

Sports

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SCOTT BRUHN/DN

TYRONN LUE drives against Texas' Brandy Perryman in NU's 79-67 win Sunday. Lue scored 19 of his game-high 22 points in the second half.

Huskers handle Longhorn heat, sail to victory

By MITCH SHERMAN
Senior Reporter

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In its pre-game scouting report of the Texas basketball team, Nebraska planned to build a first-half lead through consistent bench play, and exploit the Longhorns by controlling All-America candidate Reggie Freeman on the defensive end.

Sounds nice on paper, but in a real game on Sunday afternoon at the Bob Devaney Sports Center ... the plan worked. The Cornhuskers posted their largest victory margin in nearly a month, downing UT 79-67 before a season-high crowd of 13,743.

"It's a credit to (NU Coach) Danny (Nee) and the job he's done," Texas Coach Tom Penders said. "Nebraska could have said, 'Oh well, our season's over.' But they didn't, and that's a credit to him."

Instead of throwing in the towel last week after two of its worst performances of the season, Nebraska (14-11 overall and 5-7 in the Big 12 Conference) has responded with a pair of victories, and on Sunday avenged a season-opening overtime loss to the Longhorns in Austin.

"We knew everything that Texas was going to do," said Husker point guard Tyronn Lue, who scored 19 of his game-high 22 points in the second half. "We had a great scouting report, and we were pretty confident that we could beat Texas."

Nebraska used an early 8-0 run to take control in the first half, and after tying the game at 20 and 22, UT never regained the lead. Nee used his entire bench in the opening half, playing all nine scholarship players at least four minutes.

Lue scored just three points in 17 minutes before halftime, but Venson Hamilton and Larry

Florence picked up the slack. The pair of sophomores pierced the Longhorn defense for 21 first-half points and 11 rebounds while leading NU's defensive charge.

Freeman, averaging a league-best 23.7 points per game entering Sunday's contest, connected on just 1 of 10 shots and scored nine points in 40 minutes while suffering from a severe case of strep throat.

"I was really pleased with the way Nebraska guarded Freeman in the first half," Nee said after the Huskers' first back-to-back wins since Jan. 11. "We guarded him as well as I've seen. We took a good Texas team and handled them on our home court. We're just going to try to build on it."

With the score tied at 22 after a bucket by Brandy Perryman with 5:08 to play in the first half, Nebraska closed the half with a 16-5 run, carrying a 38-27 lead into the locker room.

"We were getting a lot more movement in our offense," said Lue, who was the focal point of Texas' box-and-one defense. "That's what helped us out."

Strong bench play also helped the Huskers. Bernard Garner, Troy Piatkowski, Alvin Mitchell and Andy Markowski played 53 minutes Sunday, recording 16 points and 12 rebounds and preserving Lue for the second half.

"We have to get some rest for the starters," Nee said. "(The reserves) went in there and extended the lead and maintained it."

By relying on the hot right hand of Perryman, who hit four 3-pointers and led Texas with 20 points, the Longhorns cut into Nebraska's lead

Please see WIN on 8

Texas, NU have concerns

Beck adjusts lineup to deal with the rebounding dominance of Texas.

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

AUSTIN, Texas — Nebraska has often used runs of 10 or more points to put away its opponents this season.

But if the 23rd-ranked Cornhuskers (17-4 overall and 7-4 in the Big 12 Conference) are to beat No. 11 Texas tonight at 7 at the Frank Erwin Events Center in Austin, the Huskers will have to limit the opposition from making such a run.

"You can't give (the Longhorns) any major runs," NU Coach Angela Beck said. "We have to do a good job of trying to limit their ability of putting 12 to 14 points up against us. They are the type of team that is very explosive and they can put a big run on us and it can be over."

Beck said to limit the runs NU must concentrate on Texas' ability to hit the 3-point shot. The Longhorns (17-4 and 9-2) are third in the conference, shooting 35.9 percent from behind the 3-point arc.

Texas Coach Jody Conradt said she is also concerned about Nebraska's explosive ability, especially on the defensive end.

"We have to be able to take care of the basketball and get our share of rebounds,"

Women's Basketball Starters

Today, 7 p.m.
Frank Erwin Events Center
Austin, Texas

Nebraska 17-4 (7-4)			
Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F 22	Tina McClain	5-10	Sr.
F 30	Anna DeForge	5-11	Jr.
C 25	Emily Thompson	6-3	Jr.
G 24	Jami Kubik	5-11	Jr.
G 20	LaToya Doage	5-6	Sr.
Texas 17-4 (9-2)			
Pos	Name	Ht.	Yr.
F 10	Amie Smith	5-10	Sr.
F 13	Danielle Viglione	5-10	Sr.
C 23	Angela Jackson	6-4	Jr.
G 22	Angie Jo Ogletree	5-6	Sr.
G 25	Kim Lummus	5-6	So.

Conradt said. "They are very quick and very explosive, but we can't concentrate on one player."

Conradt said she is impressed with the defensive quickness of Nebraska point guard LaToya Doage. Doage, a 5-foot-6 senior, is tied for first along with UT's Amie Smith in

Please see WOMEN on 8

NU wins despite flat effort

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

It wasn't the best performance of the season for the Nebraska women's gymnastics team, but the Cornhuskers still managed a winning result Saturday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska Coach Dan Kendig said he was happy with the NU's 194.4-192.05 victory over Denver, but he wasn't completely satisfied.

"We were just a little flat," Kendig said. "We just weren't as sharp as we needed to be in all areas."

The Huskers' string of three consecutive meets scoring above a 195 ended with the 194.4 performance.

Kendig said his team didn't have a high enough level of concentration against the 17th-ranked Pioneers.

"They're just really tired," Kendig said. "They might have just treated this as a down week, and it showed."

Denver Coach Dan Garcia said losing to No. 5 Nebraska by two points is a moral victory.

"This was not a great meet for us," Garcia said. "But I think we felt good about staying close to Nebraska."

Even though the Huskers failed to score over 49 points in any of the four events, Kendig said there were some great individual performances.

One effort came from senior Kim DeHaan who won the uneven bars with a 9.875. DeHaan, a native of Sioux Falls, S.D., also took third in the floor exercise (9.750).

DeHaan — who competed despite a back



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NICOLE WILKINSON performs on the uneven bars.

injury that has plagued her all season — agreed with Kendig's assessment that NU competed flat. But, she said, the victory showed the Huskers' strength and overall depth.

Please see DENVER on 8