

Sports

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Lue sizzles as Huskers shock ISU

Nee's 200th win as Nebraska's coach is one of his sweetest in 11 seasons.

By MITCH SHERMAN
Senior Reporter

AMES, Iowa — Surprise, surprise. Hanging to its postseason aspirations by a thread as small as Tyrone Lue's first step is quick, the Nebraska basketball team stunned No. 7 Iowa State Saturday with a 74-69 overtime victory.

With 18 seconds to play in the overtime period and Nebraska on top 72-69, Dedric Willoughby — of all things for a senior All-

American candidate to do — dribbled the ball off his foot near midcourt. Nebraska regained possession, and Shawn Bankhead fouled Lue, who sank a pair of free throws to ice the Cornhusker victory.

"It knocks the monkey right off your back," said NU center Mikki Moore, who contributed 13 points and 10 rebounds in 36 minutes. "But if the monkey feels like he wants to climb back up there, he'll climb back up there. We just played straight basketball with our heart and soul and didn't give up."

With the victory, before a sellout crowd of

14,322 at Hilton Coliseum, NU moved to 15-12 overall and 6-8 in the Big 12 Conference, winning on the road in league play for the first time in 13 games. Nebraska beat a ranked opponent away from home for the first time in exactly two years, and won on the floor a top-10 foe for the first time since Feb. 6, 1982.

Wins Wednesday over Oklahoma State at the Bob Devaney Sports Center and Sunday over top-ranked Kansas can put the Huskers in position to gain their first NCAA Tournament bid in three years.

"I'm proud of our kids," an elated NU Coach Danny Nee said after his 200th win at Nebraska. "The players never quit. Even when we got down, the players kept fighting and competing. And then finally — it's been so long — we got a break. It's a big, big win for us."



Garner

Nebraska	74
Iowa St.	69

Lue tied his career-high with 30 points on 12-of-18 shooting and grabbed seven rebounds in 44 minutes, presenting a strong argument for first-team All-Big 12 consideration. The sizzling sophomore point guard hit four 3-pointers Saturday, including two in the final 3:35 of regulation, when he scored 12 points during a 17-9 Nebraska run.

"I don't know what happened to Tyrone Lue," Nebraska guard Cookie Belcher said, "but something hit him and he just started shooting. I couldn't believe it. I was locked up most of the game, and I just got out of the way and let

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Iowa State blows by NU on putback

Iowa St.	57
Nebraska	55

By MIKE KLUCK
Senior Reporter

Iowa State left the Nebraska women's basketball team high and dry Sunday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.



DeForge

The Cornhuskers, who connected on a season-best nine 3-pointers, were still two points short as the Cyclones scored on an offensive rebound with three seconds remaining to claim a 57-

55 victory.

The game was a combination of 3-point bombardments and long scoring droughts for both teams.

"It was just a 3-point barrage," NU Coach Angela Beck said. "There were thunderstorms at times and then it rained and then it just got dry."

The storm started at the beginning of the second half as the Cyclones (15-9 overall 8-6 in the Big 12 Conference), who trailed 30-26 at half, hit their first five shots — four 3-pointers and one three-point play to take a 41-32 lead.

However, the Huskers (18-6 and 8-6) responded by putting together a little shower of their own going on a 13-3 run to take a 48-44 lead when Anna DeForge hit a 3-pointer with 9:09 left in the game.

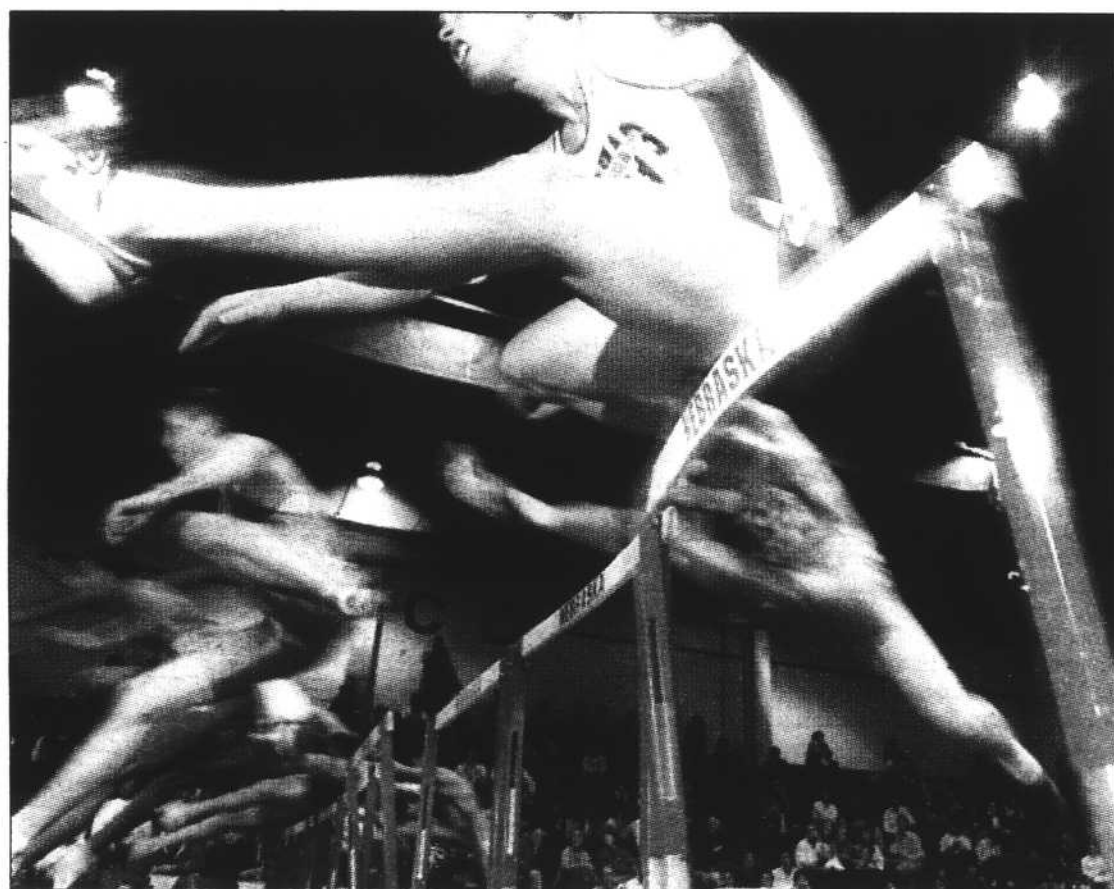
The two teams went toe-to-toe the next four minutes as Nebraska forged ahead 53-51 when Nicole Kubik nailed a jumper with five minutes remaining.

Then the drought hit for the Huskers as they connected on just one of 11 shots the remainder of the game. During the run NU also missed two front ends of one-and-one free-throw opportunities.

Nebraska, however, still had a chance to win the game. With ISU ahead 55-53, the Cyclones' Jayme Olson missed a free throw.

Kubik secured the rebound and was fouled. Kubik missed her free-throw attempt; however, Iowa State was unable to secure possession and the Huskers had the ball.

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MATT MILLER/DN

TEXAS TECH's Brandon May competes in the hurdles at this weekend's Big 12 Indoor Track and Field Championships. Nebraska won both the men's and the women's titles.

Huskers sweep track crowns

By VINCE D'ADAMO
Staff Reporter

Different conference, same result.

For many years, the Nebraska men's and women's track and field teams had a stranglehold on the Big Eight Conference.

On Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center track, both NU teams tightened their grip on a new era by winning the first-ever Big 12 men's and women's indoor championships in commanding fashion.

Cornhusker Coach Gary Pepin said a balanced attack helped pave the way for his team.

"If you're going to win the meet," Pepin said, "there's certainly going to be an emphasis on quality at the top. Balance is great if you have enough quality points. Plus, Texas had some miscabobbles."

On the women's side, the Huskers scored 160 points on the way to beating Texas. The Longhorns totaled 132.33 points. With the win, the NU women extended their indoor title streak to 18

straight.

The NU men — who won their fifth straight overall league title — scored 132 points, outdistancing second place Iowa State's 102.

The Husker women used a fast start on Friday to shove the highly regarded Longhorns off the dance floor.

"We needed a fast start because we knew they were going to finish strong," pentathlete Janet Blomstedt said. "Everybody was really pumped."

Despite nursing a sore back, Blomstedt won the pentathlon at the conference meet for the second straight year. Blomstedt, a junior from Hershey, scored 3,982 points getting NU off to a healthy start on Friday.

Long jumper Angee Henry leaped her way to a win with a jump of 21 feet, 4 inches. Henry — who scored 20 points for the Huskers — also finished second in the 55 meters with a career-best time of 6.85 seconds. Shot putter Tressa Thompson — who holds the NCAA indoor record in her event — showcased her talent in the shot put ring.

Thompson scratched on her first two throws but rebounded with a toss of 59-5 3/4. Thompson, a senior from Bloomfield, said she has now focused her sights on the NCAA Indoor Championships, March 7-8 in Indianapolis.

"I'm ready for nationals," Thompson said. "I'm starting to peak now. In a few weeks from now I want to pop the big one. It's my last indoor meet so I might as well pop the big one."

In the women's high jump the Huskers did not have a first-place finish but still totaled a key 25.5 points.

Kerry Doetker finished second with a leap of 6-1/2. Carrie Brans and Jessica Thompson each scaled 5-9/4 to finish third and fourth. Jody Doetker and Blomstedt each leaped 5-7/4 to finish fifth and sixth.

In the 1,000-meter run Sherri Macfee scored the NU women's lone first-place finish in a running event with a time of 2:49.99.

On the men's side, Byron Topps made a good first impression competing in his first meet of

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Nebraska smashes record

By GREGG MADSEN
Staff Reporter

Sunday was an afternoon to remember for the Nebraska women's gymnastics team.

The Cornhuskers shattered the school record with a team score of 196.625 en route to their third straight Master's Classic title in front of a crowd of 2,064 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Sixth-ranked Nebraska ran away from No. 5 Arizona State (195.6), California (191.5) and Eastern Michigan (188.675).

NU gymnasts placed first in the vault, floor exercise and on the balance beam.

Senior Shelly Bartlett said the team score was a landmark accomplishment for the Huskers. The previous record of 195.75 was set at the 1996 NCAA Midwest Regional in Salt Lake City.

"I think we hit a big goal today, which is awesome," Bartlett said. "We're real proud of that but we still know that even with this score there is more to come."

Bartlett broke Husker freshman Heather Brink's school record of 39.4 in the all-around with a 39.425.

Brink, a freshman from Lincoln, won the beam with a career-best 9.9 and tied ASU's Carrie Courtney for second in the all-around at 39.25. Brink's score paced the Huskers to a school-record score of 49.15 on the

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SCOTT BRUHN/DN

SHELLY BARTLETT competes on the uneven bars Sunday.