

NU shines in win over KSU, Nee says

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — After not having won against a ranked opponent all season, the Nebraska men's basketball team is now making a habit out of beating college basketball's best.

The Cornhuskers, who upset third-ranked Kansas last week, made it two wins in a row against ranked teams, beating No. 23 Kansas State 80-59 Saturday at Bramlage Coliseum.

The win, in front of a sold-out crowd of 13,389, avenged a 66-64

loss three weeks before to the Wildcats at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said it was one of his team's best efforts of the season.

"It's a big win for us," Nee said. "It was probably our best overall team win in a long time — there wasn't one player on Nebraska who didn't contribute."

The Husker victory, which evened Nebraska's Big Eight record at 4-4 and improved its overall mark to 16-7, could be explained simply by the two teams' shooting percentages.

“**Coach Nee said 'I'm depending on you; I think you're the best team in the Big Eight.'**

—Badgett
NU forward

The Huskers shot 52 percent from the field, while the Wildcats made just 19 of their 71 shots and shot 27 percent.

Made free throws also helped the

Huskers, as Nebraska shot a season-high 87 percent from the charity stripe.

From the onset, the game didn't look like it would be lopsided. But after being down 21-20, the Huskers went on a 10-0 run near the end of the first half that proved fatal for Kansas State.

Nebraska took a 36-27 lead into halftime, and the Wildcats could get no closer than seven points for the rest of the game.

After the Wildcats reduced the deficit to 42-35 with 15 minutes left in the game, the Huskers used six unanswered points, highlighted by a Der-

rick Chandler dunk and Jamar Johnson's steal and layup on the following possession, to put the game out of reach.

The win, the largest margin of victory for the Huskers on the road in league play under Nee, improved Nebraska's record to 2-0 this season in their black road uniforms.

The Huskers scored a 82-67 win last month at Colorado, and guard Jaron Boone said the uniforms seem to bring out an extra dimension in Nebraska.

See HUSKERS on 8

Veterans carry NU in victory over KU

By Beau Finley
Staff Reporter

On a day when Nebraska coach Angela Beck was hoping for a Valentine's Day massacre, her women's basketball team had to settle for a victory Sunday.

Behind the scoring of two veterans, Nebraska pulled away from Kansas in the second half to win 66-52 before 3,126 fans at the Devaney Sports Center.

After cold shooting led to a four-point Husker halftime lead, Nebraska came out firing in the second half and used a 12-4 run to take a 43-31 advantage with 12:33 to play.

Nebraska was led by senior Karen Jennings and junior Nafeesah Brown, who in the first 17 minutes of the second half combined to score all of the Huskers' points.

Junior guard Meggan Yedsena said Beck's halftime talk woke the team up.

"(Beck) told us we needed to execute on offense," Yedsena said. "Karen and Feesah were having great nights, and we had to keep getting them the ball."

Jennings led Nebraska with 27 points, and Brown added 20. The tandem also grabbed 27 of 39 Nebraska rebounds.

Defense was also a key, as the Huskers held the Jayhawks to nine points in the first 11 minutes of the second half to take a 12-point lead. Kansas shot only 39 percent from the field in the game.

Beck said keeping the Jayhawks in check offensively was key to the victory.

"We protected our lead and wore them out," Beck said. "They got a little one-dimensional in the second half with (Charise) Sampson trying to create too much. I was pleased with our defensive effort."

Close first halves are becoming a habit for the Huskers, who are 18-5 overall and 8-3 in the Big Eight Con-

See BECK on 8



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Cris Hall clears 6 feet in the high jump at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational. Hall placed second in the event.

Coach pleased with track weekend

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

Kevin Coleman capped Nebraska's successful track weekend when he heaved the competition into the dust once again at the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational.

Coleman threw the shot put 64-10 1/2, beating Cornhusker teammate Andy Meyer, who had a throw of 58-2.

"I knew there wouldn't be that much competition here. I was basically just throwing for myself," Coleman said. "I can do a lot better. There are some technical things I need to work on if I'm going to improve."

The competition included more than 60 men's and women's teams, which packed the Bob Devaney Sports Center for the two-day meet.

Nonetheless, Coleman said he'd be tested down the road.

"The real competition will come at nationals," he said. "It's all technical now. If I want to improve before then, I'll just need to take care of that."

Also highlighting the men's side was Riley Washington with his first place finish in the men's 55-meter dash. Washington tied the school record with a time of 6.17 seconds.

Another first-place finisher for the Nebraska men was Robert Thomas, who won the triple jump with

a leap of 52-8.

Nebraska coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased with the performance of the men's team.

"I thought we had a lot of real fine performances," Pepin said. "It was good for us to see the strong areas today, but then again, the areas that you don't do well in can cause some worries."

On the women's side, Theresa Stelling took first in the mile, with a time of 4:48.29.

"Stelling ran a fine mile, it was good to see that," Pepin said. "I thought Cris Hall also did a fine job."

Hall placed second in the high jump with a leap of 6-0. Other

Nebraska women finishing second included Kwani Stewart in the 200-meter dash and Shanelle Porter in the 400-meter dash.

"Once we've had time to really look at this thing, we'll have a better feel of how we did," Pepin said. "In any track meet there are going to be real good things and then you'll have your disappointments."

"There were ups and downs out here today. But I'm sure the positives outweighed the negatives by a lot."

The total attendance for the two-day event tallied 6,338 people, a crowd that helped the Huskers, according to Pepin.

Depth makes the difference for Husker gymnasts' win

By Susie Arth
Senior Reporter

Depth was the difference between Nebraska and Minnesota in a gymnastics dual Saturday.

Nebraska coach Francis Allen said the top-ranked Cornhuskers, who won the dual meet 281.15 to 279.8 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, relied on their bottom gymnasts to pull away from the No. 4 Gophers.

With the win, the Huskers improved their dual record to 5-0, while Minnesota dropped to 2-1.

"I thought that team depth was the key," he said. "The top guys were jammed in there together, so it must be the bottom guys who made the difference."

The difference in the meet was evident early.

After two rotations, the Huskers led the Gophers 94.75 to 92.55, and Minnesota never recovered.

Minnesota coach Fred Roethlisberger said poor performances on the floor exercise and the pommel horse killed his team's chances for the victory.

“**The top guys were jammed in there together, so it must be the bottom guys who made the difference.**

—Allen
Husker gymnastics coach

“We lost the meet in the first two events,” he said.

Three different gymnasts for the Huskers were able to win individual

events.

Dennis Harrison won the horizontal bar with a 9.6, Che Bowers won the pommel horse with a 9.8 and Richard Grace tied Minnesota's John Roethlisberger for first place on the parallel bars with a 9.65.

Roethlisberger, a two-time NCAA all-around champion and member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic team, edged out Grace 56.55 to 56.4 for the all-around title. Minnesota's Kerry Huston finished third with a 56.25.

Allen said he was especially pleased with Grace, who proved he

was on the same level as gymnasts like Roethlisberger.

Grace set a career high on the floor exercise, and tied season bests on the still rings and parallel bars.

"Grace is just doing what he did last year," Allen said. "He's just progressed a little bit."

And Allen said depth was the quality that wins NCAA championships.

"That's what team gymnastics is all about, that's what the NCAA Championships is all about — the team that can go out and hang together best."