

# Cornhusker wrestlers blast Notre Dame

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Whatever it is the Nebraska wrestlers have, Cornhusker coach Tim Neumann hopes they don't lose it.

At least not in the next five days. Saturday night against No. 12-ranked Notre Dame, the fourth-ranked Huskers defeated the Fighting Irish 30-8 before 453 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. The match was Nebraska's final tuneup before facing top-ranked Oklahoma State on

Thursday at the Cowboy Duals in Stillwater, Okla.

The Huskers' execution and intensity level, however, left a lot to be desired for Neumann.

"That was our flattest performance so far this season," he said. "Mentally, we just haven't recovered from our road trip."

Nebraska took a 12-day, four-meet trip during semester break.

"After a trip like that, I realize it's hard to focus," he said. "But it's something that has to be done.

"We'd better get back into it real soon."

But, Neumann said, the Huskers have wrestled up to the competition throughout the season.

"I don't know what it is, but they just switch gears and make adjustments and come through when they have to," he said.

Neumann said the changes in intensity "aren't spoken things," but an attitude the team has when facing high-ranked competition.

Neumann said he thought the team's

enthusiasm would be higher than it was, since the Huskers were wrestling against the nation's 12th-ranked team.

The meet looked like it would be a close one at the onset, when Nebraska's John Buxton wrestled to a 2-2 draw with Notre Dame's Andy Radenbaugh in the 118-pound weight class.

At 126, Nebraska's Jason Kelber, ranked second in the nation, defeated Marcus Gowens 12-5. Dave Droegemueller followed up with a major decision, beating Jim Posey

15-6 to extend Nebraska's lead to 9-2.

But at 142, the Huskers were without Layne Billings, who has been slowed with a dislocated rib. Nebraska forfeited the match, allowing the Fighting Irish to cut the Huskers' lead to 9-8.

But that was as close as Notre Dame would come for the rest of the night. Nebraska won the remaining six classes -- the final three coming

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# Nee says turnovers to blame for loss to Cowboys

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team reached a milestone Saturday night, but no one was celebrating.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said after his team's 84-71 loss to Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla., that turnovers caused his squad to drop its 13th-consecutive Big Eight road contest. The Cornhuskers finished the contest with 20 turnovers.

Nee said he was disappointed by the loss. The loss was a costly one, as it dumped Nebraska into last place in the Big Eight with a 7-8 record over-

all and an 0-3 mark in the conference.

The loss also extended Nebraska's road losing streak to 15 games, and proved to be a monumental setback. The last prolonged Nebraska conference losing streak occurred in the 1959-1961 seasons, when the Huskers dropped 12-consecutive Big Eight games.

Nee had a simple explanation for his team's loss.

"You can't have 20 turnovers on the road," he said during his post-game radio show. "That's the game if you want to look at the stats."

Nee said Nebraska also was hurt by a late Oklahoma State run. The

Cowboys used Husker errors and a technical foul on the Nebraska bench to spark a 15-3 run that turned a 59-53 lead into a 76-56 margin with just more than four minutes to play.

"These road games like this, this is where you find out what your mettle is made out of," Nee said. "We just didn't play well enough to be there at the end."

Nebraska was paced by forward Ray Richardson and guard Keith Moody, who tallied career-high 18- and 15-point performances. Oklahoma State countered the scoring output of Moody and Richardson by holding Nebraska center Rich King to 12 points,

six below his season average.

"I thought our inside players had to alter some of their shots," Nee said. "I also thought they were getting fouled, but the referees wouldn't give us a call."

Oklahoma State finished the game with 12 personal fouls, while Nebraska had 21. The Huskers were outscored from the free throw line 18-4.

The Cowboys, who had four players in double figures, were led by 6-foot-7 sophomore Byron Houston, who had 19 points, 13 rebounds and six blocked shots.

"I thought Byron Houston was a

force inside," Nee said. "I don't know what his points and stats were, but I'll tell you he affects it just with his presence."

Nee said he is not discouraged even though Nebraska is in last place in the conference. In addition to losing to Oklahoma State, the Huskers also have dropped conference decisions to No. 1 Kansas and No. 4 Missouri.

"Now everyone is going to be (saying) we're 0-3 in the conference," Nee said. "But hey, you've got to play certain people. We play the top

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## Point guard leads Cowgirls to top NU

By Paul Domeier  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team matched up against Oklahoma State everywhere but at point guard.

With point guard Liz Brown directing the offense, the Cowgirls used a key offensive rebound to defeat the Cornhuskers 65-61 Saturday before 1,746 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Kristi Dahn guarded Brown for most of the game.

"She was pretty quick," Dahn said. "But her major job was to run the offense."

Playing the entire game, Brown had 11 points, eight assists and four steals.

"I thought she was a big, big, big factor," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said. "She had her team under control."

"I thought we held her down pretty good, but she got a few shots, she took the shots when she needed to, and they had four kids in double figures. That's kind of what you want."

Nebraska had two players in double figures: Karen Jennings with 18 and Ann Halsne with 12.

"I have no excuses," Beck said. "(The Cowgirls) deserved the victory."

But an argument can be made that the Huskers did, too.

Nebraska jumped to a 22-17 lead with 8:12 left in the first half. Oklahoma State responded with a 10-point run and led 36-32 at halftime.

The Cowgirls never led by more than seven points the rest of the game. When Halsne hit a short jump shot with 1:47 left, the teams were tied at 59. Oklahoma State hit two free throws and Halsne hit another jumper to tie the game with 1:14 left.

On the next possession, Oklahoma State's shot was long, but the Cowgirls' Shelly Blessing grabbed the rebound and scored with :25 left.

Oklahoma State had two fouls to give, so the Cowgirls committed their fifth foul with :11 left to keep the Huskers from getting off a good shot.

On the inbounds play, the Cowgirls again went for the foul, but came up with the steal instead. Sara Offringa fouled Althea Cox, and Cox hit two free throws for her team-leading 16th and 17th points to seal the win.

Dahn said the Huskers played better than in the past few games, but didn't do what was necessary to win.

"We didn't convert at the critical points, like that last rebound," she said.



Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

## Nebraska's LeeAnna Hiestand drives past Oklahoma State's Shelly Blessing.

The loss dropped the Huskers' record to 8-9 overall and 0-4 in the conference, while Oklahoma State improved to 10-6 and 3-1. The Huskers next game is Wednesday, at home, against league-leading Kansas State. Starting forward Kelly Hubert, who was

suspended for Saturday's game for disciplinary reasons, will be back for Wednesday's contest.

Beck said Hubert would have made a difference, but even without her the Huskers are making progress.

## Despite lack of intensity, NU wrestling squad shows it's a team on a mission

Two years ago, Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann said before the season started that it was his goal to get the Cornhuskers into the team finals.

Nebraska finished 39th that year. But this season, Neumann is trying to keep everything in perspective.

"That year, I kind of stuck my foot in my mouth," he said of his 1987 prediction. "This



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year, I don't want to say anything that will make me look stupid in the end.

"But we do have some great talent this year."

Saturday night against No. 12-ranked Notre Dame, the No. 4-ranked Huskers wrestled with a noticeable lack of intensity. Neumann attributed that to a 12-day road trip during semester break, in which the Huskers wrestled in four meets, from Tempe, Ariz., to Hampton, Va.

The trip included a loss and a tie to then-No. 1 Arizona State. If not for a technicality, the Huskers would have beaten the Sun Devils in their second meeting.

Against the Fighting Irish, the Huskers at times seemed to have little fight. But they routed Notre Dame 30-8.

The only weight class Notre Dame won was at 142 -- a Nebraska forfeit because a dislocated rib kept Layne Billings from wrestling.

A 30-8 win without much intensity. That's the sign of a team with leadership. And a team on a mission.

Before the dual with Notre Dame, Neumann said the Huskers are one of five teams recognized throughout the college wrestling world with a legitimate chance to capture this year's national championship.

"If you ask anybody in the wrestling community, they'll tell you that Arizona State, Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Iowa and Nebraska are the five teams with the best shot at the national championship this season," Neumann said.

But still, Neumann is cautious. "Realistically, for us to win it, we'd have to get a great deal of points from our underclassmen. But anything is possible."

Especially with this year's team. After the pouncing of Notre Dame Saturday night, Neumann said that for the first time this season, he was concerned going into the meet.

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