

Sports

No time for Nebraska to relax during 73-66 Sunday-debut win

By Chuck Green
Sports Editor

Sunday is usually considered a day of rest, but Nebraska's 73-66 win over Oklahoma State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center was far from relaxing.

The Cornhuskers, who led 38-27 at halftime, had to hold off a Cowboy comeback in the game's final minutes to preserve the 73-66 win in the first Sunday game to be hosted by Nebraska.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was pleased with his team's victory.

"I'm just happy we got ourselves a win," Nee said. "Oklahoma State did a great job of coming back in the second half, but we hit some crucial free throws and did enough things right to win."

Nebraska was led by Bill Jackman, who scored 15 points, and Brian Carr, who had 12. Bernard Day and Keith Neubert added 11 points each for Nebraska. Ray Alford led Oklahoma State with 16 points.

Nebraska jumped to an early 8-2 lead in the game's first three minutes and extended its lead to 11, 20-9, on a 14-foot jump shot by Anthony Bailous with 11:34 remaining in the first half. Nebraska's biggest lead of the first half came with 3:31 remaining on a layup by

Bernard Day that gave the Huskers a 36-21 advantage.

Nee said he thought Nebraska played about 17 minutes of the best basketball they had all season during the first half, but "then we had a three-minute lapse where we could have put the game out of reach.

"We missed about five layups that could have put the game out of reach," he said. "If we'd made a couple of those missed dunks, we could have tore the house down but, hey, that's life."

Nebraska guard Brian Carr's eight first-half points made him the 12th Husker to surpass 1,000 career points. Carr's three steals in the game gave him a career total of 131, a new school record. Coming into the game, Carr shared the mark with the late Jack Moore, a former Husker guard.

Oklahoma State cut Nebraska's lead to two, 64-62, with 2:01 left in the game on a three-point jump shot by Todd Christian. Nebraska answered with a Bernard Day layup, which drew a foul. Day missed the free throw but Nebraska's Derrick Vick grabbed the rebound, giving the Huskers another chance.

After Day missed another shot from the line after a second foul, he got his own rebound and passed off to Jack-

man, who was fouled. Jackman then sank two free throws to seal the victory.

Oklahoma State coach Leonard Hamilton said he was impressed with the way his team was able to come back in the second half against Nebraska.

"Our players did fight back, but that's what they're supposed to do," Hamilton said. "Nebraska played like they wanted to win more. A team that can come out and play like that deserves to win."

"I have to compliment Coach Nee for getting his team ready to play. They deserved to win."

Nebraska shot 44 percent from the field during the first half and only 39 percent for the entire game. The Huskers shot 70 percent from the free-throw line during the game, though, connecting on 21 of 30 attempts. Nee said he thought Nebraska's free-throw shooting was the key to victory.

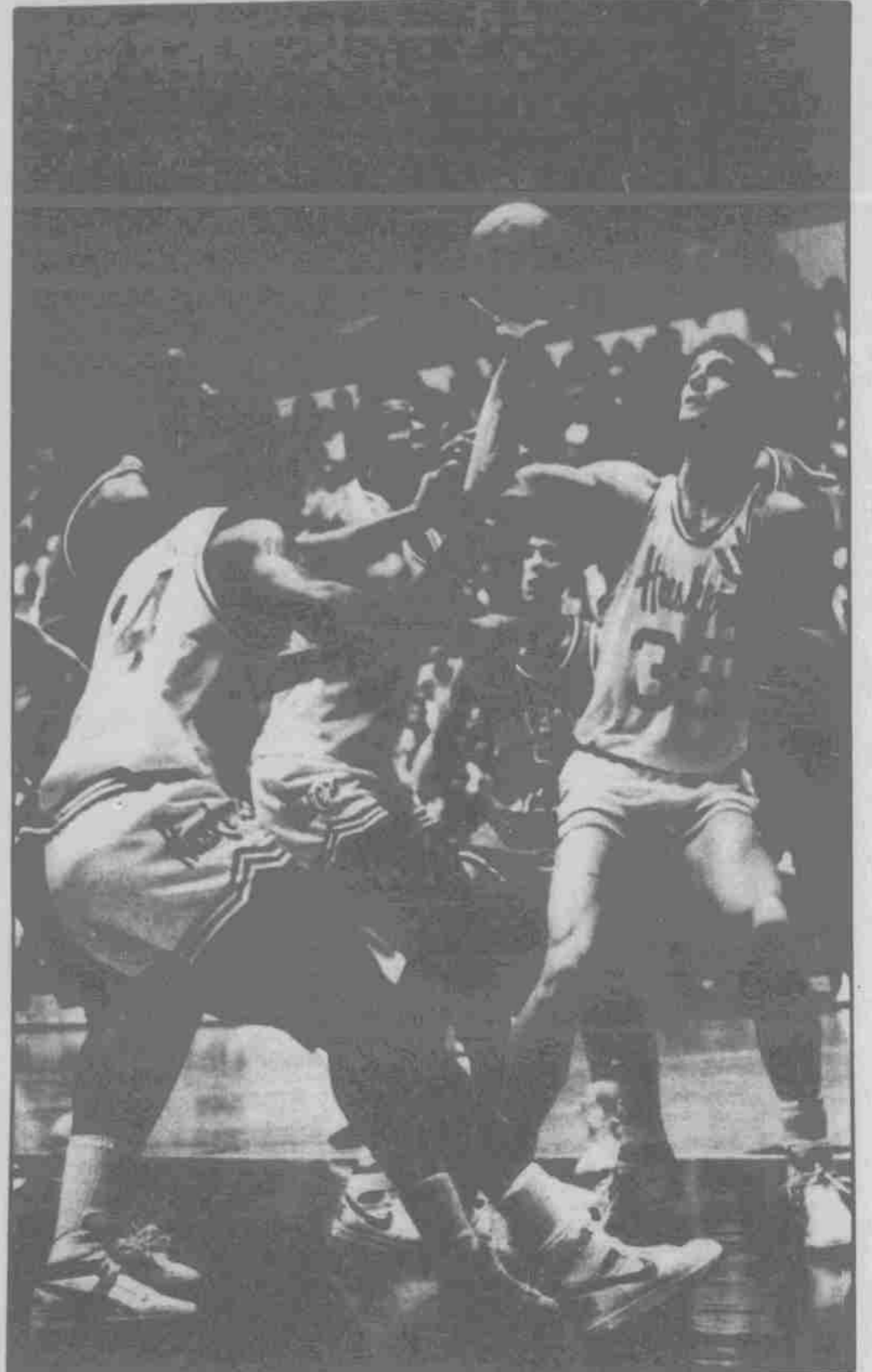
"We hit free throws down the stretch when we needed to," Nee said. "We've been talking about the free throws and were just trying to keep the players relaxed and comfortable and not make a big issue."

Nebraska shot only three of 17 from the free-throw line against Missouri Wednesday night.

Nebraska, now 2-4 in Big Eight Conference play, and 12-7 overall, will host Oklahoma Wednesday. Nee said that he isn't confident heading into the game.

"We're going to have to play a lot better than we did tonight and with a lot more consistency," Nee said. "If we had played for 40 minutes today like we did in the first 17 minutes, I'd feel a lot better."

The loss dropped Oklahoma State to 1-5 in the conference and 5-14 overall this season. The Cowboys will play Colorado Wednesday night in Stillwater.



Ward Williams/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Bill Jackman pulls down one of his 11 rebounds during the Huskers' 73-66 win over Oklahoma State Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Anthony Bailous (14) and Derrick Vick box out for Nebraska.

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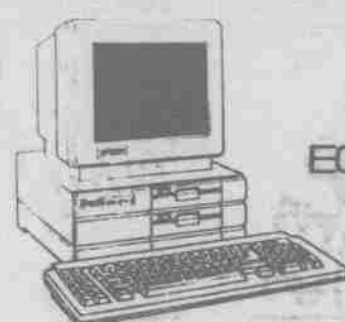
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