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# NU defense key to Ameritas title

BY DARREN IVY  
Staff writer

Before a Bob Devaney Sports Center crowd of 6,259 that cheered loudest when the Kansas State and Tennessee football scores were announced, the Nebraska men's basketball team won its 11th straight Ameritas Classic title Saturday.

The Cornhuskers' performance was anything but a work of art.

Working without point guard Joe Holmes, who injured his shoulder against Tulsa, the offense at times was stagnant and never really looked in sync. Key individual performances by Chad Johnson and Cary Cochran gave NU the boost it needed in a 60-48 win over Colgate on Saturday and in the



Hamilton

"I was watching ESPN and saw Syracuse lost in its own classic. So it could be worse."

CARY COCHRAN  
NU guard

63-54 win against Southwest Texas State on Friday.

"It was difficult playing with no point guard," Coach Danny Nee said. "But we got through it. Colgate did a really nice job. We just did what we needed to do and got two wins in this tournament. That's important for us."

The wins are important because NU (5-3) plays undefeated Creighton on Wednesday.

Against Colgate, the Huskers continued their ragged play - turning the ball over 21 times, missing close-range shots and shooting 39 percent from the field. Friday wasn't much better as NU committed 19 turnovers,

many unforced, while shooting 43 percent for the game.

Two wins are two wins, Cochran said.

"I was watching ESPN and saw Syracuse lost in its own classic," said Cochran, who scored 17 points in 32 minutes. "So it could be worse."

In the first half of the Colgate game, the Huskers struggled against the Red Raiders' zone. At the 10 minutes, 45 seconds mark, the game was tied 10-10.

Then Cochran, who was named to the All-Ameritas Classic team, came in off the bench to hit two 3-pointers and a layup to help give NU an 18-14

lead at the seven minute, twelve second mark. **Nebraska 60 Colgate 48**

The defense also stepped it up, giving up just two points the rest of the half as NU led 26-16.

Venson Hamilton, who was named the MVP of the tournament, said the Huskers set a goal to hold Colgate under 50 points.

"I know when we set goals, we play with a lot of intensity," said Hamilton, who had 20 points, 18 rebounds and eight steals in two games while playing on a sprained ankle.

In the second half, the Red Raiders cut the lead to 38-33. That's when Johnson went on his spurt. He made a free throw, two 3-pointers and another shot.

"I was really upset with myself at halftime with the way I was playing," said Johnson, who was scoreless and had three turnovers. "I started thinking I wasn't playing as good as I could and picked it up for the team."

## Kubik rolls again in 82-74 win

BY JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

OMAHA - When Nebraska Women's Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford looked at the scoreboard Sunday, he saw his No. 23 Cornhuskers trailing by more than 10 points for the second time in four days.

When junior Nicole Kubik looked at the scoreboard, she saw an opportunity to take over a game for the second time in four days.

**Nebraska 82 Creighton 74**

The point guard scored 21 of her game-high 25 points in the second half as NU came from behind to beat Creighton 82-74 before 1,674 at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

Kubik's performance comes after

Thursday's win at Drake where she scored the Huskers' last 11 points in Nebraska's win over the Bulldogs.

"When she goes on a roll," Sanderford said, "give her the ball, and get out of the way."

Everyone did get out of Kubik's way, including the Bluejay defense. Four of Kubik's eight baskets in the second half came from layups.

The junior from Cambridge also added four free throws and two steals during the second half, when the Huskers trailed by as many as 18 points.

Omaha native Krissie Spanheimer started the second half with a 3-pointer to stretch Creighton's 41-28 halftime lead to 16 points.

Spanheimer dug the Huskers further into a hole they dug for themselves in the first half.

NU shot 33 percent from the field, compared to Creighton's 55 percent

effort in the first 20 minutes. The Huskers also turned the ball over 11 times against a pesky Bluejay defense.

Those stats gave Sanderford plenty to talk about at halftime. "(Sanderford) told us we weren't playing like the No. 23 team in the country," Kubik said. "That really got to us."

When CU opened the lead to 18, it seemed as if the Huskers were just looking to hang on. Instead, sophomore Amanda Went helped spark a comeback attempt.

Went hit the Huskers' first basket in the second half with seventeen minutes and 51 seconds left in the game. Went ended the game with a career-high 12 points. The guard out of Columbus also tied a career-high with four rebounds.

"I felt good today," Went said. "I felt if I could get the team going and they could finish, that would be fine."

NU chipped into the Bluejays' lead in the second half. The Huskers took their first lead of the game when Kubik hit a layup with 9:55 to play.

Creighton took the lead back 2:11 later when senior forward Jenni Larson made a pair of free throws. But the Huskers came charging back when Went drove to the basket and made a shot. Went was fouled and made the free throw to take the lead back 61-59. Nebraska wouldn't trail again.

"I'd say we played 110 percent harder in the second half," senior Cori McDill said. "We were in the ozone in the first half."

Sanderford said he saw two different games against Creighton. In the second half, NU shot 50 percent from the field. The 54-point second half performance ties a Husker record for points scored in a half under Sanderford.

The Huskers also cut back on turnovers in the second half, giving up the ball only three times.

On the flip side, CU shot only 32 percent in the second half, and had 10 turnovers.

"In the second half, we stepped up the defense and changed up on the press," Sanderford said. "That was the difference in the game."

The win closes a five-game road trip for the Huskers (7-1). NU won four of those games, with two of those wins coming against teams that played in last season's NCAA tournament.

But NU won't get any time off, as they play Troy State at home on Tuesday.

## Creighton misfires late in loss to No. 23 Huskers

BY CHRISTOPHER HEINE  
Staff writer

OMAHA - Creighton was understandably disappointed after losing to Nebraska 82-74 on Sunday at the Civic Auditorium.

They prepared almost two weeks to upset the No. 23 Cornhuskers and failed. The Bluejays wanted the respect that comes with beating a ranked opponent.

And then they let an 18-point second-half lead get away.

Coach Connie Yori said she was upset with her team because she felt like they dropped the ball. Literally.

Yori said the main factor in the Cornhuskers' come-from-behind victory was Creighton's inability to grab offensive rebounds.

"We had a number of plays in the second half where we (didn't) catch the ball, and they got a layup," she said. "Balls went off our hands on rebounds, and they got layups."

Creighton led the Cornhuskers 46-28 with more than 18 minutes left

in the second half. NU charged back with intense full-court and half-court presses to take its first lead 55-54 with almost 10 minutes remaining.

Yori said her team talked about the possibility of NU coming out strong in the second half.

"We knew they were going to make a run in the second half, and they did," she said. "We didn't respond, and it's very disappointing."

Creighton players weren't shy about showing their disappointment in the loss.

CU guard Corey Sweeney gasped and sighed in disgust in explaining preparation for NU.

"I spent the last 12 days preparing to play Nebraska," Sweeney said. "It's disappointing when you prepare that long for a team and can't put it together at the end."

"(NU Coach Paul Sanderford) said after their game with Drake that it was going to be the 'Game of the Century' for us," she said. "That statement really, really got to me because it seemed they were over-looking us a bit."

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## NU to play in team's first Holiday Bowl

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utation that they have precedes them." Though both coaches said they have yet to have a chance to review film of their opponent, Solich also said he expects a good matchup. "They're one of the top teams in

the country," Solich said. "They will be a tremendous challenge for our football team, but we're looking forward to it."

The Dec. 30th game, set for Qualcomm Stadium at 5 p.m., will give the injury-plagued Huskers time to heal.

Solich said I-back DeAngelo Evans "will have a chance to return," but said quarterback Bobby Newcombe is very questionable.

"We feel that for the most part, the players with minor injuries will benefit from this time that we have," Solich said. "We hope that will be the case."