

Second-half slump sinks Husker hopes

By Brian Eaton
Special to the Daily Nebraskan

NORMAN, Okla. — After starting the game blazing, Nebraska's young guns wilted, and the Cornhusker men's basketball team lost its Big Eight opener 102-89 to Oklahoma.

Plagued by turnovers and poor second-half shooting, Nebraska let the Sooners pull away from a five-point halftime lead and coast to the win before 8,126 fans at the Lloyd Noble Center.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said the Huskers' inexperience showed in the second half.

"You could tell it was our first Big Eight game," Nee said. "We have a lot of rookies who are still getting experience."

"I was impressed with Oklahoma. They are a great ball team and were a dominating force in the game — especially rebounding."

The Huskers matched the Sooners throughout most of the first half, taking leads by as many as 12 points. Freshman guard Erick Strickland hit four straight three-point shots in the first half and finished with a career-high 19 points.

"Starting the game I was pretty confident and tried to keep my focus on playing the ball hard," Strickland said. But Oklahoma closed the half with a 21-4 run and took a halftime lead they would never give up.

Nebraska pulled to within two with 15 minutes to go in the second half, but Oklahoma went on another run and put the Huskers in a 65-51 hole three minutes later.

After shooting 75 percent from the three-point line in the first half, Nebraska hit only five of 16 three-point

ers in the second half.

The Huskers gave up 28 turnovers and 20 steals in the game, and Strickland said that a failure to hang onto the ball was the key to Nebraska's loss.

"We kind of started to lose our composure toward the end and OU's pressure definitely was the key in their win," Strickland said.

Nee agreed. "I think the game ran in spurts tonight, so I didn't think much of the big runs," Nee said.

Junior guard Jamar Johnson led Nebraska scorers with 20 points.

Nebraska, which dropped to 11-4 overall and 0-1 in the conference, will play again Saturday at Oklahoma State.

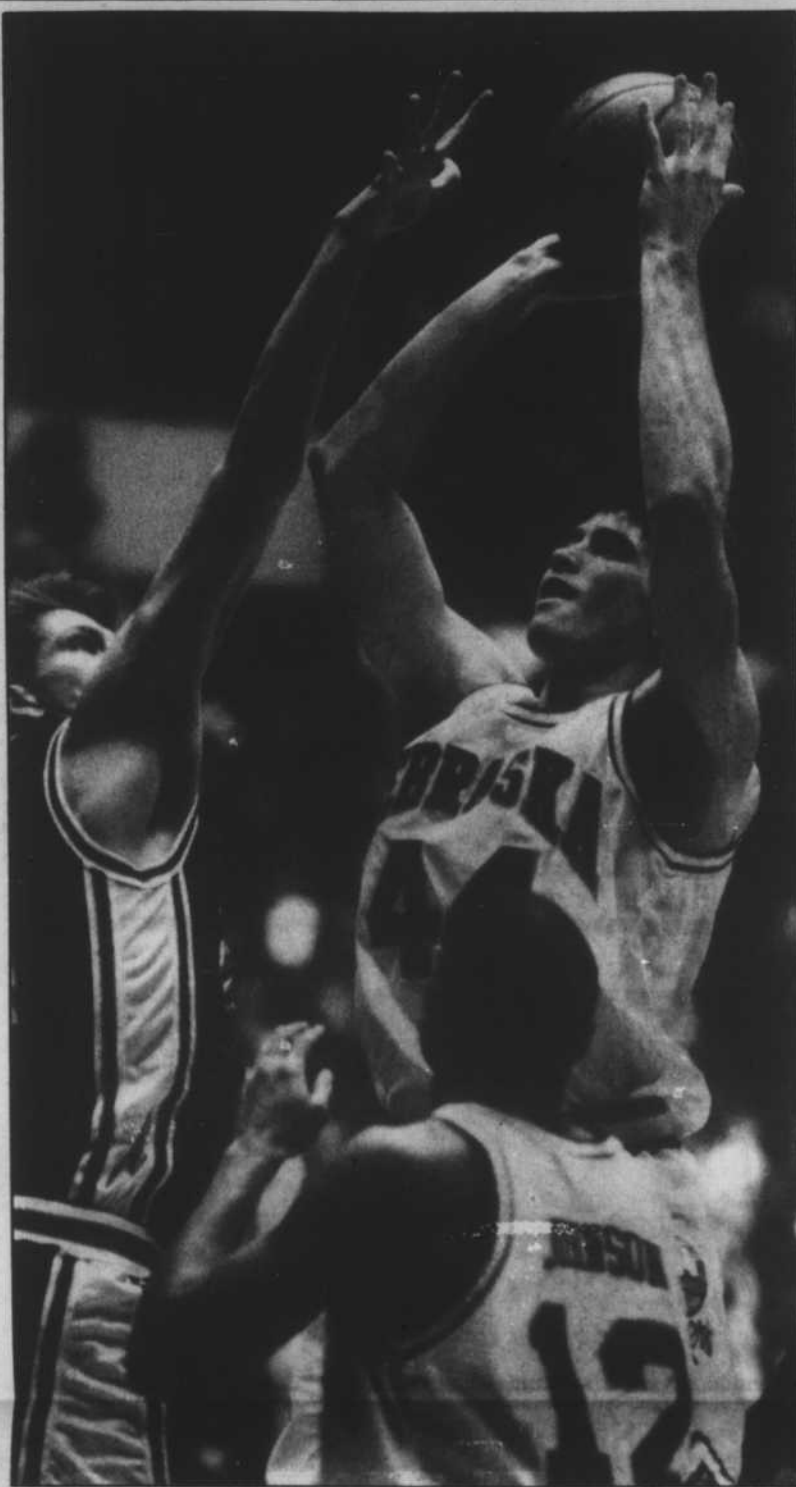
"Losing is never easy, but this first Big Eight game helped us get ready for Oklahoma State," Strickland said.

Nebraska 43 46 — 89
at Oklahoma 48 54 — 102

Nebraska (11-4) — Johnson 7-17 3-20, Boone 1-6 2-2 4, Chandler 4-6 5-6 13, Chubick 4-5 0-0 8, Piatkowski 2-7 1-1 6, Badgett 0-3 2-4 2, Gregory 3-5 1-2 7, Best 0-1 0-0 0, Strickland 7-12 0-0 19, Woolridge 3-5 2-2 10. Totals 31-67 16-21 89.

Oklahoma (12-3) — Webster 6-13 7-8 19, Vann 7-14 1-2 18, Sallier 6-11 2-5 14, Evans 7-12 11-12 29, Hamilton 6-14 1-2 13, Conley 2-3 1-2 5, Lewis 0-4 2-3 2, Minor 1-2 0-0 2, Alexander 0-1 0-0 0, Barries 0-0 0-0 0, Black 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-74 25-34 102.

3-point goals — Nebraska 11-24 (Johnson 3-8, Boone 0-2, Piatkowski 1-2, Badgett 0-1, Strickland 5-9, Woolridge 2-2), Oklahoma 7-18 (Vann 3-5, Evans 4-8, Hamilton 0-5). Rebounds — Nebraska 41 (Chandler 7), Oklahoma 44 (Sallier 11). Assists — Nebraska 14 (Johnson 6), Oklahoma 18 (Evans 6, Lewis 6). Total fouls (dq) — Nebraska 25 (Johnson), Oklahoma 16. A — 8, 126.



Nebraska forward Bruce Chubick goes up for a shot earlier this season against Creighton. The Cornhuskers lost to Oklahoma on Thursday night.

Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska men resume Big Eight play on road

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Time has made a molehill out of the king of the mountain in Big Eight men's basketball.

Oklahoma State, which tied for the conference title two years ago, has been leveled this season by graduation.

Nebraska will get its shot at the now-depleted Cowboys when the two teams square off at 3:10 p.m. at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla. The game will be televised live by Raycom.

Oklahoma State has an overall record of 8-3 and is off to an 0-2 start in Big Eight play following last night's loss at Iowa State.

That's a far cry from the 1992 team that later made it to the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament.

But the loss of four starters, including All-American forward Byron Houston and a trio of guards, left Oklahoma State short in experience this season.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said it would be a new-look Cowboy team on the floor Saturday, different from the one that split its games with the Huskers last year.

"They're going to play ball controlled and be very physical, but it's a completely different team," Nee said. "A year ago they had Houston — it's a new identity down there."

The lone starter from last season's 28-8 Cowboys is center Bryant Reeves. The 7-foot sophomore is leading his team in both scoring and rebounding with 19.3 and 10.1 per game averages, respectively.

See OSU on 8

Huskers' Big Eight hopes rest on Kansas and Kansas State games

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

As if one mad team wasn't enough, the Nebraska women's basketball team has to face two this weekend.

The Cornhuskers will make a three-day road swing to Kansas and Kansas State, two teams who have yet to get a conference win this season between them.

Nebraska, 10-3 overall and 1-1 in the conference, will tip off the trip at 7 p.m. tonight in Lawrence, Kan., against Kansas. The Huskers play again at 2 p.m. on Sunday in Manhattan, Kan., against the Wildcats.

Husker coach Angela Beck said the road trip will be crucial to her team's chances of winning a Big Eight title.

"(Kansas and Kansas State) are not playing well right now," Beck said. "But, they will be tough to beat at home. I doubt the Big Eight champs will be able to lose more than three games."

Beck said her team will first focus on Kansas, the defending Big Eight

Women's basketball probable starters

Nebraska at Kansas
7 p.m. Friday
Allen Fieldhouse
Lawrence, Kan.

Nebraska (10-3, 1-1)

	PPG	RPG
G Kate Galligan	6.2	2.2
G Meggan Yedsena	9.0	3.6
C Sara Offringa	12.0	3.8
F Rissa Taylor	9.7	4.9
F Karen Jennings	21.8	7.8



Scott Maurer/DN

Kansas (6-5, 0-2)

	PPG	RPG
G Charisse Sampson	14.3	2.6
G Stacy Truitt	7.3	3.2
C Lisa Tate	10.3	10.3
F Angela Aycock	17.6	6.2
F Alana Slatter	8.9	4.2

regular season champion who beat the Huskers twice last season.

"Mental toughness will be a key factor for the trip," Beck said. "We want to focus on Kansas and let the adrenaline take us to Kansas State."

Senior forward Karen Jennings will most likely be the focus of attention for the Kansas and Kansas State defenses this weekend.

See NU WOMEN on 8

Gymnasts to open season with dual against Oklahoma

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team will tumble into action for the first time this season tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center against Oklahoma.

Coach Rick Walton said the Cornhuskers performed well in pre-season workouts and that he was looking forward to the 7:30 p.m. dual.

"We think we are ready," Walton said. "I guess we'll have to watch tomorrow to know for sure."

The Huskers will be led by junior Lori Phillips and sophomore Martha Jenkins, who was the team's top all-arounder last year. Besides Phillips and Jenkins, the Huskers feature three sophomores and four freshmen.

Despite their minimal experience, Walton was confident about the poise of his young gymnasts.

"They may be a little nervous, but I can't imagine this (Friday's dual) bothering them," Walton said.

The Huskers enter the 1993 season as the No. 15 team in the nation according to preseason ratings. Walton said the ratings could be deceiving, and he was more concerned with the team's performance than polls.

"Of course, winning the conference is our goal as normal," Walton said. "What we want to do right now, though, is to score high early (in the season)."

Walton stressed the importance of seeing as much of the team as possible in the dual to evaluate his team's level of competition.

The Huskers finished second in the Big Eight last year and 13th in the nation, one spot away from qualifying for the NCAA tournament. Nebraska was defeated by Oklahoma in dual competition last year.

Walton said the team's primary goal was to go to the NCAA Tournament this April, but first to prove themselves against the Sooners.

"We hope to make it interesting this year," Walton said.

Northern Iowa dual will test NU wrestlers, coach says

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann is hoping his team will be running like a well-oiled car after Saturday's dual against seventh-ranked Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

"This will be a good tuneup for next week's National Duals," he said. The National Dual Meet Champi-

onships, which will feature seven of the top 11 teams in the country, will be Jan. 23-24 at the NU Coliseum.

Northern Iowa will give the fifth-ranked Cornhuskers a good test, Neumann said.

"Northern Iowa is a little bit tougher than we thought they would be at the beginning of the season," he said.

Neumann said the Panthers measured up to the competition the Huskers would see in the Big Eight and at

the National Dual Meet.

"They passed up Oklahoma and Oklahoma State in the rankings," he said. "We're strong — Northern Iowa's strong too, and we're young — they're young," Neumann said. "It should be a heck of a match."

Tommy Robbins, a 167-pound senior, is definitely out of action for the match against the Panthers, Neumann said.

Robbins suffered a rib injury at the

Great Plains Invitational Tournament last Saturday.

"He's a lot better now, but he won't wrestle this week," Neumann said. "He should be available for nationals — I'd say that he's probable for next week."

All-American Corey Olson is back from an injured shoulder and will wrestle Saturday, Neumann said.

The Huskers started 1993 with a disappointing loss to No. 4 Iowa State

on Jan. 6, but Neumann said that the loss reminded his team of the level of intensity that they needed to maintain and win.

"(Losing to Iowa State) was a downer," he said. "After a month off, it told us where we had to be."

"Nobody wrestled great. Everybody wrestled flat."

The Great Plains Invite brought

See WRESTLERS on 8