



Nebraska's Bruce Chubick goes up for a shot against Oklahoma's Ken Conley. The Cornhuskers clinched a share of second place in the Big Eight with a 94-83 victory over the Sooners Sunday.

Staci McKee/DN

## Cornhuskers pull through, win senior's last home game

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

It was Nebraska center Derrick Chandler's day at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday.

But when the Cornhuskers' leader went down, Nebraska picked up its play and beat Oklahoma 94-83 in its regular-season finale.

With 4:36 left in the game and the Huskers down 76-74, Chandler, the lone senior on the Nebraska team, fouled out in his final home game.

But Nebraska went on a 20-7 run in the game's final minutes to help Chandler leave the Devaney Center on a winning note in front of 14,558 fans.

Husker forward Bruce Chubick

said after Chandler received his fifth foul, he wanted to let the senior know his last home game wasn't going to be a loss.

"What's going on in my head is we've got to win this game for DC, because we wanted to send him out like a champ, not a chump," Chubick said. "I walked over to him, I said 'Don't worry DC, we'll get it for you.'"

Chandler, who finished the game with 15 points, 11 rebounds and three blocks, said Chubick's confidence was all he needed.

"(Chubick) made some big plays down the stretch," Chandler said. "And every time he did something, he looked at the sideline and gave me a little nod, and I knew that we were going to win this game."

Things didn't look so good for Nebraska before Chandler fouled out. The Huskers had built a 56-43 lead early in the second half following a Chubick basket, but the Sooners used a 33-18 run until Chandler left to give Oklahoma a two-point lead with less than five minutes remaining.

But Nebraska guard Jamar Johnson scored 10 of his 19 points in Chandler's absence to improve the Huskers' overall record to 20-9 and Big Eight mark to 8-6.

Nebraska ended a four-game losing streak to the Sooners, and helped drop Oklahoma's conference record to 7-7 and overall mark to 19-10.

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## Chandler gets wish in home finale

By Jeff Griesch  
Staff Reporter

In his last home game Sunday, Derrick Chandler's wish was to go out in style with a win over Oklahoma.

Forced to watch from the sideline after fouling out with 4:36 left in the game, Chandler saw Nebraska go on a 20-7 run to grant him his wish with a 94-83 win over the Sooners.

Chandler set the tone early for the Cornhuskers, scoring the first five points for Nebraska. He finished with 15 points, 11 rebounds and 3 blocked shots.

Jamar Johnson and Eric

Piatkowski led Nebraska with 19, and Bruce Chubick added 15 points.

"It wasn't a big game for me personally, but it was a total team win," Chandler said.

Chandler, who fought off a few tears after a minute-long standing ovation from the more than 14,000 fans, said the game was special for him.

"It was a real emotional game for me," Chandler said. "I was filled with a lot of joy and sadness."

The crowd chanted "D.C." while he sat on the bench with five fouls, and Chandler gave them a two-arm wave. But he said he wanted to do more than that.

"I wanted to shake hands with all 14,000 fans personally to show

my appreciation to them," Chandler said.

Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs was not as appreciative of Chandler as the Nebraska fans were, but praised his performance against the Sooners.

"I thought he had a great game," Tubbs said. "He had a big game on the boards with 11 rebounds."

"He is just an outstanding player."

With the regular season over, Chandler said he had already begun to focus on the Big Eight Tournament.

"Last year, I fouled out and had a bad game," Chandler said. "I am going to have a better game against Kansas State."

## Cornhuskers eke out win over Cowboys

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — Meggan Yedsena's free throws with five seconds remaining assured Nebraska that the third time would be the charm in the Cornhuskers' 66-64 victory over Oklahoma State Sunday.

Nebraska, who lost both regular-season games against the Cowgirls, advanced to tonight's Big Eight Tournament final by winning a game that saw 22 lead changes and 13 ties.

"That's the biggest victory we've been a part of," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said. "We've had a comfortable lead in a lot of games, and this was definitely not a comfortable game."

Yedsena was fouled after she rebounded an Oklahoma State miss with five seconds left. Yedsena, who sat out of the Huskers' first-round win with a sprained ankle, sunk both free throws.

"I struggled the whole game with my ankle," Yedsena said. "I thought (free throws) would be a way to make up for the game."

Oklahoma State missed a last-second shot from five feet out.

Against Oklahoma State, the Huskers shot 52 percent from the field while the Cowgirls shot only 35 percent. However, Nebraska did commit 26 turnovers, 16 of those coming in the first half.

"Our defense was pretty solid," Beck said. "The thing that hurt us was how much we turned the ball over."

The game was even throughout the first half, with Nebraska holding a 35-34 halftime lead, despite the Cowgirls' 30 percent shooting from the field.

"We've been that way the whole year," Oklahoma State coach Dick Halterman said. "We are not a good shooting team, but our effort is so good that it keeps us in the game."

In the second half, the Huskers looked as if they might pull away. After Tanya Upthegrove's basket with 10:48 left, Nebraska led 53-45.



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"We lost the game around the eight-minute mark, when we just quit playing," Halterman said.

Oklahoma State fought its way back, partly because of Lisa McGill, who scored 10 points in the final 7:30.

"It wasn't that we got comfortable, they just played a solid game, especially for how young a team they are," Beck said.

Karen Jennings led Nebraska with 19 points, while Nafeesah Brown added 12 and Rissa Taylor had 10.

Oklahoma State was led by freshman Stacey Coffey, who had 19 points.

Nebraska improved to 22-6 with the win and will play home favorite Kansas, an 81-78 double overtime winner over Colorado, in Monday's championship game.

"We both want to get that game," Beck said. "It's going to be a very tough battle."

## Third match a charm for Cyclone wrestlers

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

Iowa State and Nebraska each came into the Big Eight Championships dead even.

The Cyclones defeated the Cornhuskers Jan. 6.

Nebraska got revenge at the National Duals with a win over its Big Eight foe Jan. 23.

A close match between the Cyclones and the Huskers was anticipated at the Big Eight Championships Saturday at Norman, Okla.

And a close match it was. In the end, Iowa State proved they were better than the Huskers by one-half point.

The Cyclones defeated Nebraska 87-86.5 to end the Huskers' quest for their first conference title.

Senior John Buxton, who finished runner-up at 118, said the loss was disappointing, but added it may help in the long run.

"It may actually help us," he said. "It'll get us to work a little harder in the next two weeks before the national meet."

The Cornhuskers advanced nine of 10 wrestlers to the finals, and they looked to be in command and en route to their first conference title.

Of the nine wrestlers who made the finals, only three came out on top.

Senior Tony Purler won at 126, decisioning Rick Williams of Iowa State, and junior Frank Velazquez took first at 134.

Senior Matt Lindland, attempting to become the first Husker wrestler to go undefeated, advanced his record to 36-0 with a 4-2 overtime win over Jason Leonard of Oklahoma.

Lindland's victory at 158 turned out to be Nebraska's last win of the evening.

Huskers Corey Olson, Ovanes Oganisian and Rulon Gardner each lost their final matches at 177, 190 and heavyweight, respectively.

The entire conference team crown depended on the heavyweight matchup between Nebraska's Gardner and the Cyclones' Todd Kinney.

Kinney, whose four losses included three to Gardner this season, decisioned Gardner 3-2 to give the Cyclones the narrow win.

Buxton said the match was close until the end.

Buxton, who moved down to 118 from 126 to compete in the conference meet, said that even with the second-place finish, the Huskers had a good chance of winning at the NCAA Championships March 18-20.

"We've got as good of a shot as anybody," he said. "It should be just like (the Big Eight meet), a real close battle to the end."