



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Clifford Scales of Nebraska drives past Terry Brown of Kansas in the second half of Sunday's game. Scales, playing in his final home game for the Cornhuskers, scored nine of Nebraska's first 11 points in the second half.

## Tough NU defense keeps hands on ball for victory

By Todd Cooper  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team, the highest-scoring team in school history, worried first about the other end of the court Sunday.

"The defensive intensity was incredible," forward Beau Reid said. "We decided before the game that we were going to play 40 minutes that way. We knew that if we played that intense, we'd win."

The 15th-ranked Huskers, 24-6 and 9-5 and third in the Big Eight, used a stingy man-to-man and two match-up zones to defeat Kansas 85-75 in front of 14,615 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We wanted to make them work for their points," senior guard Keith Moody said. "Coach (Danny) Nee told us he knew they're not really good free-throw shooters, so don't be afraid to foul them."

The eighth-ranked Jayhawks, 21-6 and 10-4 with a share of the conference title, missed eight straight free throws in the last six minutes of the game as Nebraska turned a three-point game into the final margin.

But the Huskers' defensive intensity resulted in more than just missed Kansas free throws. Nebraska led 40-31 at halftime, despite 16 first-half turnovers, partly by forcing 20 turnovers from the Jayhawks.

The Huskers caused 26 total Jayhawk turnovers, four in the last six minutes of the game.

Those statistics were the difference in the game for senior guard Clifford Scales, who finished with 14 points and three steals.

"When you play defense and all five players are playing together, that wins games and that really helps your offense," Scales said. "You let them know that you're there and you get

them out of their rhythm.

"You get steals, you get rebounds, you get the ball a lot."

Scales got the ball enough to hold off an early second-half Jayhawk surge. With a 14-7 run, Kansas cut the lead to 47-45 with 15:16 remaining. Scales then hit consecutive jumpers to increase the lead to 51-45.

"At that point, I felt we needed a lift," Scales said. "It gave us some breathing room, and then Rich (King) and our inside players took over from there."

But King, who had 14 points and nine rebounds, and his partners didn't take over completely.

Kansas cut Nebraska's lead to within a basket five times from the 11:25 mark until just over five minutes left.

Nebraska held off Kansas' last threat with a baseline bucket by King to increase the lead to six, 79-73, with 1:22 left. Jayhawk center Mark Randall — who had 15 second-half points — picked up his fifth foul on the play.

Sooner or later, forward Tony Farmer knew one of Kansas' big men would take a seat.

"We just kept playing physical and banging and banging away and pretty soon they were beating themselves," he said.

For Farmer, who had 18 points and 13 rebounds, that physical play came from his desire to send the seniors out with a win.

"I just wanted to go out and play as hard as I've ever played," he said. "Our seniors worked so hard for what they are today."

Reid, who fouled out with 2:28 remaining, saw that hard work rewarded with a standing ovation.

"It was a nice gesture by the fans as I came

See DEFENSE on 8

## Big Eight leaders stumble in regular-season finales

By The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — At the end, both failed. No. 12 Oklahoma State failed at Iowa State on Saturday and then No. 10 Kansas turned around and failed Sunday at No. 15 Nebraska.

Therefore, split the Big Eight regular season title right down the middle. Give half to the Cowboys, half to the Jayhawks. Both finished with 21-6 overall and 10-4 conference records and were unbeaten all year at home, but both failed in the clutch on their final road game.

Oklahoma State's hopes for the title in Eddie Sutton's first year as coach evaporated Saturday when Skip McCoy scored five straight points in the final 2:30 as Iowa State edged the Cowboys 68-67.

But the Jayhawks, knowing a victory Sunday at Nebraska meant an outright title, missed eight straight free throws in the final decisive moments of their loss to the Cornhuskers.

Since Oklahoma State beat Nebraska twice, and Kansas beat the Huskers only once, the Cowboys are

the No. 1 seed in the Big Eight Tournament. The tournament begins Friday in Kansas City and ends Sunday with the champion getting the Big Eight's automatic bid to the NCAA tourney.

Friday's first-round games in the Big Eight Tournament are fourth-seeded Missouri (16-10, 8-4) against fifth-seeded Iowa State (12-18, 6-8) at 12:10 p.m.; No. 1 seed Oklahoma State (21-6, 10-4) vs. No. 8 seed Kansas State (13-14, 3-11) at 2:20 p.m.; No. 2 seed Kansas (21-6, 10-4) vs. No. 7 Colorado (15-12, 5-9), and No. 3 seed Nebraska (24-6, 9-5) vs. No. 6 seed Oklahoma (16-13, 5-9).

In Saturday's other Big Eight action, Kansas State erased a 10-point deficit to take Oklahoma into overtime, then beat the Sooners on their own home court 101-98; and Missouri scorched Colorado 76-51 at home as the Buffaloes shot an appalling 26 percent from the field.

Kansas State completed a season sweep of the Sooners with a come-from-behind effort over an Oklahoma team that will probably be happy to end this nightmare of a year.

## NU swimmers, divers reflect last year's show

By Benji Greenberg  
Staff Reporter

Two in a row.

The Nebraska women's swimming and diving team repeated as Big Eight champion this weekend. The Cornhuskers had 671.5 points, ahead of Kansas (646), Iowa State (359) and Missouri (225.5). Nebraska has won five of the last seven conference championships.

The Huskers won by winning five of the seven events on Saturday. The narrow margin drew a sigh from Coach Ray Huppert.

"The meet was the closest in 16

years that I've seen or been involved in," Huppert said. "The outcome wasn't determined until the last relay was completed, so Kansas never gave up and they showed a lot of class."

"We swam exceptionally well and we're just thrilled we were able to hold off an excellent Kansas team."

And chalk up two in a row for sophomore Michelle Butcher.

Butcher won the meet's most valuable performer award for the second straight year after being the only triple winner in the meet. She won the 500 freestyle, 400 individual medley and

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## Season ends for Husker women

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Senior Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — Kansas stepped up and Nebraska stepped out of the women's Big Eight basketball tournament Saturday night.

Kansas ended the Cornhuskers' season, knocking off Nebraska 58-53 in the first round. It was the third year in a row the Huskers have been eliminated in the first round.

"(The Jayhawks) stepped up," Nebraska women's coach Angela Beck said. "We didn't step up and you've got to step up in a thing like this."

Beck said the Jayhawks' most important steps were toward the free throw line.

After hitting three of their 13 first-half free-throw attempts, the Jayhawks sparked their comeback by hitting 15 of 19 in the second half.

"I think the game was won at the free-throw line," Beck said. "We didn't get there and they did."

"You give them that many freebies and you end up having a bit of trouble."

The Huskers were also troubled by a Kansas defense that double- and triple-teamed sophomore Karen Jennings.

Despite the defenders, Jennings grabbed a game-high 27 points and 13 rebounds, but she was the only Nebraska player to reach double figures in either category.

"We were too one-dimensional," Beck said. "We didn't get any consistent outside shooting tonight. We did not get any dribble penetration from our guards."

Nebraska jumped out to an 11-2 lead, prompted by freshman Meggan Yedsena's game-opening three-pointer from the right side. Kansas battled back to tie it at 19 with 5:40 remaining in the first half, and the Huskers took a 23-21 lead to the locker room.

Kansas leading scorer Misti Chennault, who had two first-half points, scored 13 in the second half

to lead the Jayhawks back.

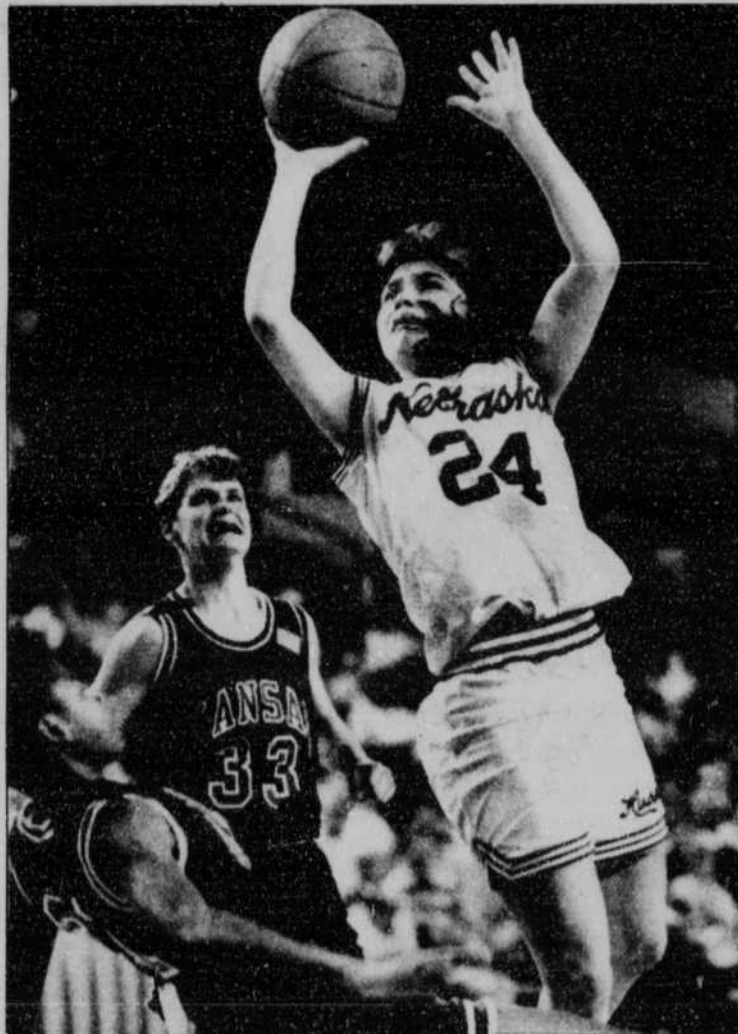
Four straight Jayhawk free throws put Kansas up by five with 1:27 left. A Yedsena jumper cut the lead to three, but Chennault's basket with 0:45 remaining kept the Jayhawks in front.

Jennings hit a jumper from the lane, cutting the lead again. But an

intentional foul called on Ann Halsne gave the Jayhawks two free throws and the ball.

"We just didn't convert on the real crucial plays late in the stretch," Beck said. "We got a little frustrated that we couldn't put them

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Robin Trimarchi/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Meggan Yedsena goes up for the shot over Kansas' Kay Kay Hart (33) and Stacy Truitt. Yedsena had seven points Saturday.