against the Wildcats with 37.05 points; Savage finished third with an all-around score of 36.80.

Coach Rick Walton said he remembers the last time the Huskers competed at Penn State. The Cornhuskers, in front of 4,000 hostile Penn State fans, defeated the Nittany Lions 178.35 to 176.30. Last year the Huskers defeated Penn State in Lincoln 182.05 to 178.70.

"The thing I remember most about the 1985 meet was as it got later in the meet the pressure kept building, but our people performed," Walton said.

"This year's team is the best I've ever had, and I think our girls can do the same thing if they perform."

The Huskers will be the second-ranked team in the meet behind Ohio State, which last week defeated No. 3 Georgia by scoring 184. The Buckeyes are 3-0 and have scored more than 180 in every meet this season, Walton said.

Walton said both teams are very strong and if the Huskers are to pull an upset they will have to stay on their events and not let the Penn State crowd affect them.

He said last week against Arizona the Huskers had 13 falls but still managed to score above 180. If the Huskers can cut the number of falls in half they should score about 184, Walton said.

"Both Penn State and Ohio State have good teams, but I think we have a good team also," Walton said.

The event Walton said he was most pleased with was the uneven bars. The Huskers took the first two places; scored a 9.55 and Savage and Racine Smith scored 9.5 and 9.2 respectively.

If the first three Husker gymnasts would have stayed on the uneven bars, the meet would have been closer, Walton said.

Walton said Ohio State has a lot of depth. The Buckeyes have several people who can score 36 or higher in the all-around, he said.

Against Georgia, two Ohio State gymnasts scored more than 37 in the all-around. Sophomore Julie Somers scored a 37.3 and Monica Stavros scored a 37.0. Senior Mary Olson, the Buckeyes' top gymnast last year, also has scored above a 37 in the all-around, Walton said.

Walton said as the season progresses his team will earn the respect of the

major contenders for the NCAA title because the Huskers will compete in 14 meets in the next 16 weeks.

In the early part of the season, Walton said, he will look to his upperclassmen for leadership to help the freshmen get through the tough meets.

He said he thinks freshman Angie Burdette will improve this weekend because she has the experience of competing in a college meet behind her.

"Angie, I think, was a little nervous last week and should be able to come through in her best events, which are balance beam and uneven bars," Walton said.

Burdette scored 35.0 in the all-around and 9.3 on vault against Arizona. In the uneven bars she fell, which dropped her score to 8.9.

Walton said the next few weeks will be tough because the Huskers will compete in three meets in two weeks. One of those meets will be against No. 1 Utah at Salt Lake City. Walton said the tough schedule will give the Huskers the experience needed to make it to the NCAA finals on April 24 and 25 in Salt Lake City.

Swimmers face road challenges

By Jeff Apel
and Mark Derowitsch
Staff Reporters

Two teams representing a rarity in collegiate swimming will compete when the Nebraska women's swimming team faces Minnesota in a dual meet today in Minneapolis.

Minnesota's Jean Freeman said one of the biggest challenges she faces as coach of the No. 18-ranked Golden Gophers is the assumption that swimming programs in the Midwest can't compete on a national level.

Despite consistently being ranked in the top 20 for the last two seasons and earning a 4-1 record this year, Freeman said, Minnesota and all Midwest schools are considered to be underdogs.

"We're very proud of the fact that we have been able to build the program we have here," Freeman said. "It's not very common for a school to do that, so we feel very fortunate."

Freeman said Minnesota's meet against the 7-2 Cornhuskers is always important, not only because of the school's geographic location, but also because of the rivalries they have staged.

Nebraska stopped the Golden Gophers' three-year winning streak when the Huskers defeated Minnesota in dual-meet action last year.

"I think we are pretty well-matched," Freeman said. "When I think over the Nebraska-Minnesota

battles of the past, I realize we have two good teams competing against one another."

Freeman said backstroke is Minnesota's strength. Minnesota is led by Sue Roell, an All-American who can compete in several events.

Nebraska assistant women's swimming coach Mike Hayhurst said the Cornhuskers will have to contain Roell and overcome several injuries and sickness to win their fourth consecutive dual meet.

Hayhurst said Lisa Ramus, a distance swimmer from Chula Vista, Calif., and Pam Ely, a junior from McCook, will not compete when the Cornhuskers face either Minnesota or Iowa State on Saturday.

Nebraska's men's swimming team will also take to the road this weekend, facing nationally ranked Iowa and Big Eight Conference rival Iowa State.

Nebraska men's swimming coach Cal Bentz said he is looking forward to facing the Hawkeyes, who enter the meet with a perfect 9-0, dual-meet record and a No. 8 national ranking on the line.

"Iowa is the highest-ranked team that we will have swum against this year," Bentz said.

Iowa coach Glenn Patton said he is looking forward to facing the Huskers, who have a 5-0 dual-meet record.

"We think it will be a tremendous meet. Cal Bentz always has his team

fired up and ready to swim against us," Patton said. "We will have difficulty matching their times in the breaststroke and diving. We're going to have our hands full."

Following their dual against the Hawkeyes, the Huskers will face the Cyclones in Ames, Iowa.

Bentz said that although the Cornhuskers are facing the nationally ranked Hawkeyes first, he is not looking for a letdown by his team against the Cyclones.

"A competitor has got to be ready when the opportunity arises," Bentz said. "We can't afford to put all our eggs in one basket. It will be a great challenge to swim against Iowa State. We have to be prepared. They are not going to let us off the hook."

With three-time All-American Scott McCadam graduated, the Cyclones are now led by freestyler Eric Hansen and diver Jeff Symons.

Hansen qualified for the NCAA championships in the 400-meter freestyle last year, and Symons was a two-time All-American diver at Arkansas before he transferred to Iowa State.

Bentz said the Huskers will not be concerned with achieving NCAA qualifying times in either meet.

"With the NCAA times the way they are, you can only achieve them by making extra-special preparations," Bentz said. "In order to keep with our schedule, we are not looking for them now. We just want to swim as fast as we can."



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