

Women's basketball team defeats Oklahoma State 67-66

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck was ready to kill after a loss to Colorado on Jan. 11, but a friend's advice spared the Cornhuskers' lives and helped them post a 67-66 victory over Oklahoma State Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"When we came back from Colorado we were really down and it was either I was going to kill them the next day or I didn't know what I was going to do," Beck said. "I called (Creighton coach) Tony Barone, a friend of mine, and described where I'm at, because he's been there.

"He gave me some real sound advice and said, 'You can't kill your kids today although you want to.' I just felt like we weren't getting the effort like we needed out of our players at Colorado."

But, Beck said, she was pleased with Nebraska's effort against Oklahoma State as the Huskers came back

from a 13-point deficit in the second half to post the victory. The win raised Nebraska's record to 10-5 overall and 1-1 in the Big Eight, while Oklahoma State fell to 8-6 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

Beck said she knew the victory was well earned because Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney came in the lockerroom afterward to offer his congratulations.

"Coach Devaney came in and said that was the greatest comeback he has seen in a long time," Beck said.

Nebraska's comeback was aided by sophomore Ann Halsne, who scored 15 of her 19 points in the second half.

Halsne said Nebraska was trying to open up its offense to exploit the talents of All-American senior Amy Stephens in the first half.

"I was pushing the ball a little too much. In the first half, I was a little too fired up," Halsne said. "I forced my shot the first half. I finally settled down and it felt really good.

"When we got down by 12 in the

second half, we knew right then we either had to come back or bury ourselves."

Nebraska also needed a Big Eight record from the free-throw line to dispose of Oklahoma State. The Huskers connected on all 15 of their attempts from the line, while the Cowgirls connected on 13 of 26.

Two of the Husker's most important free throws came when sophomore Kelly Hubert connected on a one-and-one opportunity with 19 seconds left to give Nebraska a 67-63 lead.

Oklahoma State coach Dick Halterman said he wasn't sure if the best team won the game.

"I feel really sorry for our kids," Halterman said. "I felt they played well enough to win the ballgame. You don't get very many opportunities to win one on the road and I really feel sorry for them."

Oklahoma State took a 23-9 lead on a basket by Jennifer Hepner, but Nebraska cut the lead to six on a basket by Kim Harris and two free

throws by Stephens.

Oklahoma State built its lead to 11, but Nebraska cut the lead to 38-32 at half and outscored the Cowgirls 35-28 in the second half.

Over winter break Nebraska participated in the Orange Bowl Classic,

where it defeated Boston University 68-60 prior to losing to Auburn 80-39 and 6th-ranked Iowa 84-67. The Huskers also defeated the University of Missouri at Kansas City 65-50, Creighton 74-57 and dropped a 77-54 decision to Colorado.

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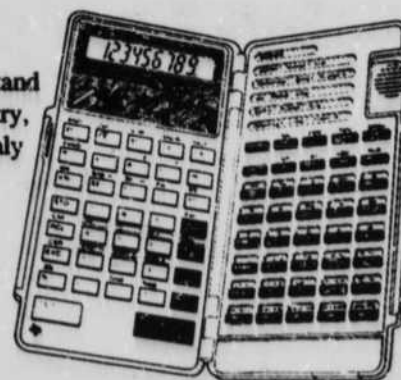
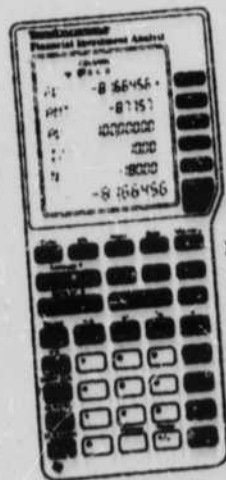
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