

Nee: Loss to Sooners tough for Huskers



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Derrick Chandler fights for a rebound with Oklahoma's Derrick Gallien in Monday night's 79-76 Cornhusker loss. Chandler pulled down a career-high 20 rebounds as the Huskers outrebounded Oklahoma 72-42.

In the clutch, the Price is right

By Susie Arth
Staff Reporter

The Cornhusker men's basketball team paid the price for letting a Sooner guard get off a three-point shot in the final seconds of Monday night's game.

With 28 seconds remaining in the game and the Sooners trailing by one point, Brent Price hit a critical three-point shot that put the Sooners up for good.

"I didn't think about the shot," Price said. "It was just a reaction."

Price had taken the ball away from Husker guard Michael Hughes to get the opportunity to win the game for the Sooners.

Price, who led Oklahoma in scoring with 17 points, said he felt the difference in the game was the Sooners' press.

"The time was ticking away on us," he said. "So we had to pick up our press intensity."

When Husker guard Jamar Johnson fouled out, Price said, Nebraska was left with nobody to handle the ball.

Price, who also had seven rebounds and six assists, said the ending reminded him of the Husker victory over the Sooners in last year's Big

Eight Tournament.

In that game, former Husker guard Keith Moody hit a three-point shot in the closing seconds to force the game into overtime.

"It feels a lot better being on this end," Price said.

Sooner coach Billy Tubbs said he thought the Sooners' experience was the difference.

Out of the Sooners' four conference games, Tubbs said, three of them

“I didn't think about the shot. It was just a reaction.”

Brent Price,
Oklahoma guard

have been won or lost on the last shot. "Our experience really paid off for us tonight," he said. "We made the plays when we had to."

Tubbs said he thought the game was an ugly one. The shooting by both teams, he said, was terrible.

"I have to give our players credit," he said. "There were times when we could have folded up tent."

Tubbs said he was disappointed with the Huskers' 72 rebounds, a record against the Sooners.

Tubbs said he thought his players were boxing out well, but they were getting out-manned rebounding.

Tubbs said he believed that Derrick Chandler was the reason the game went down to the wire.

"Chandler was outstanding," Tubbs said. "Without him it wouldn't have been a close game."

Chandler, the Huskers' junior center, pulled down a personal-best 20 rebounds and scored 16 points.

Tubbs said he expected this kind of game from Chandler because the Sooners had recruited him heavily.

Tubbs said he believed the victory put the Sooners' in good shape for the rest of the season.

"We needed a game like this," he said. "It helped our cause."

The Huskers, who dropped to 1-3 in Big Eight contests, will return to action Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center against the Iowa State Cyclones.

By Nick Hytrek
Senior Editor

Just call it Sooner Magic — round-ball style.

The No. 18 Oklahoma Sooners overcame a seven-point deficit with 2:29 left and pulled out a 79-76 win over Nebraska in men's basketball action Monday night.

A crowd of 12,962 people at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and a national television audience watched Sooner guard Brent Price nail a three-pointer with 28 seconds left to put Oklahoma up 77-76. Price led the Sooners with 17 points.

After Nebraska's Eric Piatkowski missed a 19-foot jumper, Bryatt Vann scored on an uncontested dunk for the final margin. Bruce Chubick's desperation three-point shot at the buzzer failed, and the Sooners pulled out a big road win.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the loss wasn't an easy one to take.

"It was a real tough game for us," Nee said. "I thought we played well enough, but we didn't play well enough long enough. I just felt that at the end of the game we just didn't do enough things right."

The Cornhuskers scored only four points in the final two and a half minutes and shot only 33.7 percent from the floor for the game, to go along with 27 turnovers.

Those statistics were keys to the game, Nee said.

"It's pretty hard to win the basketball game shooting that poor," he said. "I thought we rebounded the ball well. We went after it but we just didn't convert, we didn't keep our balance on our shooting."

Nebraska outrebounded the Sooners 72-42, with Nebraska's Derrick Chandler pulling down a game-high 20, to go with his 16 points. Carl Hayes and Daprcis Owens had 11 and 10 rebounds, respectively. Hayes led Nebraska with 17 points.

Chandler said it was poor ball control that let Oklahoma back into the game.

"We just didn't take care of the ball," he said. "We just lost."

Having point guard Jamar Johnson sitting the bench didn't help either, Chandler said. Johnson fouled out with 2:51 left in the game. The sophomore was held scoreless and had only one assist.

"We're used to Jamar in there handling the pressure and that kind of hurt us, too," Chandler said. "But I think when one person leaves the game the other four guys have to step up and play a little harder and play a little smarter."

Throughout the first half, the Huskers, 13-4, 1-3 in the Big Eight, played smart, opening up with a 6-0 lead and trading leads with the Soon-

ers. Nebraska opened up a 32-25 lead with 5:53 to go in the half, but the Sooners stormed back and regained the lead, taking a 40-37 lead into halftime.

Oklahoma, 13-3, 2-2, threatened to break the game open in the second half, opening up a 53-46 lead at 14:51 of the second half.

The Huskers stormed back, though, and went on a 13-1 run to go up 59-54 with 10:47 left.

The lead grew to eight with 5:36 left on a three-pointer by Hayes and with just 2:29 left, Nebraska held a 72-65 lead.

Oklahoma chipped away at the lead and pulled to within two at 76-74 with 44 seconds left. After a Husker turnover, Price came down on the break, pulled up and nailed the winning shot from well behind the three-point line to give Oklahoma a 77-76 lead.

Vann then scored on his dunk after Piatkowski missed a shot which would have given Nebraska the lead.

The loss, Nebraska's second at home in Big Eight play, dimmed the Huskers' hopes of contending for the conference title, Nee said.

"I think realistically, if you just look at the numbers now, it's not very realistic," Nee said. "We were trying to be contenders. You're not going to be contenders if you can't win at home."

Nebraska will have to play well from now on if it is to reach its goal of post-season play, Piatkowski said.

"We've got a lot of basketball left this year," he said. "If we want to make the (NCAA) tournament, we gotta pull it together and just forget this one."

"We have a lot of good basketball left in us. We have to put our heads down to the grindstone and get after it."

Oklahoma 40 39 — 79
at Nebraska 37 39 — 76

Oklahoma — Patterson 2-12 1-2 5, Webster 5-9 1-4 11, Sallier 5-10 3-7 13, Price 6-19 2-3 17, Hamilton 6-12 2-2 14, Evans 5-12 4-9 15, Gallien 1-1 0-0 2, Davis 0-10-00, Vann 1-10-02. Totals 31-77 10-23 79

Nebraska — Owens 6-13 1-4 13, Hayes 7-16 2-2 17, Chandler 8-16 0-3 16, Johnson 0-8 0-0 0, Piatkowski 3-12 7-10 15, Chubick 2-4 1-2 5, Cresswell 2-6 0-0 6, Hughes 0-8 4-6 4. Totals 28-83 15-27 76

Three-point goals — Oklahoma 7-25 (Patterson 0-3, Price 3-11, Hamilton 0-2, Evans 4-9), Nebraska 5-20 (Hayes 1-4, Johnson 0-3, Piatkowski 2-4, Chubick 0-1, Cresswell 2-6, Hughes 0-2). Rebounds — Oklahoma 42 (Patterson 13), Nebraska 72 (Chandler 20). Assists — Oklahoma 17 (Price 6), Nebraska 20 (Piatkowski 6). Turnovers — Oklahoma 14 (Patterson 3), Nebraska 27 (Chandler 5). Total fouls (dq) — Oklahoma 27 (Webster), Nebraska 19 (Johnson). A — 12,962.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Men's volleyball club misses tournament title

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's volleyball club bounced back from a loss Friday night to advance to the finals of a tournament in Ames, Iowa, on Saturday.

Nebraska's club lost to Park College in Kansas City Friday night 15-8, 10-15, 16-14, 15-3.

The club traveled to Ames, Iowa,

on Saturday, and went 2-2 in round-robin competition before playing a tournament that night.

In the tournament, Nebraska beat Minnesota in the semifinals before losing to Graceland College in the finals 15-10, 15-2.

Nebraska's club will play Kansas on Friday at the UNL Campus Recreation Center. The match starts at 7 p.m.

Swim teams beat Missouri

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams beat Missouri on Saturday at Columbia 171-59 and 128-102, respectively.

Both Cornhusker squads also were victorious at Southern Illinois on Friday. The men won 148-95 and the women outscored SIU 127-116.

The win marks the men's last meet before February's Big Eight

Championships. The women's team has one home meet remaining against Minnesota on Saturday.

Michelle Butcher led the women with four wins over the weekend. The men were led by Will Campbell and Alan Kelsey who each won a total of four events in the two meets.

The Husker men's dual record improved to 7-3 on the season, while the women's record improved to 5-4.