

NU loses ugly at KSU

KSU from page 7

Huskers shot just 33.9 percent from the field, also a season low.

"I thought they were good looks," Nee said. "We had a lot of shots that we were capable of making, shots that have to go in."

Following a lukewarm start to the second half in which NU scored eight of the first 10 points and held the Wildcats without a bucket for nearly five minutes, the Huskers collapsed again.

And this time, it cost them the game. On three occasions midway through the final period, Nebraska led by three points but failed to convert opportunities to extend its lead. A four-point run sparked by forward Troy Piatkowski tied the game at 50 with 4:16 to play.

But after a timeout, NU point guard Tyrone Lue committed one of his six turnovers and KSU scored the next six points to take a commanding lead with 37 seconds to play.

Piatkowski, who scored his first five points of the Big 12 season on Monday, then nailed a 3 to trim

KSU's lead to 56-53, but three free throws by Mark Young and Aaron Swartzendruber iced the Wildcat victory.

"We really wanted to win," said Young, who led Kansas State with 14 points and eight rebounds.

Nebraska, which plays at Northern Iowa on Thursday, scored a season-low 53 points and committed 22 turnovers, the ninth game this season in which NU has lost the ball 20 times or more.

Lue led the Huskers with 15 points on 5-of-16 shooting, including 2-of-10 from 3-point range, but the sophomore dealt only one assist in 40 minutes.

Mikki Moore added 11 points and Hamilton, who fouled out with two minutes to play, scored 13. Larry Florence failed to score in six minutes, and Alvin Mitchell didn't play for the first time this season.

"I thought we played like horseshit," Nee said. "I thought the effort was there. I don't think they're trying to play bad. They're trying, but they're just not accomplishing anything at all."

Hibler jumps over hurdles on his own

By SEAN LEWIS
Staff Reporter

"This winter, Willie Hibler is a man without a team.

For the hurdler on the Nebraska men's track and field team, that is just another hurdle for him to jump.



Hibler

Cornhuskers.

So now, the three-time indoor All-American from Cleveland races on his own and with some impressive results.

In the Nebraska Open Jan. 25, Hibler — competing as an unattached runner — set a Bob Devaney Sports Center track record with a time of 7.74 seconds in the 60-meter hurdles.

The time qualified him to line up in the starting blocks against some of the best hurdlers in the nation at the USA Track and Field Championships in Atlanta later this month.

Hibler still trains with the team, even though his schedule doesn't always allow it.

"My schedule is kind of odd," Hibler said. "Sometimes I have to train on my own with just me and the coach. When I get time, I do train with the team. It's better when I train with the team because I have somebody to run with and push me and stuff like that."

Training with the team has kept Hibler in shape for NU's outdoor season, and will give him the chance to prepare for the USATF meet. He said competing against the nation's elite will not scare him from going out and

running his best.

"I think I have the potential to place very well," he said. "I don't know how everyone else is looking right now, but I'm going to go out there and do the best I can."

"Every time I run, I run to win and I can't go in there thinking that I'm going to be second best or the lower part of the totem pole. I have to go and believe that I'm going to be up there with everybody else, whether they're world champions or Olympic champions."

Billy Maxwell, NU sprints and hurdles coach, said he does not have an idea how well Hibler will perform because Hibler has raced only one time this semester.

"He's already had a mark good enough to get into the meet, so that should give him a better idea on what Willie needs to do in order to get ready," Maxwell said.

Hibler, an All-American in the 110-meter hurdles, is not inexperienced at running big meets.

Last summer, he ran in the Olympic trials in the 110-meter hurdles.

He would like to continue running after his NU career ends in spring, he said, because he wouldn't be complete without the sport.

"After I leave here, I can get a good trainer — a person who really knows their stuff and can help me out," Hibler said. "Maybe I'll mature more physically and get a little faster. Next thing you know, I might be up at the top of the charts."

According to Hibler, it is tough to prepare for meets like the USATF. Physically, he said, you can practice all you want, but there are other factors like the crowd, pressure and excitement of the meet.

"There's really nothing that can prepare you for it, except that before you go out there you run the race in your head, mentally," Hibler said.

Group strengthens team

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quick and has the intangibles it takes to become great players.

"Every one of them is fast," Walker said. "They all have a chance to play. They're good kids and they bolster an already strong area."

Another area Walker has strengthened is the team's schedule.

Walker has been busy scheduling top-notch teams for the Huskers to play in the spring and the fall.

After a 1-0 loss to Portland in the NCAA Tournament ended NU's storybook season last year, Walker said scheduling quality opponents was a good way to measure the success of his team.

Walker and NU Assistant Coach Marty Everding said the program — entering its fourth season — had been able to accomplish that goal during the off-season.

NU's spring schedule, which starts March 2, features games against national champion North Carolina, national runner-up Notre Dame, No. 3 Santa Clara, 16th-ranked Duke and No. 19 Virginia.

Nebraska has also scheduled an April 26 game against the U.S. Under-20 National Team at the Abbott Sports Complex.

"We've definitely accomplished our goal for the spring games," Walker said. "These teams are perennially in the top 10."

The Huskers open the 1997 slate Aug. 31 against Southern Cal, which Walker thinks is a potential top 25 team.

The regular season also features five opponents that finished the season in the final top 25 and Minnesota, which lost 3-2 in sudden death overtime to Nebraska in the NCAA Tournament.

Of the five top 25 teams, the Husk-

Soccer Schedule	
Spring 1997	
Date	Opponent
Mar. 2	at Virginia
Mar. 15	at Santa Clara
April 12	at Notre Dame
April 26	U.S. Under-20 Team
Regular Season	
Aug. 31	Southern Cal
Sept. 5	at Colorado
Sept. 12	at Texas
Sept. 19	at Virginia Tech
Sept. 26	Iowa State
Sept. 26	Arkansas
Sept. 26	Baylor
Oct. 3	Missouri
Oct. 10	Kentucky
Oct. 17	San Diego
Oct. 19	at Duke
Oct. 26	at Oklahoma State
Oct. 26	at Oklahoma
Oct. 26	at Virginia
Nov. 2	Minnesota
Nov. 9	at Virginia Tech

ers play host to 15th-ranked San Diego and No. 24 Kentucky.

"San Diego is traditionally one of the top teams on the West Coast," Walker said. "Kentucky is also a very good team. They're very talented. Hopefully, it will prepare us."

The Huskers are familiar with Duke and 17th-ranked Vanderbilt, both of whom NU will play on the road. NU beat Duke twice, 3-1 and 3-0, and Vanderbilt 3-2 in a grueling overtime game.

The Big 12 Conference schedule features a game at No. 11 Texas A&M. NU blanked the Aggies twice last season.

"They're going to be gunning for us. We're going to their place this time," Everding said. "But hopefully, we'll be that much better that it won't matter."

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