



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska's Jamar Johnson looks for an opening past Kansas' Scot Pollard during a conference game Sunday afternoon in Lawrence, Kan.

## NU fights back, but loses to KU

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Jamar Johnson was on the bench with three fouls, and Nebraska was down by 10 in the first half to third-ranked Kansas on its home floor.

Any other Nebraska team would have folded right there, Johnson said, but this Husker squad fought back and put itself in position to win at Allen Fieldhouse, where the Cornhuskers haven't won in 11 years.

Jayhawk guard Steve Woodberry put an end to those hopes when he drilled a three-pointer to make it 89-85 and to virtually seal the 94-87 Kansas victory Sunday.

Husker senior Eric Piatkowski, whose 26 points led all scorers, said the game was encouraging even though Nebraska lost its fourth straight.

"I have a lot of confidence in this team," he said. "We're playing good basketball right now."

"We've never come down and played this well in Lawrence."

Johnson said it was important for the Huskers to bounce back after three straight poor-shooting performances.

"We wanted to come in, and we really wanted to win this game," he said. "If we were going to go down, we were going to go down fighting."

"This team is as good as we thought we were."

But the Huskers weren't looking so good in the first half.

Nebraska, which fell to 12-6 and 2-4 in the Big Eight, fell behind by as many as 14 points in the first half.

The Jayhawks suffered a blow in the first half when forward Richard Scott, their second-leading scorer, reinjured his shoulder he hurt in practice Jan. 24.

Husker guard Erick Strickland said losing Scott hurt Kansas.

"Scott's a great down-low player," he said. "When he's out of the game, it takes the pressure off of you inside."

With Scott out, the Huskers mounted a comeback and were only down 44-40 at halftime after Piatkowski hit a three-pointer with three seconds left in the half.

Piatkowski said closing the gap to four points was crucial.

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—Piatkowski  
Nebraska forward

"We were down 14 points, and the crowd was getting into it," he said. "If we wouldn't have made that run, they could've blown it wide open."

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he was pleased with his team's effort.

"You have to understand how good Kansas is on their home floor," he said. "They wear you down, and we're only playing with a seven-man rotation."

Senior forward Tom Best didn't make the trip because of disciplinary reasons, and sophomore guard Jason Glock didn't suit up for the second-straight game.

Their absence didn't matter in the second half as the Huskers came storming back.

Nebraska tied the game up on a Piatkowski three-point play with 17:26 to go, and they took their first lead of the game — and their first lead since the Missouri loss, Jan. 24 — when Jaron Boone stole the ball and dished it to Johnson, who laid it in to give the Huskers a 54-52 lead.

With 14:03 left, forward Bruce Chubick, who finished with 14 points and nine rebounds, gave the Huskers a 60-55 lead on a turnaround jumper in the lane.

Nee said Chubick's play against the Jayhawks' 7-foot-2-inch center Greg Ostertag kept the Huskers close.

"They are giants," Nee said. "They are a big, physical basketball team."

"I was really pleased with Chubick."

But Chubick and the Huskers couldn't put the Jayhawks away as Kansas came back to take the lead, 80-72, with 5:58 left.

See JAYHAWKS on 8

## Nebraska falls to Cowgirls; tournament chances fading

By Derek Samson  
Senior Reporter

Oklahoma State had an answer for every second-half Nebraska rally in its 81-75 victory Sunday.

The Cowgirls scored 12 unanswered points to take an early 21-13 lead, and Nebraska never led again, despite several comeback attempts.

Women's Basketball Coach Angela Beck said Nebraska wasn't up to the

task of playing a team like Oklahoma State.

"Oklahoma State plays kind of an ugly game," Beck said. "They're a tough team to defend because they don't do things other teams do. They're very scrappy."

"We didn't play hard enough for 40 minutes to win. We were way too tentative. We just didn't have the intensity we needed for this game."

With Oklahoma State leading 24-

15, Nebraska pulled within one by scoring eight straight points. But the Cowgirls answered with the next 10 points and finished the half on a 12-4 run to hold a 36-27 lead at intermission.

Nebraska made only six of 22 first-half shots and scored 13 of its 27 points at the free throw line.

Beck said the first-half performance could have resulted in a much bigger deficit.

"That's one of the poorer first halves we've seen," she said. "We told our team if you play that poor of a first half and are only down by nine, you still have a chance."

Nafeesah Brown started the second half on fire by scoring 13 of the Huskers' first 18 points. Nebraska could never pull any closer than seven until Tina McClain's free throw with 10 seconds left pulled the Huskers to 81-75.

Oklahoma State "played a good game, give the credit to them," Beck said. "Our offensive rebounding wasn't what it should be and our turnovers were more than what it should be. We didn't do the things we needed to. Only having two players in double figures isn't enough to win."

Oklahoma State led by 18, 63-45,

See CORRALLED on 8

## Husker women first, men second at indoor track meet

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams used some outstanding individual performances Saturday and nearly swept a five-team meet at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The Cornhusker women won the meet by scoring 94.5 points, and Arkansas finished second with 64.5. Illinois, the top-ranked, dual-meet team in the nation, finished third with 48 points.

The Nebraska men were edged out by Arkansas, which has won 10 consecutive NCAA Indoor National Championships. The Razorbacks had 82 points followed by the Huskers with 77.5 and Illinois with 53.5.

The women had six first-place finishes and were led by senior Shanelle Porter, who finished first in the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes and helped the Cornhuskers win the 4 x 400-meter relay.

Porter had provisionally qualified for the

NCAA Championships with her times in the 200-meter and 400-meter dashes.

Porter, the 1993 NCAA Indoor champion in the 400-meter dash, said it was nice to qualify early in the season.

"It's more of a psychological thing," Porter said. "It gives me the edge over the other girls because they say 'she ran that fast.'"

In the shot put, the women took the top four places. Paulette Mitchell finished first with an NCAA automatic qualifying throw of 52 feet, 6 inches.

Dagmar Pesakova was second, Tressa Thompson was third and Krista Mader was fourth. All three had provisional qualifying throws.

Coach Gary Pepin said he was pleased with the women's team performance.

"Our shot putters tore them up," Pepin said. "Shanelle ran well in the 400-meter dash ... and Nicola Martial had a personal best in the triple jump."

Kevin Miiller started off the day for the men, who had three first-place finishes, by winning

the mile. Miiller posted a personal-best and NCAA provisional qualifying mark of 4:06.35, while beating Illinois' Marko Koers, last year's NCAA outdoor 1,500-meter champion.

Porter said Miiller's performance inspired her.

"He wanted it so bad," Porter said. "After watching him I said that I have no excuse to slack off."

Only a Razorback sweep in the last event of the day — the long jump — gave them the meet win over the Huskers.

Arkansas' Erick Walder set a Bob Devaney Sports Center record in the long jump with a leap of 27-feet-4-inches.

Walder and Mitchell were the only two automatic NCAA qualifiers of the meet.

Overall, the five teams combined for 37 NCAA provisional qualifiers, fifteen of which were Huskers.

Six Huskers qualified provisionally for the

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—Porter  
Nebraska runner

NCAA meet for the first time Saturday. They included: Martial (triple jump), Kwani Stewart (long jump), Tressa Thompson (shot put), and Theresa Stelling (mile) on the women's side. For the men, Paul Morrison qualified in the shot put and Steve Gordon qualified in the triple jump.

"I'm not worried about anything other than winning," Pepin said. "Winning first, qualifying second."