

Huskers easily bounce Kangaroos

Moore scores 19 points, grabs career-high 15 rebounds in NU's sixth straight win.

By DAVID WILSON
Staff Reporter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Nebraska basketball team capitalized on a height advantage and dunked its way to a 76-64 victory over Missouri-Kansas City Wednesday night.

"That was our game plan," NU Coach Danny Nee said. "We're going to try to do that all season."

The Cornhuskers (6-1) opened the game outscoring the Kangaroos (2-4) 16-7 in the first four and a half min-

utes backed by three dunks by true freshman Cookie Belcher.

Nebraska, which outshot (50 percent to 34 percent) and outrebounded UMKC (55-38), did not trail the entire game before a crowd of 4,897 at Municipal Auditorium.

Senior Mikki Moore and sophomore Venson Hamilton combined for 33 points taking advantage of the hole in the post by UMKC's 6-foot-9 center Tony Berg. Berg, the Kangaroo's leading rebounder and tallest player, sat out with an injured back.

"We're starting to get our chemistry together," said Moore, who grabbed

a career-high 15 rebounds to go along with a season-high 19 points. His three blocked shots give him 182 career rejections — two shy of breaking Rich King's school record.

"I'd rather get (the record) at home anyway," Moore said. Hamilton, who along with Moore scored a double-double, blocking a career-high six shots while scoring 14 points and grabbing 10 rebounds. Nebraska has now totaled seven double-doubles in seven games — one more than its total last season.

"Me and Mikki had a lot of fun dunking," said Hamilton, who cut his wrist on one of his slams.

The duo combined for 10 second-half dunks, including seven by Moore.

"Weren't there a lot of dunks?" Nee said. "There had to be 30 or 40 dunks. I think a dunk is finishing off a pretty good play."

The Huskers took a 32-21 lead —

Nebraska	76
Missouri-Kansas City	64

their biggest of the first half — when senior Bernard Garner sank a 3-point shot with 6:51 remaining.

The Kangaroos, aided by 15 Husker turnovers and a 9-3 run to finish the half, trailed 35-29.

"The thing that's bothering me is turnovers," Nee said. "I still think we have to take care of the ball."

Despite the turnovers, Moore said the foundation was still solid.

"I like the way we started off," Moore said. "But like all good teams, they are going to come right back."

The Kangaroos were led by junior Vinson Smith, who scored 21 points, including 14 in the first half.

In the second half, the Huskers



Moore

Please see WIN on 14

Samuel heads to NMSU

NU's outside linebacker coach will be named Aggies coach this afternoon.

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Nebraska Outside Linebackers Coach Tony Samuel is expected to accept the head coaching position today at New Mexico State.

Aggie president Michael Orenduff will announce the new coach today at a press conference at 2:30 p.m. (CST) at the New Mexico



Samuel

State University Coca-Cola Weight Room in Las Cruces, N.M.

New Mexico State finished this season with a 1-10 record and has not had a winning season since 1993. In the past 30 years, the Aggies have had only two winning seasons.

Orenduff said Samuel was impressive during his interview with New Mexico State athletic officials Dec. 6.

"He did very well," Orenduff said. "Obviously he had done his homework and had really thought about the kinds of things he might do if he was selected here. He impressed the search committee because he was very intelligent and answered their questions very directly."

Orenduff would not confirm that Samuel was the new coach, but said the position was offered to someone who accepted.

Samuel said he could not make any comment until today's press conference. He did tell the Las Cruces Sun News, "I can't tell you anything until I get there."

Sources close to the New Mexico State program said Samuel and Houston Nutt were the Aggies' top two candidates.

Nutt, coach at Murray State, said as of Wednesday night he had not been contacted by any official from NMSU. Nutt has compiled a 22-2 record the last two years for the Racers, a Division II school.

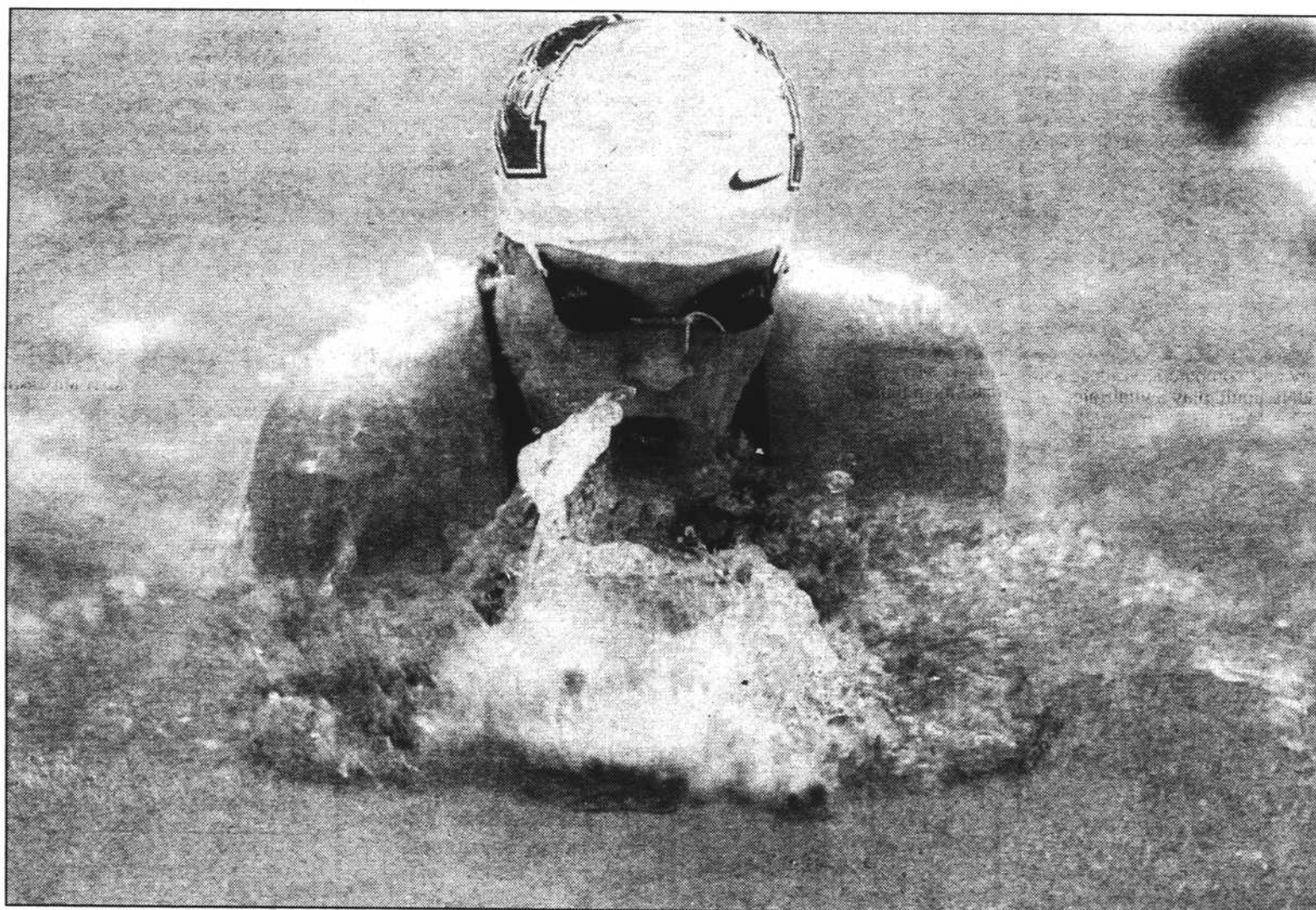
"I'm thinking they already told your boy that he is going to get it," Nutt said.

Fred Gavers, the offensive coordinator at Utah, also was a candidate to fill the coaching vacancy, but on Wednesday, he said he heard from an athletic official at New Mexico State that Samuel had accepted the position.

Orenduff said he and the committee were surprised at how calm Samuel was since his interview was the day before the Big 12 championship game.

"We knew the game must have been weighing very much on his mind, but he was very self composed," Orenduff said. "The big question we had here about him is would he be able to rise to the duties of head coach? With the way

Please see SAMUEL on 14



SCOTT BRUHN/DN

JULIA RUSSELL swims in the 100-yard breaststroke during the Husker Shoot Out Nov. 24. Russell, a native of Durban, South Africa, has qualified for the NCAA meet in the 200-yard Individual Medley, 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard breaststroke.

Russell continues swimming legacy

By SAM MCKEON
Staff Reporter

"I learned so much in the Olympics, it's hard to put in words."

JULIA RUSSELL
NU swimmer

Call it the South African connection.

After losing All-American and two-time gold medalist Penny Heyns, the Nebraska women's swimming team looks to another South African swimmer for success this year, senior Julia Russell.

Heyns may be the bearer of two gold medals, but Russell may one day follow in her footsteps.

Russell already holds one school record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 2 minutes, .77 seconds.

Now as the Cornhuskers take a month off before getting back into action Jan. 10, Russell made sure during her time off she didn't have to worry about qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

Last weekend in Austin, Texas, she posted an NCAA qualifying time of 2:01.69 in the 200 individual medley at the Texas Invitational.

Russell already has qualified for the NCAA Championship in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke.

"I'm really pleased with the way I'm swimming right now," Russell said. "I've got a good start to the season."

She considers her qualifying time in Texas more impressive because she didn't shave before swim-

ming.

"If you shave your legs and body, you're going to have a faster time," Russell said. "Since I didn't do that, I feel really good about my time in Austin."

Russell, a native of Durban, South Africa, is the top breaststroker on the team, and one of the best in the nation. She finished third in both the 100 and 200 breaststroke at the NCAA Championships last year. Both events were won by Heyns.

Russell was sixth overall in in-

dividual scoring.

Now the scary part for others in the pool is that she plans to improve.

"I feel like I can do a lot better than last year," Russell said. "I have a lot more experience, and I'm a lot more focused on this season."

Russell gained experience competing in the Atlanta Summer Olympics. She represented South Africa well, finishing 12th in the 200-meter breaststroke, 17th in the 100-meter breaststroke and 26th in the 200IM.

But her teammate Heyns was reeling in the gold. Heyns became the first woman in Olympic history to sweep the breaststroke events, winning both the 100 and 200 breaststroke.

While Russell never contended for a medal, she said she learned how to be mentally focused for important races.

Please see RUSSELL on 15