



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Roquayyah Brown tries to grab a rebound away from Oklahoma's Sheri Black Saturday in Salina, Kan., at the Big Eight Tournament. The Huskers lost to Oklahoma in the first round.

Sloppy stretch leads to loss, losing record for Huskers

By Trevor Parks
Staff Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck was so sorry about her team's performance she apologized for it.

The Cornhuskers played sloppily in a 77-67 loss to Oklahoma in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament Saturday at the Salina Bicentennial Center.

With the loss, 13-14 Nebraska finished with a losing record for the first time since 1989-90, when the Huskers finished the year 10-18.

Nebraska committed 25 turnovers, had 24 fouls and shot 37.7 percent for the game, including a 10-of-34 second-half performance and converted on 4 of 21 3-point attempts.

The 25th-ranked Sooners, who improved to 21-7, also struggled, committing 17 turnovers, 22 fouls, shooting 3 of 11 from the free-throw line in the first half and shooting only 35.5 percent in the second half.

Beck said it was less than a quality basketball game.

"I think my team came out really

tight in the first half," Beck said. "They were kind of primed, and we were really struggling."

That showed in the first 6:37 of the second half.

The Sooners opened the half, expanding on a 43-34 halftime lead with a 15-6 run.

During that span, the Sooners grabbed a 14-point lead after Mandy Wade hit two foul shots after a technical on Beck.

Nebraska pulled within nine at 49-40 before the Sooners went on another run.

After a Wade layup, Sheri Black followed with a jumper and a layup.

The Huskers called a timeout after Black's layup, but Pam Pennon completed the run to give the Sooners their biggest lead of the game at 58-40.

Nebraska chipped away at the lead and pulled to within 12 at 69-57. Then Anna DeForge scored six of her game-high 18 points in 56 seconds to pull the Huskers to within 69-63 with 3:04 left.

But the Sooners, who had five players score in double figures, hit 6 of 7

free throws down the stretch to ice the win.

Oklahoma coach Burl Plunkett said making 10 of 11 second-half free throws was a key after shooting just 27.3 percent in the first half.

"Making 10 of 11, that's more like it," Plunkett said. "It feels good to win the first one."

It didn't look like Plunkett would get that feeling for a while.

For the first 12:17 of the game, the teams played evenly, trading the lead 10 times until the Sooners went on an 8-0 run in a 3:15 span to break a 23-23 tie.

Etta Maytubby started the run with a 3-pointer from the left baseline to give Oklahoma a 26-23 advantage.

After that, the Huskers could pull no closer than six the remainder of the game.

Beck said the defense left the Huskers during that spurt.

"They really weren't doing anything different," Beck said. "We were doing a lot of things wrong, and I think we were getting frustrated because things weren't coming as easy as we've anticipated."

NU softball team finishes 3-4 at N.M. tournament

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska softball team defeated the Troy Cox Invitational champions on the first day of the tournament.

But the Cornhuskers were only able to come out of the tournament, held in Las Cruces, N.M., with a 3-4 record.

The Huskers defeated eventual-champion Fresno State in a 1-0 win. A solo home run by freshman Ali Viola

was the difference in the game. Stacie Stafford pitched a complete-game shutout, allowing just four hits.

The Huskers defeated Washington and Southern Utah for their other two wins in the tournament.

Stafford was named to the all-tournament team as she posted a 3-1 record during the three-day tournament.

The Huskers' record is 11-4, and they'll have two weeks off before the National Invitational Tournament March 17-19 in San Jose, Calif.

Golf team finishes 12th at rain-shortened meet

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's golf team finished 12th at the Crown Colony Invitational Tournament in Lufkin, Texas on Saturday.

The 17-team event was shortened to 18 holes because of rain on Friday.

The Cornhuskers shot a 313, 20

shots behind champion Texas A&M.

The Huskers were led by senior Steve Reiter, who shot a 75 to tie for 14th place. Sophomore Trent Morrison was next as he tied for 37th with a 77.

The next action for Nebraska will be March 13-14 at the Florida State Invitational in Tallahassee, Fla.

Tennis team falls to Wildcats at Team Championship meet

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's tennis team dropped a dual to Arizona this weekend at the H.E.B. College Team Championships in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The Cornhuskers, 1-4, fell to the Wildcats 6-1. The Huskers' lone point

came in No. 4 singles, where Henrik Andersson defeated Arizona's James Ray in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3.

In doubles action, Andersson combined with Corpus Christi native Jimmy Boller to defeat the Wildcat team of Rowland Kupka and Edward Schwartz.

Husker team improves in last tuneup

From Staff Reports

In the Nebraska track and field team's last meet before the NCAA Championships on March 10 and 11, two Cornhuskers and the 400-meter relay team improved on provisional marks.

At the Nebraska Last Chance meet Saturday, freshman Annette Hall set a career-best mark for the second-straight day with a time of 6.91 seconds in the 55-meter dash. She ran a 6.94 Friday at the Cyclone National Qualifier meet in Ames, Iowa.

In the 55-meter hurdles, junior Willie Hibler recorded the second-best time in school history with a time of 7.31.

And the 400-meter relay team of senior Jenny Johnson, freshman LaTisha Croom, sophomore Jill Myatt and freshman Tashika Lewis recorded a provisional time of 3:42.91.

At the Silverston Invitational in Ann Arbor, Mich., the Huskers' distance medley relay team of seniors Renier Henning, Marlon Jones, Chad Jansen and junior Balazs Tolgyesi set a new school record with a time of 9:39.19.

"The guys ran a super race, and it was a tremendous performance considering that it took us 17 hours to arrive at the meet," Husker distance coach Jay Dirksen said. "They were probably very tired."

Husker gymnasts win, lose in weekend meets

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's gymnastics team used a new school record on the vault to defeat Ohio State 192.325-187.775 Saturday at Columbus, Ohio.

The Cornhuskers scored a 48.9 on the vault, eclipsing the previous best of 48.8 set at the 1989 Big Eight Championships.

Coach Dan Kendig said the vault had been his team's most consistent event of the year.

"A lot of ways we competed well, and that was one of them," Kendig said. "There is still room for improvement on the beam and bars."

Nebraska had two individual event winners.

Senior Jennifer Hawkinson won the vault with a score of 9.825. Hawkinson also finished third on the uneven bars with a 9.6.

Sophomore Shelly Bartlett posted

a 38.675 score in the all-around, finishing second behind Ohio State's Seymin Lau.

Bartlett finished second on the uneven bars with a score of 9.775, and tied for first with teammate Kim DeHaan on the balance beam with a score of 9.8.

The men's gymnastics team was defeated by fourth-ranked Ohio State. The men, ranked third, were knocked off 229.90-228.55.

The Huskers were led by senior Richard Grace. Grace finished second in the all-around, but he scored a career-high 9.8 on the still rings to place second.

Nebraska coach Francis Allen said he wasn't satisfied with his team's performance, especially this late into the season.

"We had too many falls," he said. "I'm not happy losing the meet, but we scored well. It wasn't a total disappointment."

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Monday, March 6	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Monday, March 6	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239

Advanced E-Mail

Friday, March 10	12:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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Gopher

Friday, March 10	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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Electronic News

Monday, March 6	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
Wednesday, March 8	10:30 - 12:00 noon	Bancroft Hall, 239

Finger/Talk

Friday, March 10	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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FTP

Tuesday, March 7	3:30 - 5:00 p.m.	Bancroft Hall, 239
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