

Free throws, center lead to Cowboy win

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska men's basketball team paid the price Saturday for giving Oklahoma State 43 free throws.

The Cornhuskers, who lost 78-73 to Oklahoma State at Gallagher-Iba Arena in Stillwater, Okla., fell to 0-2 in Big Eight Conference play and 11-5 overall.

The Huskers, who led the Cowboys by two points at halftime, gave Oklahoma State the opportunity to convert on 33 of their 43 free-throw attempts.

Nebraska forward Bruce Chubick said the free-throw discrepancy was a big difference in the game.

"Oklahoma State went to the line

43 times, and we went eight," he said. "That puts you at a definite disadvantage."

Chubick, who scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds, said he was unable to understand why the Cowboys were awarded so many more trips to the free throw line.

"It wasn't a lack of aggressiveness on our part," he said. "They were just getting the calls."

Chubick said another factor in the Cowboys' victory was the play of Oklahoma State center Bryant Reeves, who scored 22 points and grabbed 15 rebounds.

"He is definitely one of the better centers we'll face this year," Chubick said. "He's really improved. He was not nearly as dominant last year."

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During his post-game radio show, Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was pleased with his team's effort.

"I really think from Thursday night to Saturday, Nebraska raised its level," he said. "We can learn from it, we can build from it."

And Chubick said he was not ready

to count the Huskers out of the race for the Big Eight Championship yet.

"This is a tough league, it has been for the last four or five years," he said. "It's going to be a lot harder now, but I'm not counting us out for the Big Eight title."

But Nee said he believed his team was still learning what it takes to win in the Big Eight.

"We're going through a growth process," he said. "We're going to understand what it takes to win."

The Huskers will play Sacramento State Wednesday before resuming conference play Saturday against Kansas State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska ... 36 37 — 73
at Oklahoma State ... 34 44 — 78

Nebraska (11-5) — Chubick 5-7 0-0 10, Piatkowski 5-12 2-3 14, Chandler 2-7 0-0 4, Johnson 3-9 1-18, Boone 3-7 0-0 8, Gregory 1-5 0-0 2, Best 4-4 0-0 9, Strickland 4-13 3-12, Woolridge 2-5 0-0 4, Badgett 1-10 0-2. Totals 30-70 6-8 73.

Oklahoma State (9-3) — Burley 4-5 2-2 10, Brown 2-4 4-8 8, Reeves 4-7 14-18 22, Rutherford 4-8 2-2 10, Thompson 5-13 7-9 18, Bennett 1-2 4-4 6, Sutton 1-3 0-0 2, Collins 0-0 0-0 0, Manzer 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 22-43 33-43 78.

3-point goals — Nebraska 7-19 (Piatkowski 2-3, Johnson 1-4, Boone 2-2, Gregory 0-1, Best 1-1, Strickland 1-7, Woolridge 0-1), Oklahoma State 1-10 (Rutherford 0-2, Thompson 1-6, Sutton 0-2).

Rebounds — Nebraska 27 (Chubick 7), Oklahoma State 41 (Reeves 15). **Assists** — Nebraska 16 (Strickland 5), Oklahoma State 15 (Thompson 8). **Total fouls (dq)** — Nebraska 29 (Badgett), Oklahoma St. 13.

Technical — Nebraska bench. A — 6,381.



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska sophomore gymnast Martha Jenkins competes on the uneven bars during a dual with Oklahoma Friday night. The Cornhuskers won the dual by a score of 188 to 184.1.

Gymnasts beat OU in close meet

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

On a night that belonged to the Nebraska women's gymnastics team and Nicole Duval, inconsistency was the Cornhuskers' biggest opponent.

The Huskers defeated Oklahoma 188-184.1 in their first meet of the season on Friday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Despite the victory, Nebraska coach Rick Walton said the team performed below its full capability.

He said he had hoped for a higher

score than 188, which was on the low end of the team's goal.

"I think our team is better than that," he said.

Walton also said that his young Huskers needed confidence to reach their potential.

"This group of kids will be a lot better when a few girls realize that they're good," Walton said.

Duval, a sophomore, is one gymnast who is realizing quickly the extent of her talent.

Duval captured the all-around title at the dual with a score of 38.45. She won three events (the uneven bars, balance beam and floor

exercise) and placed fourth in the vault.

Duval said she was pleased and motivated by her performance against the Sooners.

"I have no complaints," she said. "I'm happy with the way I performed. It gives me a lot of confidence and makes me want to work harder in the gym."

Duval said she was now going to concentrate on getting the team score above 190 and finishing in the top 20 individually at nationals.

Walton said Duval needed to continue to believe in her ability

and use it as a steppingstone to add more difficulty to her routines.

"Nicole needs to be more confident," Walton said. "Now she can play with more difficult routines. The moderate routines will get hammered (by the judges)."

Along with Duval, Walton praised sophomores Jennifer Hawkinson and Kristi Camp.

"Kristi Camp quietly gave a great performance," Walton said. "Our big story was Jennifer Hawkinson. She was at 20 percent this fall and tonight performed on pure athletic ability."

Jennings, NU survive tight game, humble KSU

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's basketball team found out Sunday how to win without a big game from Karen Jennings.

Despite Jennings scoring a season-low 10 points, the Cornhuskers coasted to a 74-57 victory over Kansas State in Manhattan, Kan.

Last year Jennings scored 48 points, a Big Eight record, to lead Nebraska to victory over Kansas State.

This year the Cornhuskers blew open a tight game with balanced scoring. The win improved Nebraska's record to 11-4 overall and 2-2 in the Big Eight.

Coach Angela Beck said that she was encouraged by the play of the team, especially coming off a draining loss to Kansas on Friday.

"It was difficult to start against KU," Beck said. "This was a good win for us because it is such a difficult situation."

The Husker difficulty was compounded by the sporadic play of the offense and the ineffectiveness of Jennings. Beck attributed Jennings' scoring problems to pressure and a solid Wildcat defense.

"Jennings had a tough night," Beck said. "The defense kind of lulled us to sleep."

In the face of a stingy Wildcat defense, the Huskers received a needed wake-up call from freshman Lis Brenden and junior Nafeesah Brown. Brenden scored 12 points, and Brown added 14 to spark the Huskers.

The spotlight of the game was reserved for Megan Yedsena. The junior guard became the Husker's all-time assist leader by collecting her 445th assist, breaking Amy Stephens' mark of 444.

Beck praised the junior point guard and her role on the team.

"She (Yedsena) doesn't get much credit," Beck said. "She does a lot of things right. I'm pleased with her."

Team effort helps Husker wrestlers trounce Panthers

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska wrestling team tuned up for next weekend's National Dual Meet Championships with a decisive win against No. 7 Northern Iowa on Saturday.

The No. 5 Cornhuskers rolled to a 28-7 win over the Panthers, who wrestled at home before a crowd of 1,102 people.

The win evens up Nebraska's dual

record at 1-1. The Panthers dropped to 6-3.

Senior Matt Lindland, ranked No. 1 at 158 pounds, said that the Huskers wrestled well after losing to Iowa State on Jan. 6.

"We wrestled better as a team," he said. "We were more together as a team than we were against Iowa State."

Senior Rick Coltvet, who won his match at 150 pounds, agreed with Lindland.

"This was easily our sharpest dual

of the season," he said.

Nebraska was sharp despite the absence of Tommy Robbins, a 167-pound senior out with a rib injury.

In his place was redshirt freshman Chad Nelson, and he didn't disappoint, scoring a 14-8 decision over the Panthers' Curt Bennethum.

The Huskers won eight out of the 10 weight divisions against Northern Iowa.

Both top-ranked Husker wrestlers won.

Lindland won by decision, defeating Jamie Byrne 2-1 at 158 pounds, and Corey Olson picked up the 100th win of his career at Nebraska by scoring a technical fall over Northern Iowa's Brian Benning in 3:49.

By reaching 100 wins, Olson became the seventh Husker to ever reach that milestone.

The last Husker to reach 100 wins was Chris Nelson, who reached the plateau last year as a senior.

At 134, Frank Velazquez won by

decision beating Northern Iowa's No. 11 Scott Hassel 6-4. At 190, Husker Ovanes Oganisian scored a 9-4 win over No. 4 Dave Malecek of the Panthers.

Velazquez, Oganisian and Chad Nelson all gained redemption for earlier losses to the same opponents.

Nebraska will take to the mats this weekend in the National Dual Meet Championships at the NU Coliseum.

The dual will feature seven of the top 11 teams in the country.