

Huskers wear black, bury Cyclones

AMES, Iowa (AP) - Nebraska coach Danny Nee borrowed a page from the school's football playbook to inspire his basketball team.

Nee recently bought a set of black road uniforms and black sneakers, and the 17th-ranked Cornhuskers wore them for the first time Wednesday night when they defeated Iowa State 65-57 to become the first Big Eight Conference team to win 20 games this season.

"In our football program, the black shirts mean defense, power, that good, hard play," Nee said. "We wanted to use them on an occasion and the players chose to wear them tonight. They were going back into the closet if we lost."

It was defense and steady play that carried Nebraska. Clifford Scales converted a three-point play and Beau Reid hit four free throws as

the Cornhuskers held off a second-half charge by Iowa State.

Nebraska blew a nine-point lead in the second half, then outscored Iowa State 16-6 after the Cyclones had gone ahead 51-49 with 3:55 left. The Cornhuskers (20-4, 6-3), broke a six-game losing streak in Hilton Coliseum.

This is only the sixth 20-victory season in 94 years of Nebraska basketball and the Cornhuskers' first since 1986-87. They won despite committing 28 turnovers.

"I don't think we played our best game and I think we made a lot of mistakes," Nee said. "But yet we found a way to win, and I think that's the bottom line."

The Cornhuskers outrebounded Iowa State 39-28 and limited the Cyclones to 39.7 percent shooting.

"They took us out of what we wanted to do," Iowa State coach Johnny Orr said. "You've got to come out with a maximum effort every time. Nebraska came in here 19-4 and we played them as if they were 1-36. All we had to do was play hard and we didn't."

Nebraska went ahead for good when Scales got free for a basket inside, was fouled and made the free throw for a 52-51 lead with 3:43 left. After the Cornhuskers' Rich King scored off an inbounds play to make it 54-51, Reid twice went to the free throw line in 1-and-1 situations and made all four. That extended the lead to 58-52.

"This was one of our better defensive games," said King, who led Nebraska with 15 points. "We consider ourselves a fast-break team when we really get it going, and all fast-break teams

start with defense. When we play good defense, we get a good flow going."

Nebraska . . . 34 31 — 65
At Iowa State . . . 25 22 — 57
Nebraska—Farmer 3-5 3-3 9, Hayes 5-12 0-0 10, King 6-12 3-6 15, Reid 3-4 4-4 11, Scales 3-6 3-3 9, Owens 1-2 0-0 2, Ramos 0-0 0-0 0, Moody 0-0 1-2 1, Piatkowski 2-7 4-5 8. Totals 23-48 18-23 65.
Iowa State—Bivens 0-1 0-0 0, Pippett 3-7 0-1 7, Alexander 8-12 1-3 17, Collins 2-9 2-4 6, Thigpen 1-7 1-2 3, Pearson 2-8 2-2 8, McCoy 4-6 1-3 9, Brown 0-0 0-0 0, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Kunz 1-4 0-0 2, Doerfeld 2-4 1-2 5. Totals 23-58 7-14 57.
3-point goals—Nebraska 1-7 (Reid 1-2, Piatkowski 0-3, Farmer 0-1, King 0-1), Iowa State 4-20 (Pearson 2-8, Pippett 1-4, McCoy 1-3, Collins 0-3, Thigpen 0-2). Rebounds—Nebraska 39 (Farmer, Hayes 7), Iowa State 28 (Pippett 7). Assists—Nebraska 14 (three with 3), Iowa State 16 (Collins 4). Total fouls (dq)—Nebraska 18 (Hayes), Iowa State 18. Technical foul—Nebraska bench, A—14, 10.

NU drops dual, but wrestles well, coach says

By Chuck Green
Senior Reporter

It's not often that coaches are optimistic after watching their team lose — especially when few things go their way in the process.

But Wednesday night after No. 7 Nebraska lost 23-16 to No. 13 Minnesota, Cornhusker wrestling coach Tim Neumann was an exception.

The dual, the first of the last three for the Huskers before the Big Eight championships March 3 in Columbia, Mo., started poorly for Nebraska. John Buxton lost 8-6 in the 118-pound match, the first match of the night.

Husker coaches were then infuriated by what Neumann called a "questionable" refereeing decision not awarding near-fall points in the 126-pound match between John Buxton and Minnesota's Shannon Ward, which ended in a 4-4 draw.

Nebraska could not afford many losses and draws because the Huskers had a forfeit at 142.

Injuries, which have plagued the Huskers throughout the season, then returned to wreak more havoc on Nebraska's starting lineup.

All-American Corey Olson, the starter at 177 and ranked second in the country, aggravated a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his knee and lost by injury default to top-ranked Marty Morgan.

In the next match, at 190, Nebraska's Chris Nelson suffered a severe cut above his left eye. Nelson won the match in a 17-5 major decision.

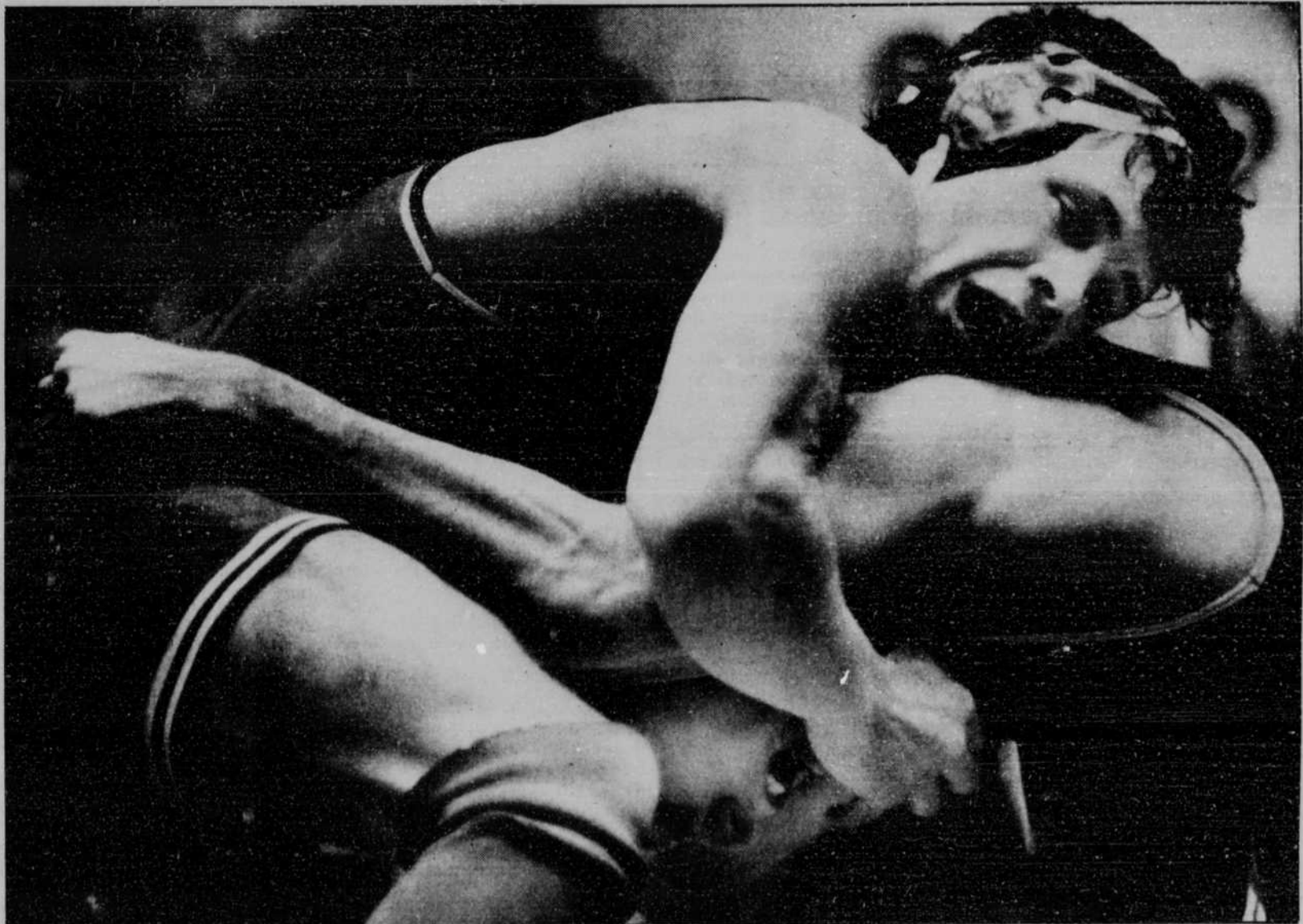
But despite all that, Neumann still was optimistic about the performance of his team.

"At this point of the season, the duals win-loss record isn't that important," he said. "What counts is who wrestles well and who doesn't."

Neumann said he was especially pleased with Nelson, an All-American who wrestled his first match since breaking his ankle Dec. 15.

After he received the cut over his eye late in the third period, he returned to score two more points.

"He looked very mature and handled



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Todd Enger tries to put a hold on Minnesota's Mike Marzetta during the 158 weight class in the dual Wednesday. Enger won the match, 6-4.

the situation real well," Neumann said. "He wouldn't have been an All-American (a top-eight finisher in the NCAA championships) tonight, but he will after four weeks of practice. "With four more weeks of practice, he can win the national championship."

Nebraska, 9-6, will wrestle its last two duals of the year Saturday against Indiana and Wednesday against Drake. Both duals will be at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Neumann said he still has high expectations for his team this season.

Results:

- 118 — Eric Folkens (Minn.) dec. Jason Buxton, 8-6.
- 126 — Jason Buxton (NU) drew with Shannon Ward, 4-4.
- 134 — Jason Kelber (NU) maj. dec. Scott Rohrer, 16-5.
- 142 — Damon Johnson (Minn.) won by forfeit.
- 150 — Willy Short (Minn.) dec. Layne Billings, 10-8.
- 158 — Todd Enger (NU) dec. Mike Marzetta, 6-4.
- 167 — Brad Gibson (Minn.) dec. Tommy Robbins, 8-4.
- 177 — Marty Morgan (Minn.) won by injury default over Corey Olson, 2-18.
- 190 — Chris Nelson (NU) maj. dec. Todd Moss, 17-5.
- Hwt. — Sonny Manley (NU) dec. Chris Stogdill, 7-3.

Volleyball player shoots for national team spot

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Val Novak is no longer the best player on her team.

Novak, who guided the Nebraska volleyball team to a Final Four appearance last season, is vying for a position on the United States National Team and a 1992 Olympic appearance in Barcelona, Spain.

Now in San Diego on an "extended tryout," Novak said the change of pace has been tough.

"It's like starting over again," Novak said. "Coming out here reminded me of the transition you have to make between high school and your freshman year of college."

Novak left Lincoln in January after U.S. National Coach Terry Liskevych convinced her that she would have a shot at making the team.

"(Liskevych) watched me play and asked me if I'd like to come and try to make the team," Novak said. "He finally talked me into it."

Although most aspiring Olympians have dreamed about participating in the summer games since childhood, Novak said the idea of being an Olympian is relatively new to her.

"I never really thought too much about it coming through school," Novak said. "But being on the national team is a great way to extend

See NOVAK on 16

Huskers not Sooners, just better

When the Nebraska men's basketball team ran onto the Allen Fieldhouse court in Lawrence, Kan., last week, the Cornhuskers huddled in the tip-off circle with hands raised, then started spinning in their own sort of rugby scrum.

A writer from the Kansas school paper said, "What is that, a little Oklahoma?"

Ouch. You might as well say nothing separates Sooners and Huskers but the difference between crimson and scarlet. You might as well say that "Bury" Switzer and Tom Osborne were drinking buddies.

I refrained from hitting that writer, though I should have busted my pen and spilled ink all over him



Paul Domeier

or something.

But he got me thinking. That is an Oklahoma trait. Have the Huskers turned into the Sooners of the north?

(I know, how distasteful, but we journalists have to do the distasteful jobs, like write about 12-car accidents and determine whether Nebraska is turning into — ugh — Oklahoma.)

No, I decided, Nebraska is more civil than that, though there is evidence that the Huskers aren't playing for intramural sportsmanship points.

Watching Tony Farmer play post defense is like watching a kung-fu movie. Beau Reid, though a nice guy off the court, is a jerk on the court and is hated by every opposing crowd in the conference. The Huskers as a whole are almost violently physical, from Rich King clubbing Oklahoma State's John Potter to Clifford Scales frisking opponents in every trap. On Wednesday, they unveiled road uniforms a nice shade of badass black.

See DOMEIER on 16