

Defense upsets King

By Paul Domeier
Senior Editor

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Rich King scored 25 points Wednesday, 19 in the first half, but all he wanted to talk about was defense.

"Our defense wasn't very good in the first half," he said. "It wasn't very good for the whole game."
It was bad enough, at least, to let the Jayhawks beat Nebraska 85-77.

He was asked about the offense. "It wasn't the offensive end. It was the defensive end the whole game," he said.

But it was King's offense that kept Nebraska in the game in the first half. With a 4- to 7-inch height advantage over any Jayhawk guarding him, King hit 8 of 10 shots in the half.

King dominated the last half of the period. He scored 14 points in the half's final 9:05, including a dunk on a Keith Moody lob for Nebraska's final basket of the half.

In the second half, King didn't get the ball as much, hitting 3 of 5 attempts.

King said it wasn't anything the Jayhawks were doing to him inside.

"They turned up the pressure on the perimeter, making it tough for those guys to even see around it," he said.

With the win, Kansas put the pressure on Nebraska's hopes for a Big Eight regular-season championship.

"The way it looks right now, it's a two-team race with OSU and KU," King said matter-of-factly.

But King refused to count the Huskers out of the race. He said Nebraska's recent schedule, playing at Oklahoma, Missouri, Oklahoma State and at Kansas probably was the team's toughest stretch of the season. The pressure will subside Saturday afternoon, when the Huskers take on Colorado at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Huskers won't see Kansas again until March 3 in the final game of the regular season.

"When they come to Lincoln, it's going to be the same type of game," King said.

And he wasn't taking comfort in the eight-point loss.

"It's better to lose by a little than by a bunch," King said. "Other than that, I don't think we gained anything."

Hoopla hides worthy news



Paul Domeier

Too bad you can't get any news around here on anything but men's basketball. Pretty soon, we'll start getting letters telling us we should cover those sports that always get ignored, like swimming, golf and football.

But seriously, some worthwhile news has been hidden by the euphoria enveloping the 15th-ranked Husker men.

● Some of the luster seems to have gone off the football team's recruiting this year.

Signing day was a huge event when Nebraska obviously was going to challenge for the national championship in the fall. The high school stars signing letters-of-intent were embraced as future Cornhusker All-Americans, destined to star in the Nebraska football machine.

This year, the Nebraska football machine is rusty, and the program has questions that must be answered.

Will the Huskers be able to defend against the pass, especially after losing most of the defensive backfield? Is the offensive line ever going to be great again? Can a quarterback establish himself fast enough to beat Washington in September?

The 1991 recruits won't answer those questions. Those answers must come from spring football, from the coaches and from the season itself.

● Angela Beck and Danny Nee need to work on their timing.

Last year, the coaches of the Nebraska men's and women's basketball teams each suffered through dismal 10-18 seasons. This year, each program has turned itself around.

Nee would have been better off last year if Beck's team had won 22 games and gone to the NCAA to divert attention.

And the women's team is lost in the shuffle this season as the men's team lives its dream season.

The Husker women are as good any team in the conference. Nebraska still has a chance to win 20 games and make the NCAA tournament. Any advance past the first round is unlikely, but even one NCAA game would be great experience for the young Huskers.

Nebraska will return a ton of talent, especially sophomore Karen Jennings and freshman Meggan Yedsena. Yedsena is the likely Big Eight newcomer of the year and Jennings will battle Liz Brown of Oklahoma State and Diana Miller of Kansas State for conference player of the year.

● Le Andre Anderson's presence on the Nebraska wrestling team, in addition to giving the team some extra publicity, should light a fire under heavyweight Sonny Manley.

If Manley starts winning consistently, the Huskers might be the nation's best team.

That's been hard to tell recently with the team's four injuries, but the Huskers may spring out of their training-room hiding place and shock second-ranked Oklahoma State at the NCAA tournament.

● The elimination of the junior varsity football team should have been no surprise.

Gary Fouraker, the assistant athletic director who watches the Cornhusker bank account, kind of tipped it off last week when he told Daily Nebraskan senior reporter Chuck Green that he thought an easier way to save money would be to reduce the num-

ber of players out for sports. That basically means cutting down the football walk-ons.

The loss of the JV team is kind of sad. The JV team, the weight program, the training table and the walk-ons were the extra cogs that made the Huskers a machine, not a team, something I've bragged about from Nevada to North Carolina.

"No, you haven't seen football obsession until you've seen Nebraska football," I used to say, "with a magazine devoted to the team, 20,000 people at the final spring scrimmage, sell-outs since before I was born — even a few thousand people watching freshmen walk-ons play a junior college team on a Monday afternoon."

Losing the program makes Nebraska football more normal, something no Husker fan wants.

● The Baseball Hall of Fame effectively has banned Pete Rose from the Hall.

Fine. If you think his permanent suspension from the game should exclude him from the Hall, you won. If you are like me and think that the key words are "Baseball" and "Fame" and that should be the only criteria for acceptance into the "Hall," we lost.

But why do so many people act like this has any importance?

In 2091, kids all across the country will know who Pete Rose was.

"Sure, I know Pete Rose. He's second on the all-time hits list behind Wade Boggs. His nickname was Charlie Hustle, and he played on some great Cincinnati Reds championship teams.

"And he got kicked out of the game for gambling."

Those kids will know Pete Rose whether he is given a plaque in Cooperstown or not.

Domeier is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.

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Officials: Steinbrenner in left field again

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball apparently is turning a deaf ear toward George Steinbrenner's latest foul claim.

On Wednesday, it was learned that Steinbrenner's attorneys filed a 135-page petition with baseball's executive council four months ago, criticizing the investigation that resulted in Steinbrenner's banishment from the New York Yankees.

"I think it's probably long since been filed in the circular file," deputy commissioner of baseball, Steve Greenberg, said.

The petition accuses commissioner Fay Vincent of orchestrating and overseeing "a totally biased and unfair investigation" in order to "gather damning, negative, and one-sided information" against Steinbrenner.

Boston Red Sox general partner Haywood Sullivan, an executive council member, said baseball's ownership stood behind Vincent and the investigation.

"I think it's time that some of us stand up and be counted," Sullivan said from his Boston office. "There are reports that some people say there has been a vendetta to get George. I think the majority of ownership thinks that Fay Vincent has done an excellent job."

Paul Curran, a Steinbrenner attor-

ney who helped draft the petition, said he had not spoken to any member of the executive council since the document was sent out on Oct. 9.

"But my understanding is that they are looking into it," Curran said. "Certainly, we have not been told by anyone that they are not considering it or that they have rejected it."

The council is made up of four owners from each league and the two league presidents. "Its role is solely as an advisory body," Greenberg said. "It has no jurisdiction over this matter or any other disciplinary matter."

Greenberg said the circulation of the petition, along with another 400 or so pages of substantiating documents, served only two purposes. "One, to help deforest the Pacific Northwest... and, two, and more seriously, to perpetuate the fictionalized version of the George Steinbrenner story."

Curran said the petition, which was accompanied by "fairly voluminous" substantiating documents, "does not seek" Steinbrenner's reinstatement. Instead, its purpose was to point out the "unfair, improper and in some instances illegal actions" taken during the investigation. And, to help baseball "take appropriate action to review its rules and procedures to assure this doesn't occur again."

Huskies

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after the game.

"I am pleased with how Nebraska played in all phases of the game," he said.

Nee gave credit to the crowd that coaxed Nebraska into 54-percent free-throw shooting, concluding a combined 0-for-5 for Reid and Jose Ramos, each of whom normally shoot better than 80 percent.

Nee also lauded the Jayhawks, who remain tied with Oklahoma State for the Big Eight lead.

"They play that way all the time," Nee said.

Nebraska 39 38 — 77
At Kansas 45 40 — 85
Nebraska—Farmer 4-8 4-7 12, Hayes 2-8 0-0 4, King 11-15 3-4 25, Reid 3-5 0-2 7, Scales 2-6 0-0 5, Platkowski 5-9 3-4 15, Ramos 0-0 0-30, Moody 2-4 1-2 5, Chubick 0-0 0-0 0, Owens 1-1 2-2 4. Totals 30-56 13-24 77.
Kansas—Jamison 2-12 2-5 6, Maddox

2-7 0-0 4, Randall 7-10 2-3 16, Brown 5-11 0-0 14, Jordan 2-4 3-6 8, Wagner 2-2 2-2 6, Tunstall 2-5 2-4 6, Richey 2-3 0-0 4, Scott 5-6 4-14, Woodberry 1-1 2-2 5, Johanning 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 31-63 17-26 85.

3-point goals—Nebraska 4-11 (Farmer 0-1, Reid 1-3, Scales 1-1, Platkowski 2-5, Moody 0-1), Kansas 6-14 (Brown 4-7, Jordan 1-3, Tunstall 0-2, Richey 0-1, Woodberry 1-1). Rebounds—Nebraska 37 (Farmer, King 8), Kansas 32 (Jamison 10). Assists—Nebraska 11 (King, Reid, Scales 3), Kansas 20 (Jordan 7). Turnovers—Nebraska 22 (King 5), Kansas 15 (Randall 4). Total fouls—Nebraska 24, Kansas 18. A—15,800.

Recruits

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ness for how big he is."

● Robert Smith, OL, 6-3, 280, East Chicago, Ind.: Smith was an All-State lineman in Indiana his senior year. He chose Nebraska over Michigan, Michigan State and Illinois.

● Tom Steer, Athlete, 5-11, 185,

Crete: Osborne said Steer was the fastest player to come through camp this year. He is a good all-around athlete and could possibly play wing-back or cornerback.

● Tony Veland, DB-QB, 6-1, 180, Omaha: Veland possesses good speed, Osborne said, and could play defensive back or quarterback for the Huskers.

Osborne said Nebraska's location and population makes it difficult to get really good players.

"The distance is often a great hurdle," he said. "The weather is sometimes a problem, too. Heavily populated areas have become very attractive to players these days.

"One thing Nebraskans need to realize is this is the best we can do."