

Nebraska's latest win resembles first

By Nick Hodge
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team won its second conference game of the season in much the same way they won their first.

The Huskers' first Big Eight victory was a 74-70 win over Kansas Feb. 4 in Lincoln. Nebraska led the Jayhawks 39-23 at halftime and had to hold off a late Kansas rally to capture the win.

Nebraska's second conference victory came Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center when the Huskers defeated Oklahoma State 79-77. Nebraska never trailed the Cowboys, but had to battle late in the game after Oklahoma State sliced the Huskers' 17-point lead to zero.

With the win, Nebraska improved its record to 14-11 overall and 2-7 in the Big Eight. The Cowboys dropped to 15-7 and 6-3.

Like they did against the Jayhawks earlier, the Huskers took advantage of poor first-half shooting by Oklahoma State to take a 39-22 lead with 4:53 left in the first half.

However, Oklahoma State outscored the Huskers 8-1 the rest of the way to cut Nebraska's margin to 40-30 at halftime.

In the first half, the Cowboys

made 11 of 28 field goal attempts for 39.3 percent, while Nebraska connected on 18 of 33 shots for 54.5 percent.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was happy with his team's performance, especially in the first half.

"It was the kind of game Nebraska needed," Nee said. "We were very pleased with the first half. We played good, solid basketball. We were gambling on some things. Oklahoma State was obviously not at the top of their game. I was very pleased with our players and how we did it."

Oklahoma State continued its comeback attempt in the second half.

A basket by Cowboy guard Corey Williams tied the score at 50-50 with 11:01 remaining. As it turned out, that was as close as Oklahoma State would get to winning.

Nebraska freshman forward Dapreis Owens canned a 15-foot jumper with 8:13 left to give the Huskers a 58-54 lead. Nebraska built that margin to 68-58 on forward Beau Reid's two free throws with 3:47 to go.

The Huskers then had to battle missed free throws in the game's closing minutes to eventually seal the win.

Nee said he was concerned be-

cause of Nebraska's missed free throws late in the game.

"I was disappointed with our free throw shooting at the end of the game," Nee said. "Overall, we made enough of them to win."

Nee said he wasn't surprised by Oklahoma State's ability to come back.

"They're a good team -- like the Kansas game -- they're going to make runs to get back at us," Nee said. "We did enough things right to win."

Oklahoma State coach Leonard Hamilton said he was impressed by Nebraska's effort.

"I thought Nebraska was tremendously prepared and they kept us from getting the ball in the paint," Hamilton said. "Anytime we were able to get the ball inside, they were able to strip the ball from us. You have to give a lot of credit to Nebraska."

The Huskers were led by Reid's 21 points -- 15 of which came in the second half. Guard Clifford Scales and center Rich King each added 17 points for Nebraska.

Husker forward Pete Manning pulled down a game-high eight rebounds in the victorious Nebraska effort.



Rich King (25) jams for two points against Oklahoma State.

Moral victory is not enough, Beck says

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck hopes the Cornhuskers record a different kind of win Wednesday night.

Beck said the Huskers, who are 13-10 overall and 4-6 in the Big Eight, have come close to defeating a lot of teams on the road this season.

But, Beck said, the game against Oklahoma State will put an end to the road losses. The string of road setbacks includes a 24-point loss to Colorado, three-point losses to Oklahoma and Kansas and a nine-point setback to Missouri.

Tip-off for tonight's game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla.

"We're not looking for a moral victory," Beck said. "We've had plenty of moral victories this year.

We want to look for a 'W.' That's been our goal lately -- just to win. A moral victory against Oklahoma State is not going to be enough for this basketball team."

The time is just right for Nebraska to defeat the Cowgirls, Beck said.

"They have played well against us at home in the past," Beck said. "But I think they haven't put it all together yet. It might be a good time for us to go down there and get one."

The Cowgirls, 14-9 and 5-5, are tied for 3rd place in the Big Eight with Missouri, one game ahead of Nebraska.

"Wednesday's a real, real important game for us," Beck said. "I don't think Oklahoma State is playing extremely well at this point."

"A road win would be the ultimate right now for us because we could really do the things we thought we could do initially. This road win

could be a real big catalyst."

Beck said a road-win against Oklahoma State would give Nebraska some momentum for the Big Eight tournament, which will be held March 4 through 6 at the Bicentennial Center in Salina, Kan.

"If we can get a 'W' on the road here, it would jockey us to a 2nd or 3rd finish in the league," she said. "And that's what we really want to do. We want to really pour it on now."

Oklahoma State coach Dick Halterman said the game is also critical for the Cowgirls.

"It's a must win situation for us," Halterman said. "It's a home game, and we still think we have a chance to finish second in the conference. We have to get this one."

Oklahoma State is led by Clinette Jordan, a 5-foot-11 senior from Oklahoma City. Jordan averages 21.3

points and 11.1 rebounds per game.

"She is, without question, the most talented player in the conference," Halterman said. "She's going to score between 15 and 25 points, and get eight to 15 rebounds. We don't have to worry about her. She's going to get her points and rebounds no matter what."

Beck said she isn't worried about the Huskers' defense. She said moving forward Kelly Hubert to guard for defensive purposes has made a difference. The switch was made when forward Sarah Muller, who had been suffering from a stress fracture in her left shin, returned to the line-up.

"I can put Hubert in at guard, which I felt was a real big key to our victory in our last game (a 68-56 win against Kansas State)," Beck said. "I put Hubert in the middle of our zone, and she had seven or eight deflections and three blocks. I think she cranked

our defense up another level."

Beck said one aspect about Nebraska has been bothering her this season. She said the Huskers haven't done anything unexpected this year. Beck said she wants to be surprised against the Cowgirls.

"We want to go out on the road and win," she said. "I think Oklahoma State would be a good start for that."

Halterman said the Huskers usually give Oklahoma State a tough game, no matter where it's played.

"They haven't played as well as I figured," he said. "But they're starting to play really well now. They've got a solid ball club. And Amy Stephens is probably as good as there is in the conference."

Stephens, a senior guard from Alliance, is averaging 22.2 points per game despite nagging bone spurs in her heels.

NU coach says the Gophers are 'a bear of a team!'

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's wrestling dual against Minnesota tonight in Lincoln will give high school wrestlers here for the state meet a chance to see how tough collegiate competition is.

But Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann said scheduling Minnesota on the eve of the state wrestling meet wasn't a recruiting ploy. The state wrestling meet will run Thursday through Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"I think that if we were using it as a recruiting tool we would've picked someone we could blow out of the gym," he said.

Neumann said that's not the case with the Gophers, who enter the meet with a 14-7 dual record and a No. 13 ranking by Amateur Wrestling News

magazine. Nebraska, 10-5-2 and ranked No. 10, will face Minnesota in a 7:30 p.m. dual at the sports center.

In past years, Neumann said, Nebraska has faced teams on the Sunday following the state meet, which is also held at the sports center. But by Sunday everyone has usually grown tired of wrestling, he said.

"So we thought we'd give them a show before the meet this year," Neumann said.

The Gophers will be tough, Neumann said.

"The way it looks it could be a real close dual with five or six matches that could go either way," said Neumann, whose teams are 1-1 against Minnesota during his four years of coaching at Nebraska.

Minnesota has two former All-

America selections in its lineup. At 118 pounds, Keith Nix is 11-1 this season after winning the Big Ten championship and finishing 2nd at the NCAA championships last year.

Nix has battled weight problems this year and was suspended in January for disciplinary reasons. But he will be in Minnesota's lineup tonight, Gopher assistant coach Gary Heck said.

At 177 pounds, Dave Dean is 24-1-1. Dean missed last season with a knee injury after winning the Big Ten title and notching a 2nd-place finish at the NCAA tournament two years ago at 190 pounds.

"If they bring their full lineup they're a bear of a team," Neumann said.

Minnesota is healthy, Heck said. The only Gopher missing will be 142-pound T.J. Campbell, who suffered a

concussion in late December and hasn't returned.

Meanwhile, Nebraska's injury situation looks like it's on the verge of improving. The Huskers' 118-pound Terry Cook, 13-1, has been sidelined since Jan. 21 with a broken thumb, but has been practicing and may wrestle tonight, Neumann said.

Also listed as questionable is 134-pound Dave Droegemueller, who's been battling an ankle injury suffered while walking down the steps of his apartment.

Last weekend, Nebraska scored dual victories against the University of Nebraska at Omaha and Wyoming. The Huskers defeated UNO 36-9 Friday and the Cowboys 32-8 Saturday. Both matches were held at the sports center.

"We didn't wrestle well against UNO," Neumann said. "Our kids

weren't up for the match at all. At this time of year we got to be rolling over people like that. They're a good Division II school, but if we want to contend in the top 10 of Division I we have to wrestle better."

"Against Wyoming, it was a different story. We got cranked up and wrestled well."

Against the Cowboys, 126-pound Jason Kelber, 150-pound Paul Herrera and 158-pound Jeff Colvet each recorded major decisions to lead Nebraska.

Kelber won for the 10th time in his last 11 matches to raise his record to 24-9. Colvet, who is one of only four Huskers with more than 100 career wins, is 56-13-3 in duals during his career. With Saturday's win, Colvet moved into a tie for third place on Nebraska's all-time dual victory chart.

Allen sees chance for NU to be NCAA champions

By Mike O'Malley
Staff Reporter

After seeing his team compete in the UCLA Invitational Saturday, Nebraska men's gymnastics coach Francis Allen touted the Cornhuskers for the national championship.

Allen said Nebraska's 2nd-place finish Saturday in Los Angeles, Calif., showed him that the Huskers have a legitimate chance of defending their national championship. 4th-ranked Illinois won the meet with 279.20

points, while 5th-ranked Nebraska scored 278.65. 2nd-ranked UCLA finished third with 277.85 points.

"We had 77 percent of our people performing well," Allen said. "A Nebraska team at the NCAAs traditionally has 93 percent. We can be national champions. Whether we are or not depends on if we improve and how the other teams improve."

Junior Patrick Kirksey led Nebraska by compiling a season-high 56.85 points while winning the all-around title. Nebraska's Mike

Epperson was 3rd in the all-around with a 56.25, which was also a season high.

"I was real pleased," Kirksey said. "I hit most of my routines and I don't often hit on all six routines."

Kirksey said his performance carried over to the team.

"I thought the team did exceptionally well," he said. "There was not more than one break on each event. We have a good chance to win the NCAAs."

Allen also was impressed with Nebraska.

"The guys performed well. They impressed everybody," Allen said. "All the coaches and judges I know complemented the team. We were one routine away from winning the meet."

"This was the first time UCLA had lost this meet. UCLA will be thinking 'Man, we lost to Illinois and Nebraska, both.' That's a good psyche for us. I saw Illinois and UCLA warm up and I thought we would be out-manned. These guys performed like a team. They're really doing a good job."