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Defense is stabilizing factor in Cowboys' Big Eight title run

By Derek Samson
Senior Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—For Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton, an ugly win is sometimes the best win.

Sutton said even though the Cowboys' 68-48 win over Nebraska in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament Friday at Kemper Arena wasn't very exciting, he enjoyed the way Oklahoma State won — with



Sutton

defense. And the win over the Cornhuskers was the first step toward the Cowboys' Big Eight Tournament title run.

"It wasn't a very pretty game, but sometimes when you don't shoot the ball well, it isn't pretty," Sutton said. "But I thought our defense was really good the last 30 minutes of the game."

Nebraska came out and hit some shots early, and we might have been a little flat on defense.

"When we stepped up the intensity, it forced them into some turnovers."

Nebraska made only 15 of 54 shots (27 percent), including shooting only 16 percent from the field in the second half.

Sutton said the win was especially nice because of the emphasis he put on defense.

"If you don't play defense, you're not going to win consistently," he said. "Defense is the stabilizing factor in any team sport — football, baseball, soccer, whatever. On nights when you don't shoot it well, it is the defense that will keep you in there and give you a shot to win."

"Our players understand that if you want to go to the NCAA Tournament and you want to compete for a Big Eight championship, then you better play good, solid defense. That's why our league is pretty tough."

The presence of Oklahoma State's

defense was important Friday because Nebraska held Bryant Reeves, the Big Eight coaches' Player of the Year, to only 13 points and eight rebounds.

Sutton said it was hard for Reeves to get the ball Friday because of Nebraska's box-and-one defense.

"You can't get it to him when he's got two or three people around him," Sutton said. "We get wide-open looks at the basket, and if you can't hit the shots, you won't be able to get it to him. When you have two or three people bumping you constantly and putting the gangster act on you, you need someone else on the team step up and hit the shots."

Despite facing constant double- and triple-coverage, Reeves still averaged 21.5 points a game this year, which is why he deserved Player of the Year, Sutton said.

"That's why the coaches saw to it that he was the MVP," Sutton said. "He sees that (kind of defense) every night. He never sees one-on-one coverage. Whether it's zone or man, he's drawing a crowd."

Nebraska softball squad splits games at Wichita

From Staff Reports

The 10th-ranked Nebraska softball team split a doubleheader with Wichita State at Wichita, Kan., Saturday.

Nebraska's Angela Blackwood hit a home run and pitched seven innings to lead the Cornhuskers to a 4-2 win.

Catcher Jenny Smith added two doubles as the Huskers improved to 12-5 on the season.

Blackwood improved to 4-3, while Beth Wilson took the loss for the

Shockers.

The Huskers lost the opener to the Shockers 3-1 as Wichita scored three runs in the first inning off Nebraska's Stacie Stafford.

Stafford shut down the Shockers the rest of the way and allowed only three hits on the afternoon but took the loss to fall to 8-2 on the season.

The Huskers scored their only run in the top of the seventh inning when Heather Hanselmann drove in Karla Knicely to end the Shockers' shutout bid.

Nebraska men's gymnastics places third in weekend meet

From Staff Reports

After being named the No. 1 team in the nation last week, the Nebraska men's gymnastics team finished third at the Gold's Challenge in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Saturday.

California won the team title with a 227.90, followed by Ohio State 227.30.

The Cornhuskers defeated Ohio State March 4.

Nebraska did win three individual titles. Senior Richard Grace won the floor exercise, the vault and the parallel bars. Grace's 9.90 in the parallel bars tied his career high and set a season high for the Huskers.

In the all-around, Grace scored a 57.80, which was good for second behind Ohio State's Blaine Wilson.

The Huskers' next dual will be Friday against third-ranked Iowa at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

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THE NEBRASKA CITY UNION, EAST UNION, AND CULTURE CENTER ARE NOW ACCEPTING OFFICE SPACE APPLICATIONS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 1995-1996.

Applications are available in Suite 220 City Union and the Office for Student Involvement in the East Union.

IMPORTANT DATES TO CONSIDER:

March 31 Application deadline for priority consideration (5 p.m.)
April 4 Meeting, Nebraska Union Board, City Union, 5:30 p.m. (Organizations invited to present concerns to the Board)
April 11 Union Board Operations Committee presents its recommendations to the Board, City Union 5:30 p.m. (Organizations invited to attend)
April 25 Final vote by Union Board concerning space allocations. City Union, 5:30 p.m.

Applications must be returned to Suite 220, City Union, by 5 p.m. Friday, March 31, 1995. Address any concerns to Frank Kuhn, Assistant Director of Nebraska Unions, Room 220 Nebraska Union (472-2181). Applications for East Union may be turned in at the Office for Student Involvement, East Union, by the same deadline, 5 p.m. Friday, March 31, 1995.

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