

## Win over UMKC puts NU streak at 11

By Jeff Griesch  
Senior Editor

Defense did it again for the Nebraska men's basketball team.

The Cornhuskers rolled to their 11th straight win with a 92-71 victory over the University of Missouri-Kansas City in front of 14,358 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center on Saturday.

An aggressive Husker defense held the Kangaroos, 5-11, to a 39.3 shooting percentage and only 22.2 percent from three-point range.

The Huskers, 12-2, used a box-and-one defense to keep the Kangaroos' leading scorer, Tony Dumas, from carrying UMKC.

"One of our goals was to try to control Tony Dumas, and I think we did that," Nebraska coach Danny Nee said. "I think he was the key to the game. Dumas was the focal point. I was just really proud of how we guarded him."

Dumas, a 6-foot-6-inch senior guard from Memphis, Tenn., had scored 87 points in the Kangaroos' last two games, but Erick Strickland, Jaron Boone and the rest of the Nebraska defensive rotation limited Dumas to only 16 points on 6-of-22 shooting from the field.

Strickland said the Huskers played great defense on Dumas from the opening tip to the final buzzer.

"From the start we put it in his head that it was not going to be an easy night," Strickland said. "I was on him right away, hand-checking him and putting a body on him."

While Dumas and the rest of the Kangaroos shot blanks for most of the night, the Huskers were on target.

Nebraska hit 54.2 percent of its shots from the floor, including 10 of 17 attempts from beyond the three-point arc.

Jaron Boone, who tied a career high with 19 points, led six Huskers in double figures.

Jamar Johnson and Terrance Badgett each scored 14 points, while Melvin Brooks pumped in 12 points.



Nebraska's Erick Strickland (right) guards Missouri-Kansas City's Tony Dumas during the Cornhuskers' 92-71 win Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Jay Calderon/DN

Eric Piatkowski and Bruce Chubick added 10 points each.

Nee said he was pleased with Nebraska's effort. And, Nee said, UMKC coach Lee Hunt also was impressed with the play of the Huskers.

"Lee Hunt paid me a great compliment as we shook hands coming in," Nee said. "He said, 'I think this is the best Nebraska basketball team you've ever had.'"

The Huskers jumped out to a 4-0 lead after a dunk by Boone, but UMKC went on a 9-1 run to give the Kangaroos their biggest lead of the game at 9-5.

Strickland tied the game 9-9 with a spectacular behind-the-back, wrap-around layup.

UMKC center Dennis Jacobs, who scored 26 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, hit two free throws to give the Kangaroos their final lead of the game with 15:12 left in the first half.

The Huskers went on a 15-point run, shutting out UMKC for six minutes and 24 seconds, until Jacobs hit two more free throws to end UMKC's

drought. With the win, Nebraska ended its nonconference schedule at 10-2, which Nee said was impressive.

UMKC . . . . . 33 38 — 71  
at Nebraska . . . 47 45 — 92

UMKC—Jacobs 7-13 (0-0) 12-13 26, Dumas 4-15 (2-7) 6-8 16, Berg 7-12 (0-2) 0-1 14, Barnes 3-8 (2-4) 0-0 8, Rawlins 1-3 (0-1) 1-2 3, Salmon 1-6 (0-3) 0-2 2, Muller 1-2 (0-0) 0-0 2, Smith 0-2 (0-1) 0-0 0, Seabrooks 0-0 (0-0) 0-0 0. Totals — 24-61, 19-26, 71.

Nebraska—Boone 8-12 (2-3) 1-1 19, Badgett 4-7 (1-1) 5-6 14, Johnson 5-8 (2-2) 2-2 14,

Brooks 5-6 (2-2) 2-3 12, Piatkowski 4-9 (2-5) 0-1 10, Chubick 2-3 (0-0) 6-9 10, Strickland 2-8 (1-3) 3-4 8, Best 1-3 (0-0) 1-2 3, Glock 1-3 (0-0) 0-0 2, Moore 0-0 (0-0) 0-0 0, Newton 0-0 (0-0) 0-0 0. Totals 32-59 (10-17), 18-26, 92.

Rebounds—Nebraska 37 (Badgett 10), UMKC 34 (Jacobs 11). Assists—Nebraska 22 (Piatkowski 7), UMKC 11 (Salmon, Dumas, Smith 3). Steals—Nebraska 9 (Strickland 3), UMKC 12 (Dumas 4). Turnovers—Nebraska 18 (Badgett 6), UMKC 17 (Jacobs 5). Blocks—Nebraska 6, UMKC 2. Fouls—Nebraska 21, UMKC 21. Fouled out—Salmon. A—14,358.

## Boone going in high gear after starting season slowly

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

After the first two games of the season, Jaron Boone was shooting 28 percent from the field.

It looked like the 6-foot-6-inch, 191-pound guard from Salt Lake City was falling into the category of players suffering from the sophomore jinx.



Boone

Not so fast. In the last four games, Boone has shot better than 60 percent from the field while averaging 14.3 points per game. The sophomore guard has shot better than 70 percent from three-point range and better than 80 percent from the free-throw line.

Boone scored a career-high 19 points and provided the spark out of the gate for the Huskers in each

of the last two games. He scored 16 points in the first half of the Huskers' 106-67 romp of Colorado on Jan. 8 and 14 points in the first half of Saturday's 92-71 victory over Missouri-Kansas City.

"I give all the credit to my teammates," Boone said. "If it wasn't for them getting me the ball when I was open or on the cuts, I wouldn't have come up big in the first half or at all."

Boone was asked to come up big earlier in the year, when senior point guard Jamar Johnson went down with a broken finger against Wichita State on Dec. 11. The injury forced Boone to move to point guard, a position he was unfamiliar with after playing a full year as a shooting guard.

"It put a lot of pressure on me at first to be a combo guard," Boone said. "So I had to adjust, and I did. It has given me the chance to be a leader sometimes and be a scoring threat other times. That helped boost my confidence level."

Boone said his teammates had helped him

believe in himself.

"My confidence has grown a lot from being around the same guys everyday," he said. "I've gotten to know them and that has helped. Within the offense, we all have confidence in each other."

Boone and fellow sophomores Terrance Badgett, Jason Glock and Erick Strickland are averaging 38 percent of the Huskers' scoring and 33 percent of the rebounding.

Badgett, Boone and Strickland were each named to the All-Big Eight freshman team last season.

Boone said their winning attitude would help the foursome as long as they kept a positive outlook.

"Last year it helped us out as freshmen that we went to the NCAA tournament," he said. "It gave us confidence that we can get there again. If the players coming in next year get the confidence from us, we can keep the team unity

— “  
My confidence has grown a lot from being around the same guys everyday.  
— Boone  
Nebraska Guard  
” —

## Hoosier wrestlers rally, but NU escapes with victory

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's dual against Indiana started out well for Coach Tim Neumann and his Cornhusker wrestlers.



Neumann

But in the end, Neumann had a sour taste in his mouth. The No. 11 Huskers defeated the 20th-ranked Hoosiers 19-16 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday night after

jumping out to a 16-0 lead.

Nebraska won in the first four divisions, but the Huskers lost their final four matches.

"I was pleased with about half of our performance," Neumann said. "And I was upset with the other half."

Senior Scott Gonyo, a transfer from Drake who is ranked fourth in the nation, got the Huskers off to a fast start with a technical fall over Indiana's Derek Moscovic.

In what may have turned out to be the deciding match of the night, Steve Baer upset Indiana's Chris Russo, the fifth-ranked wrestler in the nation.

Baer, a junior transfer from Minnesota, defeated Russo 6-4 in over-

time with a takedown, avenging an earlier loss to Russo at the Las Vegas Invitational.

Neumann said Baer's performance was one of the few bright spots.

"Steve took a great step tonight," he said. "Russo's a real good kid, but we've seen him wrestle for five years."

"It's a good win. Steve's been coming on all year. He had some mental problems at Minnesota after trying to make 118 last year. He came here without a good self-image. That's something he's snapping out of right now."

All-American Frank Velazquez raised his record to 15-1 with a 20-9 victory over Hoosier freshman Roger

Chandler.

The Huskers increased their lead to 16-0 after Justin Ware's major decision over Andy Trevino.

Then the Hoosiers started a comeback, as Scott Petche defeated Husker freshman Temoer Terry 8-3. Petche jumped out to a 5-0 lead at the beginning of the match.

Redshirt freshman Justin Kraft's win at 158 turned out to be the Huskers' last win of the night.

After Kraft's victory, Hoosier assistant coach Tom Ryan was thrown out of the arena for yelling at the referee. Two points were deducted from Indiana's point total.

Nebraska lost its last four matches,

including the heavyweight match when Husker freshman Tolly Thompson was disqualified for flagrant misconduct.

Thompson allegedly bit Indiana's Vito Maurici, ranked fourth in the nation, during the second period. The match was awarded to Maurici, which made the score 19-16.

Neumann said a lot of work needed to be done before next weekend's National Dual Meet Championships, where the Huskers will face sixth-ranked North Carolina.

"The lower weights were great," he said. "But there are things that have to be fixed."