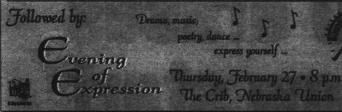




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NU erases slow start to win by 9

OSU from page 7

defense on Nebraska's Tyronn Lue, OSU frustrated the Huskers before NU found the golden touch from an unlikely pair of hands.

Sophomore Troy Piatkowski, averaging 1.6 points per game entering Wednesday's contest, connected on the second of three 3-pointers five min-utes into the second half, sparking a 10-2 Nebraska run that set the tone for the remainder of the night.

"When I had an open shot I just took it," said Piatkowski, whose hot shooting forced OSU into a 2-3 zone and freed up Lue. "It wasn't what we planned, but that's what happened."

Piatkowski, who scored a careerhigh 11 points in 19 minutes, then delivered a crowd-rousing alley-oop to Cookie Belcher, trimming Oklahoma State's lead - which reached 13 points early in the second half -- to six at 51-45.

"I really thought the first half belonged to Oklahoma State, and the second half was decisively Nebraska," Nee said. "That's how it goes."

Outscoring OSU 47-28 after halftime, the Huskers shot 15 of 26 (57.7 percent) and grabbed 22 rebounds to the Cowboys' 11. Seniors Mikki Moore and Bernard Garner, both of to one point on three occasions in the whom did not score in the first half, combined for 13 points after the break.

A dunk by Belcher at the 10:47 mark tied the game at 56, and Lue, who led Nebraska with 23 points, sank

a 3 less than one minute later, putting and OSU never got back within five NU on top for good. After draining a points. pair of 3-point goals to open the game, Lue attempted only five shots in the for Nebraska and grabbed nine of his first half.

safety on the Cowboy football team with a career-best 24 points on 10-ofwho has played in just six basketball 14 shooting; Adrian Peterson scored games this year, shadowed the Husker 17 points and Chianti Roberts added point guard for much of the game. 15 OSU Coach Eddie Sutton also used Alonzo Mayes, an All-Big 12 tight run-capped by a Peterson 3-pointer end, to counter depth problems after -put OSU up 33-21 before the Huskinjuries and personal problems ers ended the half with a 19-7 burst. shelved five Cowboys this season.

point, Nebraska increased its defen- Nee couldn't explain Nebraska's flat sive pressure in the second half, forc- start. ing eight Oklahoma State turnovers after just two first-half miscues. Mean- said, "and I know how to coach them. while, Nebraska took care of the bas- There's only one thing they respond ketball, losing it just nines time, NU's to, and I have to stay with that as hard lowest total since a 1995 win over as it is. You just have to keep teach-Georgia in the National Invitation ing. Tournament.

the box-and-one and the zones," said Lue, who left the game for 15 seconds late in the second half to nurse a twisted ankle and an injured wrist. "They had a great strategy, but we came out to win."

The Cowboys cut the Husker lead last 51/2 minutes, but with NU up 67-66 at the 3:26 mark, Lue drilled a 3 from the left corner along the baseline, tage. Piatkowski then hit another 3, are.'

Venson Hamilton scored 11 points ame-high 12 rebounds in the second R.W. McQuarters, a standout half. Junior Brett Robisch led OSU

In the first half, an 18-4 Cowboy In a game with so much on the line With McQuarters handling the heading into Sunday's clash with KU,

"I know my basketball team," Nee

"I'm going to go to Barry's, and "We've been having trouble with I'm going to have a couple beers and my hands will be shaking and my guts will feel like they're falling out.

> As long as NU continues to win, Piatkowski said he'll be happy, even after Wednesday's poor first half.

They got us down a little bit," he said. "But we've been in this situation plenty of times. We were worried, but not the way we should have been. That's just the Nebraska Cornhuskers giving Nebraska a four-point advan- basketball team. That's just how we

KU's other guard rips Huskers

KANSAS from page 7

remaining, the Jayhawks went on a 6-0 run in a span of 40 seconds to take an 8-point lead.

Pride missed the back end of a twoshot foul, but Kansas secured the rebound and Halbleib made NU pay, ing record her senior season at making a 15-footer.

The Huskers couldn't answer, missing a 3-point attempt on their next possession, but Halbleib sealed the ame's outcome with a 3-pointer of her own.

"When we hit that 3-pointer, I could see it in their faces and the way they were physically responding that we were where I wanted to be," KU Coach Marian Washington said.

with NU, was slowed by sore knees on Wednesday, Washington said. Dixon, the favorite to earn the Big 12 player-of-the-year award played almost 33 minutes but scored just 10 points -11 shy of her average.

owed DeForge's 23-point effort, 16 of at all times. They kept switching which came in the first half.

DeForge, a 5-11 junior from me." Niagara, Wis., has crossed paths with Halbleib before. In high school, DeForge broke Halbleib's state scor-Niagara.

NU, which played its second game without point guard LaToya Doage, of its last five games by a total of 13 went on two 9-0 runs in the first half, points. Nebraska resides in sole posincluding a run in the final two min- session of seventh place in the con-utes that gave the Huskers a 33-25 ference. halftime advantage

DeForge started the run when she threw an in-bounds pass off a KU de-fender and scored. She added another bucket, followed that with a 3-pointer and dished an assist to Nicole Kubik Dixon, who hyperextended her and dished an assist to Nicole Kubik knee before Kansas's first meeting who scored a layup that beat the intermission buzzer

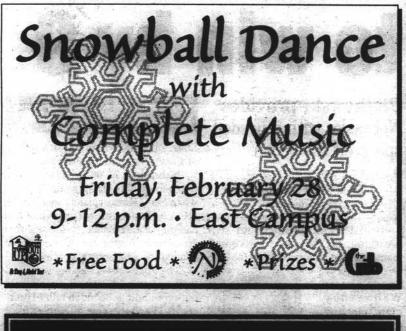
screening people off, and I was get- to qualify for the NCAA Tournament ting quality shots. In the second half, for the second straight season.

Halbleib's hot shooting overshad- they were more aware of where I was screens, and somebody was always on

> DeForge said the Huskers need to try and keep a positive attitude after the loss, which dropped them to 18-7 overall and 8-7 in the league. NU's psyche has been shaken by losing four

> Beck said the Huskers gave a good effort for the second straight road game against a ranked team, but too many mistakes cost NU any chance at winning. Nebraska lost at No. 12 Texas 71-70 just over a week ago.

NU closes out its regular season "In the first half I was getting good against Oklahoma State Saturday in looks," DeForge, who played more Stillwater, Okla. Beck said that game than 38 minutes, said. "We were isn't a must-win as the Huskers look





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