

# Nee says win was psychological boost

By Steve Sipple  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's 74-70 win against Kansas Saturday wasn't the most well-played game, but for Cornhusker coach Danny Nee it didn't have to be.

After losing five straight conference games, all Nee wanted was a victory -- in any way, shape or form. "We're just pleased to get the win over what we think is a quality basketball team," said Nee, whose Huskers ended a nine-game conference losing streak dating to last season. "It wasn't the prettiest thing in the world, but it was a good win for Nebraska because we needed it so badly."

Nebraska overcame 28 personal fouls and 26 turnovers to notch its first Big Eight win in front of 9,245 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The Huskers, now 13-9 overall, also came close to blowing a 16-point halftime lead.

For awhile it looked like Kansas might pull a comeback similar to the one Nebraska used last season in its 70-68 win against the eventual NCAA champions. The Huskers

crased a 16-point deficit in the final 12 minutes to win that game at the sports center.

On Saturday, Kansas, down 39-23 at half, tied the game 66-66 with 1:46 left on a jump-hook shot by Freeman West. But Nebraska got three free throws from Eric Johnson, a three-point play from Cliff Scales and two free throws by Ray Richardson the rest of the way to hold off the Jayhawks.

Kansas, 16-6 and 3-4, lost its third straight league game. The Jayhawks were also plagued by turnovers and fouls, committing 31 and 20, respectively.

Kansas, which entered the game hitting 54.1 percent of its field goals, hit just 22 of 52 -- 42.3 percent. Nebraska wasn't much better -- 23 of 52, or 44.2 percent.

The Jayhawks, who entered the game averaging 16 turnovers a game, had 14 at halftime.

But the only statistic that mattered to Nee was the added 'W' on the Huskers' season record. The last time Nebraska lost its first five league games was during the 1962-63 season, when the Huskers lost 10 consecutive.

"Psychologically, this gives us a really big lift," Nee said. "To the fans, all our supporters and to the kids and me. Psychologically, when you're 0-5 and everyone's talking about it... we just had to find a way to win."

Nebraska looked like it may win easily during the first half. In addition to the Jayhawks' turnover problems during the period, they also made only 7 of 22 field goals. Kansas forward Milt Newton, who entered the game scoring 17 points per game, was 0 for 5 from the field.

Kevin Pritchard was the only Jayhawk to score more than three first-half points, scoring 10.

Kansas managed a 17-14 lead with 10:45 left. But the Jayhawks were stuck at 17 for the next 5:48, enabling Nebraska to take a 26-17 lead before Sean Alvarado's free throws ended Kansas' dry spell.

Nebraska outscored Kansas 25-6 over the period's last 9:15.

"I wasn't shocked, I was pleased," Nee said of the first half. "Our goal was to try to win the first half and go from there."

The issue was far from decided. It took Johnson's and Richardson's



Allen Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Clifford Scales attempts to shoot over Kansas' Freeman West (left), then is called for charging as he runs into Mike Maddox.

clutch free throws and a key three-point play by Scales to knock off the Jayhawks.

Kansas had just forced a 67-67 tie at 1:17 when Scales drove the right side of the lane, banked in a shot off the glass and was fouled by West. Scales hit the free-throw for a 70-67 lead with 1:01 left.

Richardson hit both ends of a one-

and-one with 30 seconds left, Johnson did the same 15 seconds later and Nebraska had its first Big Eight victory.

It was about time, Nee said. He said the game's final two minutes seemed to last "an eternity."

"It was like a 15-round fight," he said.

# KU guard reflects on the season after Husker upset

By Nick Hodge  
Senior Reporter

The Kansas men's basketball team has been through worse slumps, but they've also been through better times, Jayhawk guard Kevin Pritchard said Saturday.

Kansas started the season by winning 13 of 14 games before losing five of its next eight, including a 74-70 setback to the Cornhuskers Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

With the loss, Kansas dropped to 16-6 overall and 3-4 in the Big Eight. Meanwhile, Nebraska ended a nine-game conference losing skid dating

back to last season and raised its record to 13-9 overall and 1-5 in the conference.

Last year, the Jayhawks posted an 11-3 mark prior to losing five of their next six games en route to winning the NCAA Division I national championship. One of those defeats was a 70-68 loss to Nebraska in Lincoln Jan. 27.

Pritchard, who led the Jayhawks Saturday with 17 points, said he couldn't understand his team's problems.

"College basketball... sometimes you can't explain things," the 6-foot-3 junior from Tulsa, Okla., said. "We're not playing well. We're

trying hard. It's just a crazy game. I guess that's what makes it a great game."

Kansas made only 7 of 22 field goals in the first half while being outrebounded 27-13. The Jayhawks trailed Nebraska 39-23 at halftime.

Pritchard scored Kansas' first eight points to give the Jayhawks an 8-6 lead with 15:09 remaining in the first half. He hit 4 of 5 shots and scored 10 first-half points.

Despite his efforts, Pritchard said he could have contributed more.

"Sometimes players go out and play and if their shots go, they go," he said. "A lot of the guys didn't have

a good shooting night, but that's just basketball. I don't think I played a good overall game. I thought I could have done a lot more things defensively."

The Jayhawks overcame their poor first-half shooting performance to hit 50 percent of their second half shots from the field, connecting on 15 of 30 attempts.

At halftime, Pritchard said, the Kansas coaches and players knew the Jayhawks could win the game if they played a better second half.

"At the beginning of the second half, we had a chance to win," he said. "You never go out thinking you are going to lose. We are a better team

than that."

With better shooting and defensive pressure, the Jayhawks battled back to slice Nebraska's lead to 41-28 with 18:31 remaining in the game.

Pritchard's 12-foot baseline jumper with 5:17 left to play cut the Huskers' advantage to 62-57. His steal at the 1:49 mark led to a short basket by forward Freeman West to tie the score at 66-66.

An uncontested layup by Pritchard with 18 seconds remaining pulled the Jayhawks to within 72-70, but Kansas wouldn't score again. Nebraska guard Eric Johnson sealed the victory when he hit two free throws with 15 seconds left.

# NU's Jelks sets Sports Center record in 200

By Darraan Fowler  
Staff Reporter

If Nebraska's Bobby Jelks has his headphones, a partisan crowd and the fourth lane, the junior sprinter is tough to beat.

Jelks had that combination going for him in Saturday's indoor track meet against Kansas State, and he parlayed it into a record-setting performance in the 200-meter dash.

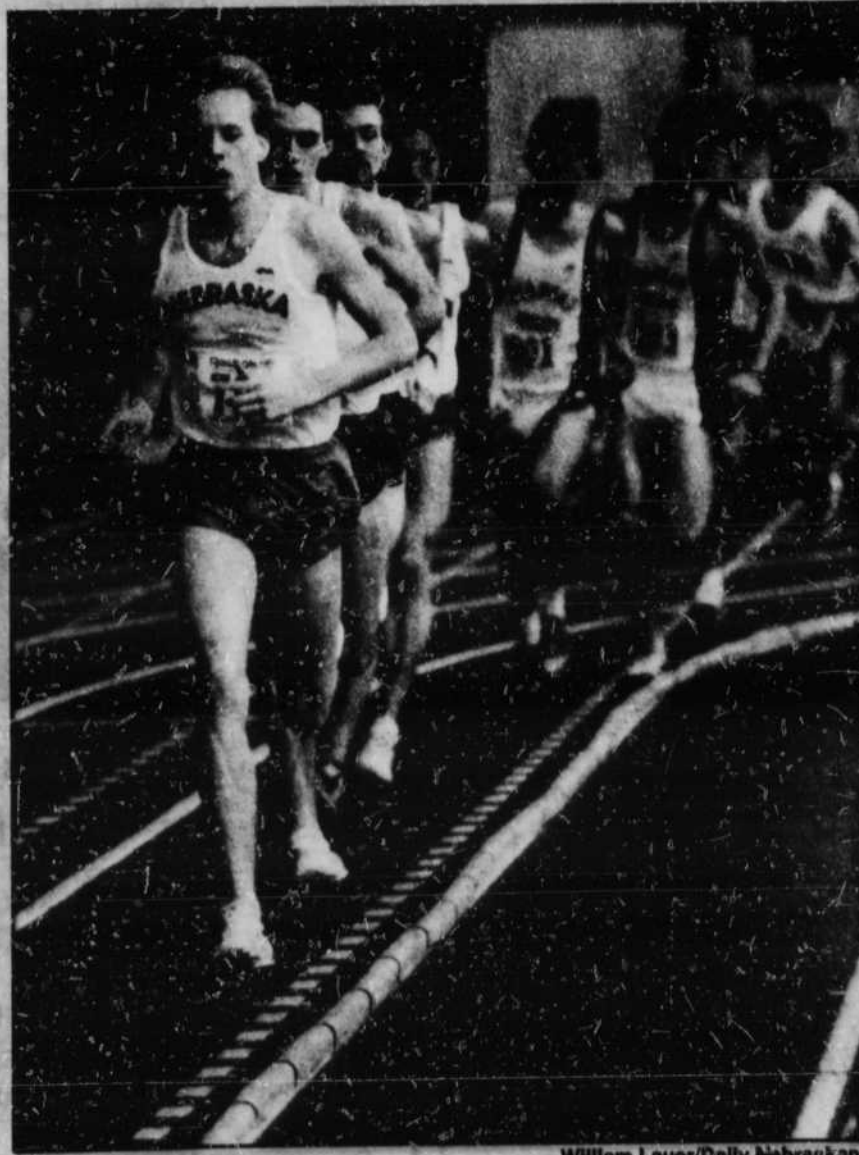
A crowd of 875 witnessed as Jelks qualified for his first NCAA meet by winning the event in 21.21. His time also bettered the Bob Devaney Sports Center record of 21.45 set by Kevin Little of Drake in 1988.

"Today I was lucky," Jelks said. "Not lucky to win, but lucky to run the race. I almost missed the whole race because I left my headphones at home and I never run a race without my headphones."

With his headphones on, Jelks said, he likes to warm up in front of the crowd. He said those two elements are what pump him up before a race. He also said that the fourth lane, which is generally the lane for the event's best runner, has been his favorite since high school.

Jelks said he had to rush to his dorm room for his headphones. In doing so, he said, he didn't have the time to warm up the way he likes.

See JELKS on 10



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Jacques van Rensburg leads the pack in the 3,000-meter run.

# Nebraska runs over KSU despite Arkansas' absence

By Paul Domeier  
Staff Reporter

An ice storm could not keep the Nebraska men's and women's track teams from posting dual-meet victories Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin said the meet became a dual instead of the originally scheduled triangular because weather conditions prevented Arkansas from attending. He said the Razorbacks were the victims of a one-inch ice storm that canceled their travel plans on Thursday night.

Pepin said he was not sure what effect Arkansas' absence had on the meet.

The Nebraska men held off Kansas State to post a 76-54 victory, while the Nebraska women pounded Kansas State 65-29.

"I don't know if that hurt or helped us," Pepin said. "From a team point of view, we had about all we could handle."

"If you have a meet and you have someone kicking your rear end, you aren't worried about whose not there."

Pepin said he had mixed feelings about the meet, which was attended by 875 people.

"We were flat in some areas," he said. "We had a couple outstanding performances, and some that weren't really outstanding."

One of those outstanding performances came from Bobby Jelks, a junior from Decatur, Ill., who qualified for the NCAA championships by running the

200-meter dash in 21.21. That mark shattered the former sports center record set by Drake's Kevin Little, who covered the distance in 21.45 in 1988.

Jelks' victory, plus strong performances in the 3,000 and the pole vault, helped the Nebraska men build a lead that put the meet out of reach. Harold Graham edged teammates Joe Kirby and Jacques van Rensburg to win the 3,000 title in 8:16.32. Nebraska's Kean Mun, Brad Welshaar and Rick Schwieger then claimed the top three spots in the pole vault to give the Huskers a commanding lead entering the 1,600 relay and the triple jump competitions.

The Nebraska women dominated their portion of the meet, as they began by claiming the top four spots in the long jump en route to defeating Kansas State. Freshman Tanya Lidy began the meet by winning the long jump with a leap of 19-foot-5, and All-America selection Linetta Wilson ended it by running down Kansas State's Rhonda Jackson in the last leg of 1,600 relay.

Pepin said he was impressed by Kansas State.

"They beat us in some events I didn't think they would," he said. "Now they can look at their team and say they can be contenders."

Nebraska's next meet is on Friday and Saturday, when it competes in the Frank Sevigne-Husker Invitational at the sports center. The meet is expected to draw 950 athletes.