

Cowboys continue pattern, defeat Huskers

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

STILLWATER, Okla.— Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton thought he had seen his Cowboy team at its best during a 17-point win over Nebraska in Lincoln on Feb. 5.

That was until Saturday, when the Cowboys trounced the Cornhuskers 93-53.

The second time around, Sutton said, Oklahoma State played better.

The Cowboys pounded Nebraska in every facet of the game Saturday. Oklahoma State outrebounded the Huskers 43-27. The Cowboys shot 56 percent to Nebraska's 33 percent. Oklahoma State dished out 22 assists while the Huskers could only manage nine.

"I thought the first 20 minutes of the game was about as good a half of basketball as we've had for a while," Sutton said. "We shot the ball well, defended well, did a good job on the boards, and that really set the stage."

By the time Nebraska caught its breath at the end of the first half, Oklahoma State had built a lead of 49-29. And the second half was more of the same for Nebraska as the Cowboys went on a 16-1 run to start the half.

"We came out and got up on them big," said Oklahoma State center Bryant Reeves, who scored 10 of his 20 points from the free-throw line. "And then we came out in the second half the same way. We knew that the first five minutes of the second half would determine the way the game would end up."

Sutton, whose Oklahoma State teams have beaten Nebraska eight out of 11 times in five seasons, said the Cowboys did not match up well against Nebraska for much of the first half.

"Nebraska presents problems with its starting lineup for us because of their size," Sutton said. "That's a big basketball team they put on the floor."

When the Huskers have both Jaron Boone and Erick Strickland in the game, he said, the Cowboys have trouble defending Boone, who scored 15 first-half points and finished the game with 20. The junior guard was the only Nebraska player in double figures Saturday.

But the matchup problems were not a factor because the Cowboys shot 64 percent from the



Oklahoma State's Chianti Roberts shoots over Nebraska's Chris Sallee during the Cowboys' 93-53 win over the Huskers. Roberts scored 18 points.

Jeff Haller/DN

field in the first half. Once Oklahoma State was able to establish Reeves on the inside, the Cowboys looked to the perimeter, forcing Nebraska to play 6-foot guard Tom Wald, against whom, Sutton said, Oklahoma State matches up much better.

"I don't think any of us saw in our wildest dreams that we would be able to win by the

margin we did," Sutton said. "But once we got up about 10 points on them, probably the writing was on the wall."

At halftime, both of Nebraska's two centers, Mikki Moore and Chris Sallee, were held scoreless. For the game, Moore finished with five points, Sallee had two points and starting forward Melvin Brooks did not score.

With that type of scoring distribution, Sutton said, the Huskers were going to have a rough time from here on out.

"All season they have had a hard time finding a lot of points in the paint area," Sutton said. "You would like to have a good balance of an inside game and an outside game. Any time you have to depend on perimeter shooting, there will be nights that you could beat anyone."

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Aarden's play leads basketball team to an 82-70 victory over Missouri

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's basketball team put an end to its five-game losing streak on Sunday with an 82-70 win over Missouri in Columbia, Mo. The victory marked the Cornhuskers' first Big Eight road win of the season.

Nebraska junior center Pyra Aarden scored 28 points and grabbed 11 points.

Husker coach Angela Beck said Aarden's play was crucial for her team. "Pyra was not supposed to be the

center of attention this year, but she keeps improving and now it's a role she likes," Beck said. "I think it's been a combination of confidence and experience."

On Friday, the Huskers lost to Colorado 89-76. The Buffaloes, in front of the seventh-largest crowd in Colorado history, were paced by Raegan Scott's 20 points on 9-of-13 shooting.

Aarden led the Huskers with 21 points and nine rebounds.

Although the Huskers lost to Colorado, which is 11-0 in the conference,

Beck said the loss may have helped going into Columbia.

"I thought the Colorado game gave us a lot of confidence and energy," she said. "Missouri had time to prepare for us since they last played on Wednesday, but we came out hitting and we got the ball into Pyra."

Aarden hit 7 of 10 shots from the field, and she hit 14 of 17 from the free-throw line.

"I was real proud of the team today," Beck said. "When Pyra Aarden hits her free throws, we can be a very good team."

Softball team starts season off right

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team started the spring season right where it left off in the fall season by winning the Texas-Arlington Tournament in Arlington, Texas.

The Cornhuskers, who were 15-1 in the fall, won six games to take the title.

On Sunday, the Huskers defeated Minnesota 8-0 in the championship game. Tournament most valuable player Stacie Stafford pitched a three-hit shutout. The shutout raised Stafford's record to 4-0, and she hasn't

allowed any earned runs.

"We came into this tournament wanting to prove to ourselves what we were capable of," assistant coach Misti Guenther said. "People have been telling us all year that the fall season doesn't matter; it's what you do in the spring that counts."


"We did it when it really counted." Nebraska defeated Big Eight rival Kansas to advance to the title game. Stafford picked up the win in the game as she came on in relief of freshman Angela Blackwood and pitched three innings of no-hit ball.

The Huskers advanced into pool play with a perfect record. The Cornhuskers defeated Stephen F. Austin to open their season with a 6-1 victory. Preseason All-American Tobin Echo-Hawk went 2 for 4 with 3 RBIs.

In their second game, the Huskers needed only five innings to record their second win. Nebraska pounded Iowa State for an 11-0 win.

On Saturday, the Huskers again won two games. Blackwood picked up the win in relief.

Stafford then tossed a one-hitter in an 8-0 win over Sam Houston State.

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stopping Nebraska.

"They just came at us and we just couldn't score," Nee said. "Then in the second half, it even got worse."

Oklahoma State continued its run to start the second half, outscoring Nebraska 16-1 over the first 9:07.

The Huskers didn't score a basket until Chris Sallee put back a Mikki

Moore miss with 10:53 remaining. Nee said the terrible start ended any thoughts of a Nebraska comeback.

"It's very hard when things start going wrong for you and you're missing shots," Nee said. "I don't think there was anything the players could do about it. It's just a very difficult situation."

That showed as Nebraska's shooting percentage dropped to 30.4 percent in the second half.

The Huskers were also outrebounded by 10.

Brooks said the Huskers matched up well with the Oklahoma State guards, but not at the center position.

Nee agreed and said the matchup was one he would like to forget.

"This is the first time we've really gotten beaten like a drum," Nee said. "It's a matchup I didn't like in Lincoln and I wouldn't like it next week, either."