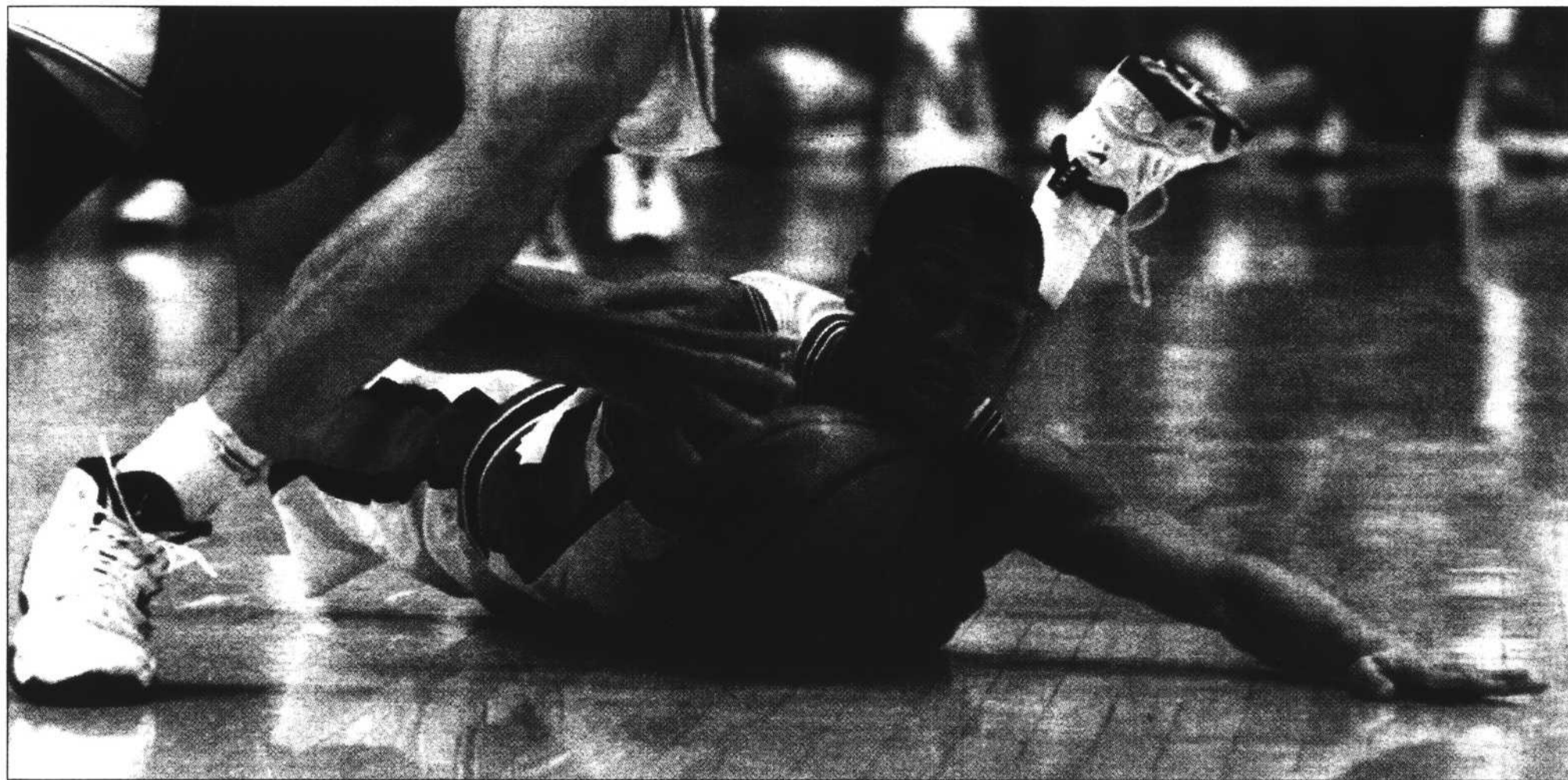


## Jayhawks leave Huskers flat



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NU POINT GUARD Tyronn Lue recovers a loose ball after knocking it out of KU forward Raef LaFrentz's hands late in the second half Sunday. The Jayhawks downed the Huskers 82-71.

### NU's mistakes clinch close win for Kansas

BY SAM MCKEWIN  
Senior Reporter

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Not quite. The Nebraska men's basketball team played close all game long, but could not overcome No. 5 Kansas.



Piatkowski

The Jayhawks used a one-two combination from forwards Paul Pierce and Raef LaFrentz and capitalized on Cornhusker mistakes en route

to an 82-71 win in front of a season-high 14,484 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday.

"Kansas answered every push we had," NU Coach Danny Nee said. "It was a game where we competed, but we never played well enough to win the game."

Nebraska (13-8 overall and 4-4 in the Big 12 Conference) had its chances. The Husker defense limited KU to 45 percent shooting for the game and outrebounded Kansas 44-40. NU also hit eight 3-pointers in the second half, including five from for-

ward Troy Piatkowski.

But when the Huskers had a chance to take leads over the Jayhawks in the second half, mistakes reared their ugly head.

With Kansas (24-3 and 8-1) leading 53-51, Nebraska missed five consecutive free throws while Kansas stretched its lead to 59-53.

"That's all mental," NU center Venson Hamilton said. "We've got to concentrate more. We've got to make them."

Hamilton missed two of the five attempts.

Still, Nebraska cut the lead to 67-65 with 3:08 remaining after a

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### KU finishes strong to douse Husker fire

BY DARREN IVY  
Assignment Reporter

For 37 minutes Kansas senior guard Billy Thomas made just 22 percent of his shots from the field.

But with a two-point lead and 2:27 left in the game, Thomas hit a 3-point shot and then made a jumper 27 seconds later to make up for his misses and break Nebraska's back.

The ability to execute and come up with big plays in crunch time was the key for Kansas in an 82-71 win over Nebraska at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Sunday.

"We were not playing very

intelligent today, but we played intelligent enough in the last two minutes to win," KU Coach Roy Williams said. "We called a play that we like: Ryan (Robertson) penetrating and Billy on one side and Paul (Pierce) on the other."

"We didn't play that possession very smart either until the last play, and then Ryan penetrated, and Billy hit the tough shot."

While the rest of the Jayhawks struggled, preseason All-Americans Raef LaFrentz and Paul Pierce carried the Jayhawks on their backs.

"It was really an ugly performance," Williams said. "I was not

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### Huskers' defensive pressure shuts down OSU

BY SHANNON HEFFELFINGER  
Senior Reporter

Women's Basketball	
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The Nebraska women's basketball team continued its tear through the Big 12 Conference Saturday, dismembering Oklahoma State bit by bit until all that remained was a bruised, beaten shadow of the team that arrived in Lincoln the day before.



DeForge

NU's 77-47 win over the Cowgirls at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Saturday marked the second time this week the Cornhuskers had ripped apart a respectable league foe. Nebraska defeated Texas 87-75 Wednesday

night in Lincoln.

"The kids are really focused right now," NU

Coach Paul Sanderford said. "They're beginning to understand what it takes to play and be successful in February and March."

"I'm really excited and feel very positive about some of the things I'm starting to see happen."

The Huskers improved to 16-6 overall and 5-3 in the Big 12 Conference before 2,770 fans.

Oklahoma State, which fell to 11-7 and 4-4, made a season-low 16 field goals and recorded its second lowest field goal percentage of the season in what Coach Dick Halterman called a surprising and disappointing performance.

"We felt that we matched up well with Nebraska," Halterman said. "We thought we could come out and compete and have a chance to

win in the last five minutes. But it was just a total mismatch from the start."

The Huskers opened the contest with an 11-0 run before the Cowgirls' Jennifer Crow put OSU on the board nearly four minutes into the half.

Crow scored Oklahoma State's first six points, but NU hammered the cold Cowgirls with runs of 17-3 and 11-4 to close out the half.

"The difference was the level of intensity the two teams came out with," Halterman said. "For the 22 years I've been here, we've always had teams that compete with intensity."

"So far, we're not doing that this year. Their intensity level was so far above ours that it's mind boggling."

Another key factor that helped the Huskers was their 25-9 rebounding advantage in the first half.

"Our post players had good position; they boxed out very well," said NU forward Anna DeForge, who had 11 rebounds and 14 points.

"We pretty much controlled the boards from the get-go. We were aggressive and won the rebounding battle."

NU also held the Cowgirls to 25 percent shooting from the field in the first half.

Nebraska's Jami Kubik, who recorded 15 points, eight assists and five rebounds, limited OSU's leading scorer, Renee Roberts.

"I drew a tough defensive assignment and I knew I needed to come out focused," Kubik said. "When I do that on defense it just helps the rest of my game a lot."

The Huskers stumped OSU with their "Mad Dog" three-fourths-court press and also disrupted the Cowgirls by trapping the wings at the 28-foot line out of a one-three-one half-court defense.

"We changed defenses and that affected them early," Sanderford said. "There was an eight minute period in the first half where we played the best we have all year."