

NU women fall to Old Dominion

■ An 11-minute Husker scoring drought in the second half helped the Lady Monarchs secure the win.

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

NORFOLK, Va. — Nebraska proved it could survive a five-minute scoring drought and still remain competitive.

But an 11-minute period without a field goal in the second round of the NCAA Tournament against the No. 2 team in the nation might be a little difficult for any team to overcome.

Despite mounting a comeback and tying the game with 15 minutes remaining, the Cornhuskers fell to No. 2 Old Dominion 75-60 Sunday night before a sold-out ODU Fieldhouse and an ESPN2 national-television audience.

Nebraska came out of the half-time locker room looking like a team that was supposed to be marching on in the NCAA Tournament, scoring 14 of the first 18 points to tie the score at 43 on a Nicole Kubik 3-pointer with 15:17 remaining in the game. Nebraska's next field goal did not come until the 4:11 mark.

The Lady Monarchs, with the

Women's NCAA Tournament	
Nebraska	60
Old Dominion	75

help of the 14,855 predominantly ODU fans in attendance, took advantage of the Huskers' shooting woes and went on an 18-4 run. NU's four points came from Kubik free throws.

During that period, Nebraska was zero for 12 from the field and committed 10 turnovers.

"Any time you're in a stretch where you are going 0 for 12, you're thinking you need to score somehow," Kubik said. "We ran different offenses — anything to get a score — and the baskets weren't dropping for us."

The Huskers connected on just 12 of 34 shots in the second half (35 percent) and finished the game shooting just 39 percent.

It was the fifth-straight time NU failed to shoot better than 40 percent from the field.

Also, senior Anna DeForge, who shot 42 percent on the season, finished the ODU game connecting on just 8 of 23 attempts for 34.8 percent. In Nebraska's 76-59 victory over New Mexico on Friday, the two-time first-team All-Big 12 player was 5 of 23 from the floor, making

Please see NCAA on 8

Gymnasts split duals against Nittany Lions

By Darren Ivy
Assignment Reporter

Both the Nebraska men's and women's gymnastic teams scored well Saturday in dual meets against Penn State, but the women were the only ones who came away with a victory.

The No. 13 women defeated the No. 15 Nittany Lions 195.60-194.125 at State College, Penn. Coach Dan Kendig said the meet was a good way to conclude the regular season.

"This is a tremendous win for us heading into postseason," Kendig said. "I think a win like this puts us in good position heading into the Big 12 Championships next week."

A slew of career-high scores and season-best marks helped the Cornhuskers (11-4) score a season-high mark.

On the first event of the night, Misty Oxford posted a school-record-tying 9.95 on the uneven bars. Her mark tied the standard set by Shelly Bartlett in 1997 and Crystal Savage in 1989.

In addition to Oxford, Nicole Wilkinson posted a 9.875 and Jess Swift scored a career-best 9.85 while NU scored a season-high 49.25 on the event.

"We really did a nice job on bars," Kendig said. "It got us going and started the momentum."

NU carried the momentum over to the floor exercise where Heather Smith (9.925), Courtney Brown (9.875) and Amy King (9.80) all posted career bests as the Huskers scored a season-high 49.25.

Senior Bill Mulholland and sophomore Derek Leiter finished second and third in the all-around with scores of 57.375 and 57.30. Penn State sophomore Mike Dutka won the all-around with a 58.50.

around. Her 38.925 put her behind Missy Leopoldus of PSU, who scored 39.10.

Kendig said the team's good performance was not unexpected.

"We put an emphasis on hitting routines in practice," Kendig said. "We knew how important this meet was because we lost one chance last week (when the BYU meet was canceled) to score better."

The men also had high expectations going into their meet with No. 5 Penn State.

"We knew we would have to perform very well to win because it is a tough place to score well," said Coach Francis Allen.

The Huskers scored above 230 for the third consecutive meet, but fell to Penn State 231.15-230.025, to dip to 10-5 on the year.

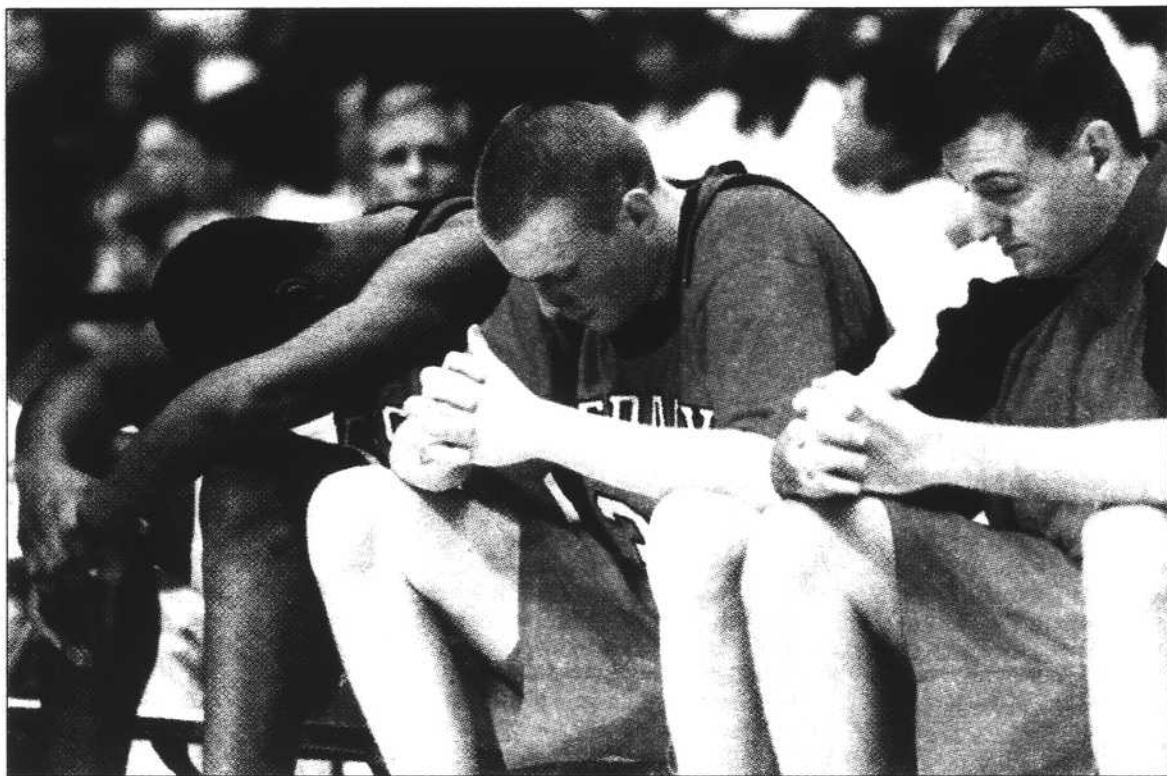
Senior Bill Mulholland and sophomore Derek Leiter finished second and third in the all-around with scores of 57.375 and 57.30. Penn State sophomore Mike Dutka won the all-around with a 58.50.

Junior Marshall Nelson took first on the horizontal bar with a 9.80 and tied Dutka for first on the parallel bars with a 9.80.

Leiter tied Dutka for first on the floor exercise with a 9.75 and finished third on the pommel horse, vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar.

Although the gymnasts performed well, Allen said the men were upset with the loss.

"I think this meet left a bad taste in our mouth," Kendig said. "We had some opportunities, and I think they will force our guys to work even harder in the gym and in the next meet at the Big 12 Championships in Lincoln, Neb. We've got a chance to get better."



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN

NU CENTER Venson Hamilton, left, forward Troy Piatkowski, center, and guard Mike Johnette sit on the bench toward the end of the Huskers' season-ending 74-65 loss to Arkansas in the NCAA Tournament Friday.

Huskies look to future

By Sam McKeown
Senior Reporter

There may be a silver lining in the black-cloud ending for the Nebraska men's basketball team.

After losing to Arkansas 74-65 in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, the Cornhuskers expressed their disappointment, but also looked forward to next season.

"Just getting here, we look at our year as successful," Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said. "But we're really looking forward to making that next step."

The Huskers could possibly return all five starters from a team that went 20-12 this season and finished fourth in the Big 12 Conference. NU also will return all three players who saw considerable time off the bench.

One player who is unsure about returning next season is junior point guard Tyrone Lue. A first-team All-Big 12 selection, Lue must make a decision between staying for his senior season or opting for the NBA draft.

Forward Andy Markowski said getting Lue back would make the

"If he decides to stay, we'll have one of the best teams in Husker history."

ANDY MARKOWSKI
NU forward

Huskies a force to be reckoned with nationally.

"Right now, I think it's 50/50 whether or not he stays," Markowski said. "He's got to sit down with some people and find out what's best for him."

"If he decides to stay, we'll have one of the best teams in Husker history."

If Lue goes to the NBA, Markowski said, NU would have to find a player to run the point. Possible candidates include sophomore guard Cookie Belcher, freshmen Rodney Williams and Todd Smith, and junior college recruit Rodney Fields.

"I'm confident the coaching staff would either go out and find someone

to play the point guard position or adapt somebody to do it," Markowski said. "Somebody like Cookie could do it, but he's more suited for the two-guard position."

Next season, one problem that Nebraska may not have is depth. This season, NU played only an eight-man rotation throughout the season.

Next year, Markowski said, NU will have all of its scholarships filled, and players will be fighting for playing time.

"The time isn't guaranteed to anyone because we'll have so many guys going for it," Markowski said. "We'll have a good nucleus; it'll be whoever plays hardest in the summer that plays next season."

Four tracksters are All-Americans

By Andrew Strnad
Staff Reporter

For only the second time in 12 years, neither the Nebraska men's nor women's track team finished in the top 10 at the NCAA Indoor Track Championships at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

But four of the eight Cornhusker athletes competing in the meet returned to Lincoln as All-Americans — including three of the four NU men.

Behind their performances, the men finished 14th.

Junior high jumper Shane Lavy finished in third place with a jump of 7 feet, 5 inches — just 1 inch behind freshman Kenny Evans of Arkansas.

It was the best finish for Lavy, the four-time All-American, at the NCAA indoor meet.

"Shane had a lot of misses and wasn't very consistent," NU head coach Scott Papp said. "But he was able to clear the next height whenever he needed to."

Shane, and I know he's happy with where he placed."

Senior Scott Warren also finished third, and he earned All-America honors in the 35-pound weight throw for the second straight year.

Warren's toss of 67-4¼ was a personal best and also an improvement over last year's fifth-place finish.

"I'm happy with my placing with how far I threw," Warren said. "I'm a little disappointed because it's my senior year and I'm only a 67-foot weight thrower."

Long jumper Chris Wright entered the meet with the third-best jump in the nation this year at 26 feet, but he was unable to match his earlier mark, and finished sixth.

The senior from Nassau, Bahamas, had a jump of 24-8 ½."

"He had his worst meet of the indoor season, and this isn't the place I'd like to finish," Papp said.

Senior Byron Lopez just missed qualifying in the 58-meter dash, finishing in sixth place. Preliminary time of 1:24.60 was just a hundredths away from qualifying.

The Husker women had only one All-American and finished in 43rd place, their worst NCAA Indoor finish ever.

Senior Meka Rembert didn't advance to the finals of the 55-meter hurdles but did advance in the 400-meter dash.

The Kentucky transfer finished in fifth place, earning All-American honors with a time of 54.01.

"In the quarter, I was so happy to know I made it in (the finals)," Rembert said. "Now I am ready for the 400 hurdles outdoors."

Senior Christina Blackmer finished 10th in the 5,000 meters, sophomore Dulcia Ingram finished 14th in the long jump, and sophomore Kim Stewart finished 16th in the pole vault.

Big 12 Conference for Texas won the women's national title ending Louisiana State's run of six straight titles.

"We can't let this meet go by without some of our best athletes competing and