

Nebraska loses by one

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Coach Danny Nee, whose team dropped its first game since Jan. 4, falling to 11-6 overall and 3-2 in the Big 12 Conference. "We had many opportunities during the game, especially in the last two or three minutes."

In a game highlighted by 13 lead changes and seven ties — and marred by three intentional fouls and a near fight between Jason Sutherland and Larry Florence — Nebraska last led the Tigers with 11.5 seconds to play.

But a Florence foul sent MU forward Tyron Lee to the line, where he hit a free throw to tie the score at 74 before officials noticed blood on his arm. Lee exited the game, and Sutherland — the Big 12's top free-throw shooter — sank the next shot to give MU its final margin.

Lue then raced up the court, dribbled left and circled right near the free-throw line, where his jumper bounced off the rim to Belcher with less than two seconds to play.

Lue, a 6-foot sophomore, scored a game-high 26 points with eight assists and tied a career-best with six rebounds.

"We had plenty of opportunities to win," said Lue, also from Mexico, which is 30 miles from the MU campus. "(Belcher's miss) wasn't it."

The Hearnes Center crowd, apparently angered by Belcher's decision to attend Nebraska over MU, booed each time he touched the ball on Wednesday. Early in the game, Belcher fell victim to two intentional fouls by Sutherland, who played just five minutes in the first half because of the foul problems.

"We got control of the game and then we gave it back to them," said Stewart, who was whistled for a technical foul after arguing a no-call under the Husker hoop on a Venson Hamilton basket late in the first half. "But we made the surge when it counted."

MU (10-8 and 2-4) trailed early by as many as five points, but used a 6-0 run with Lue on the bench to take the lead and carry a 41-38 advantage into the locker room. The Huskers battled back from eight down in the second half to go on top 53-52 on a 12-foot Lue jumper with 14:19 to play.

NU extended its lead to 67-61 with 7:13 left before a dry spell allowed the Tigers to claw back, grabbing a 71-69

"It left my hands and it felt good."

COOKIE BELCHER
NU freshman guard

lead on an Allouche 3-pointer. Lue countered with a 3 before Derek Grimm tied the score at 72 with a free throw.

Belcher scored Nebraska's final two points with 1:10 left, and Corey Tate cut the lead to one point, setting the stage for the final 20 seconds.

Hamilton and Belcher scored 12 points apiece and Florence added 11 for NU, which hurt itself with 19 turnovers, including 14 in the first half. Kelly Thames — who had no points in Nebraska's 76-53 win Saturday — led Missouri with 19 points.

"We played an inspired Missouri team and an inspired Missouri crowd," Nee said. "I give them a lot of credit. They executed; they played hard; they never gave up, and they found a way to win."

Pine flies into NU record book

PINE from page 9

"Adam Pine came in here as a world-class athlete," Moore said. "We had great expectations for him. He has become a big contributor to our program in a very short time."

Pine has posted team-best times in the 100-yard butterfly (47.47), 200-yard butterfly (1:48.39) — the 10th fastest time in NCAA competition this year — and the 100-yard freestyle (44.16) — the second fastest time — this season.

Pine also swam legs on Nebraska's 200-yard freestyle, 400-yard freestyle, 200- and 400-yard medley relay teams.

All but the 400-medley have posted the fastest times in the country this season.

Pine's success in only his first season at Nebraska has surprised no one, including himself.

"I had hoped to do this well in my first year," Pine said. "I had competed over here a few times before, and when I looked at the other butterflyers, I knew I'd have some success."

That confidence is a result of Pine's success in international competition. He placed third in the 100-meter butterfly at the Australian nationals in both 1993 and 1994. Pine earned a bronze medal in the 100 butterfly at



the 1994 Commonwealth Games and also at the 1995 Pan Pacific Championships.

Pine envisions himself returning to his homeland in three years to compete in the Australian Olympic trials once again. This time, he said, his hand will touch the edge of the pool first, earning him a spot in the Sydney Games.

"I've thought about the next Olympics, being in Australia and everything," Pine said. "I would definitely like to swim in front of the home crowd and my family. That is my goal."

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