

NU defeats Jayhawks, performs 'OK'

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's 51-14 win against Kansas Saturday was the last contest before the Cornhuskers' annual shootout with Oklahoma Saturday, but it was one of the quietest tuneups in a long time.

Not that the 76,232 fans at Memorial Stadium were quiet. They made plenty of noise throughout the afternoon.

The Husker offense wasn't lacking, either. Nebraska rolled up 608 yards of total offense, 503 of which came on the ground. Nebraska's defense held the Jayhawks to 345 yards.

But still, there was something missing.

"We played OK," said Nebraska quarterback Gerry Gdowski. "Everybody knows we could have scored a couple more times. I don't know if it was our best game of the year, but we

played good."

Gdowski played well enough to put himself in position to become only the fourth college quarterback to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in a season.

Against Kansas, Gdowski completed 4 of 8 passes for 105 yards and three touchdowns, which gave him a total of 1,101 yards passing this season.

His 75 yards rushing increased his total to 903 this season. He needs 97 yards rushing against Oklahoma Saturday to accomplish the double-1,000 mark.

The three players who have gained 1,000 yards both rushing and passing are Drake's Johnny Bright in 1950, Southern Mississippi's Reggie Collier in 1981 and Air Force's Bart Weiss in 1985.

I-back Ken Clark climbed to second place on Nebraska's career rush-

ing chart with a 177-yard, two-touchdown performance. Clark's touchdowns boosted his career total to 29, which puts him in sixth place on Nebraska's chart.

"Ken Clark showed some of the balance he has today," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "He played a very good game."

Osborne said Nebraska's intensity level against Kansas wasn't affected by last week's 27-21 loss to Colorado.

"To me, you bounce back only if you play poorly, and we haven't played poorly," he said. "We played well (against Colorado). This was a game between two so-called big games."

Kansas scored first Saturday, capping a 12-play, 78-yard drive with a 6-yard touchdown run by tailback Maurice Douglas with 7:01 left in the first quarter.

The Huskers answered on their

ensuing possession, when Clark took a handoff over the left tackle and scampered 33 yards for the score. The play was set up by a 38-yard run by Clark on the play before.

Nebraska added another first-quarter touchdown when Gdowski threw an 11-yard strike to wingback Richard Bell, who had beaten his covering defender on the play.

Bell said he knew what he wanted before the play began.

"When coach called the play, I was determined to get a touchdown," he said. "It was man-to-man coverage, and I beat my guy. When the pass went up, I thought 'What if I drop this ball?'"

But he didn't. The extra point by Gregg Barrios gave Nebraska a 14-7 lead with 34 seconds left in the first quarter.

Six seconds later, the score increased to 16-7 when Jayhawk Maurice Hooks fielded the kickoff at the

3-yard line, ran back into the end zone and downed the ball -- for a safety.

"He thought he was in the end zone," Kansas coach Glen Mason said of the play. "The officials said he stepped out... whatever. Then he attempted to down it."

Bell caught his second pass of the day with 1:49 remaining in the second quarter, which was good for a 45-yard touchdown.

The remaining Husker touchdowns included another 33-yard run by Clark; a 19-yard pass from Gdowski to split end Jon Bostick; a 1-yard run by I-back Leodis Flowers; and a 1-yard run by I-back Lamont White.

Kansas' only other score came with 4:34 remaining in the third quarter, when Jayhawk quarterback Kelly Donohoe scored on a 2-yard run. The play was set up by an 80-yard pass

See HUSKERS on 8

NU volleyball coach says passing led to Illinois victory

By Darran Fowler
Senior Reporter

Too little. Too late.

Trailing 11-3 in the fifth and deciding game, the Nebraska volleyball team made a strong surge but fell short in losing to Illinois 15-13, 6-15, 15-11, 8-15, 15-12 Saturday night at the NU Coliseum.

Fourth-ranked Nebraska dropped to 20-3 in front of 3,642 fans, while Illinois, which is ranked 16th in the NCAA and eighth in the coaches' poll, upped its record to 22-4.

"That's a good run," Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said about the Cornhuskers coming back and tying the score at 11 in the fifth game. "It was a good match and you can't do anything else than just play well in a good match."

"I'm disappointed with the loss but I thought we played real hard."

Illinois coach Mike Hebert said it was a good match and that Nebraska made a great comeback.

"Nebraska made a huge push and I was impressed," Hebert said. "I'm still one of your old volleyball fans and like to see a match played that well."

"That's my first reaction. My second reaction is that I'm very, very happy we won the match."

It was a match where neither team dominated the other, Hebert said.

"Obviously the match could have gone either way," he said. "I felt both teams played very solid all the way."

The only area not solid for the Huskers was passing, Pettit said.

"My feeling is basically it came

down to passing and Illinois passed better than we did and it split our block," he said.

Nebraska finished the match with a .383 hitting percentage, while Illinois compiled a .376 average.

Nebraska was led by sophomore Cris Hall, who posted a career-high 28 kills in hitting .451 and added 17 digs.

Senior All-America selection Virginia Stahr hit a season-high 21 kills in posting a .514 hitting percentage. She also had a career-high 19 digs.

Freshman Eileen Shannon tallied 20 kills, while sophomore Janet Kruse totaled 19.

"I thought Cris Hall hit real well," Pettit said. "My feeling is that we hit fairly well. That wasn't the problem. Our problem was our blocking."

Senior middle blocker Carla Baker, who hit .500 in posting a season-high 17 kills, said it was a tough loss. Baker also contributed 15 digs to tie a season high.

"I thought we were going to win for sure," she said. "Being at home with the crowd I thought we were ready to take it. They definitely played really well. They were pretty much on target all the time and they just kept plugging away and coming at us."

"I'm very disappointed because we've lost to them so many times."

Nebraska and Illinois also are in competition to stage the NCAA postseason tournament on their respective home floors. The Fighting Illini's victory might mean that competition will be staged in Champaign,

Ill. But regardless of where the Midwest regional play is staged, Pettit said he expects a rematch.

"I feel either way we're going to have to beat this team again," he said. "Hopefully next time we'll be a little more prepared."

Illinois is in a tight race with Ohio State and Minnesota in the Big Ten conference, where the regular-season champion receives an automatic bid in the NCAA tournament.

Hebert said his team has a long way to go before regionals.

"We're in a real tough race," he said. "For us to play Nebraska again we're going to have to weave ourselves through some very tough matches. But I would love to play them again."

Basketball team defeats Brisbane in tight game

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team learned some lessons outside the classroom during its exhibition game against Brisbane Friday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee said he was pleased with his team's 76-74 victory because it gave the Cornhuskers crucial experience in a tight situation. The victory was not sewn up until forward Richard van Poelgeest hit two free throws with :01 remaining.

Nee said playing in a tight game is better than staging a blowout. Brisbane, a member of the Australian National Basketball League, dropped its last two games against Kansas and Kansas State by a combined 80 points.

"I think it's better to play a game like this and win a close one than win by 30 points," Nee said. "I think we got a lot of experience tonight in game conditions."

The contest was tight from the start, as the lead changed hands 25 times in the first half. Brisbane used a six-foot jump shot by center Greg Spurling to take a 42-41 lead at halftime.

The Bullets then used pressure and a tough boards game to take a 74-71 lead with 2:00 remaining.

But Nebraska used free throws by juniors Clifford Scales and Rich King to tie the game with :56 left, and van Poelgeest was fouled with :01 left. The senior forward, who had returned to the game after getting stitches above his eye earlier

in the night, then sank his free throws to ice the win.

Brisbane coach Brian Kerle said the loss did not alter his impressions of his squad. He said he was pleased with the performance of his team, which is made up of five Americans and eight native Australians.

"I was just pleased with our guys, considering this was only their third game together as a team," Kerle said. "For a bunch of guys that never played together before, they played pretty well."

Nee said he wasn't as pleased with Nebraska's defense or its 27-for-75 shooting. He said first-game jitters were responsible because more than half of the Huskers were playing their first game at the center.

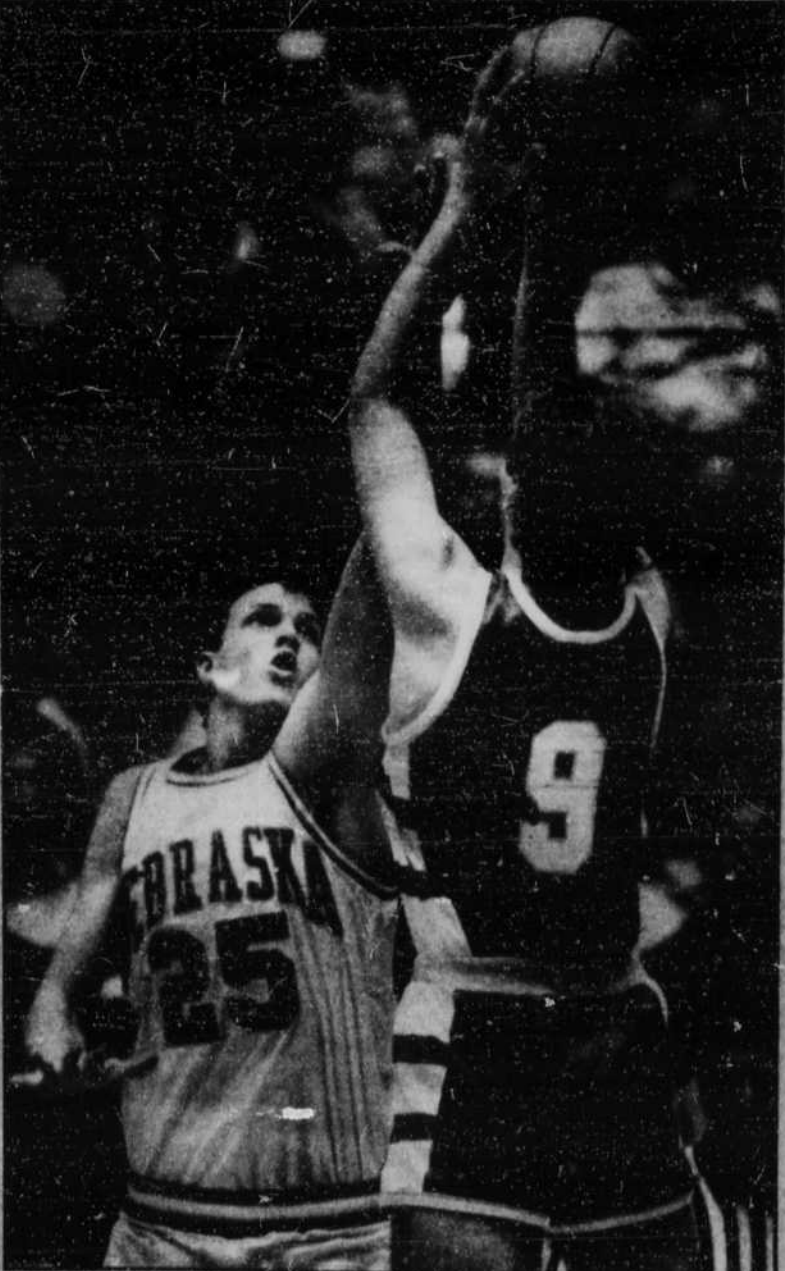
"They all seemed pretty tight," Nee said. "They looked like they had snow shoes on the first half -- they weren't running the floor well at all."

King was the game's top rebounder with 12. Van Poelgeest was the Huskers' leading scorer with 15 points, while Scales and sophomore forward Carl Hayes contributed 13 and 10 points respectively.

The Bullets were led by former Northeastern University star Andre la Fleur with 20 points, while Spurling had 18, Paul Rees 12 and Derek Rucker 11.

Nee said Nebraska will use the game as a learning experience.

"We'll just go back now, look at the tapes and improve on everything we can," Nee said.



Brisbane's Paul Rees attempts to shoot over Nebraska center Rich King.

David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Women swimmers begin the season with two dual wins

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

The Nebraska women's swimming team used some strong vocal support to cruise past Minnesota and Colorado State.

Nebraska coach Ray Huppert said his team used support from the Cornhusker men's swimming squad to subdue the Golden Gophers and Rams. The Nebraska men comprised a portion of a crowd that Huppert estimated at 150.

The Huskers took advantage of that crowd support, as they defeated Minnesota 95-45 and Colorado State 91-49 Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Minnesota defeated Colorado State 76-64 to finish second.

Huppert praised the support shown by the Nebraska men.

"Our entire men's team made so much noise, it was phenomenal," Huppert said. "They were doing the wave, and they were screaming and hollering. They were definitely there."

Nebraska's Carole Johnson was also there, as she overcame upper respiratory sickness to win the 100- and 200-yard backstrokes.

"She's just a fighter," Huppert said.

Huppert also praised the performances of Melanie Wirtner and Kristen Neuenfeldt. Wirtner won the 100 butterfly and the 200 freestyle. Neuenfeldt won the 200 breaststroke, and teamed with Johnson, Jenell Garcia and Mindy Matheny to form Nebraska's winning 400 medley relay team.

Huppert said he was happy with the performance of his entire team.

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