

Nebraska survives ISU surge

■ Andy Markowski's rebound helps save Huskers in 59-57 win over Iowa State at home.

BY DARREN IVY
Senior staff writer

After Saturday night's 59-57 win over Iowa State, senior forward Andy Markowski strolled into the post-game press conference.

Nebraska 59
Iowa State 57

He was bare-foot, in blue jeans with a knee cut out of one side, and he had on a half-buttoned polo shirt.

"Did we keep you interested?" Markowski asked, the first words out of his mouth.

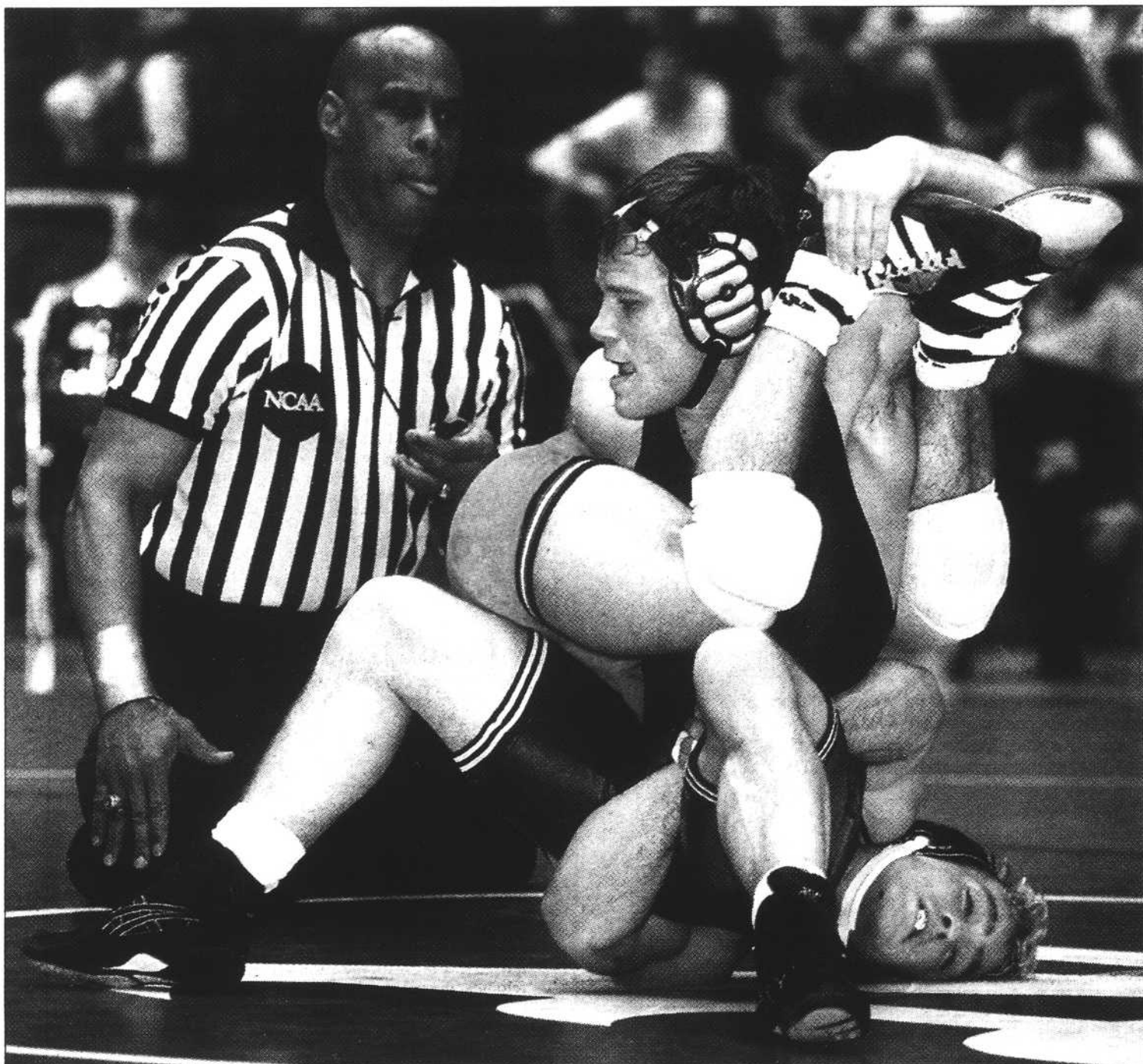
"Yes" would probably be the overwhelming response from the 13,623 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center who watched as the Cornhuskers twice built double-digit leads in the second half before having to hang on for the two-point win.

With the win, NU (17-8 and 9-3 in the Big 12 Conference) avoided a Cyclone sweep and remained tied with Missouri and Oklahoma for second place in the Big 12.

In the process, senior center Venson Hamilton became the fourth player in Big Eight and Big 12 history to score 1,000 points, grab 1,000 rebounds and block 200 shots.

The win didn't come easy. NU missed free throws that allowed ISU (13-12 and 4-8) to stick around. But NU Coach Danny Nee said a win like

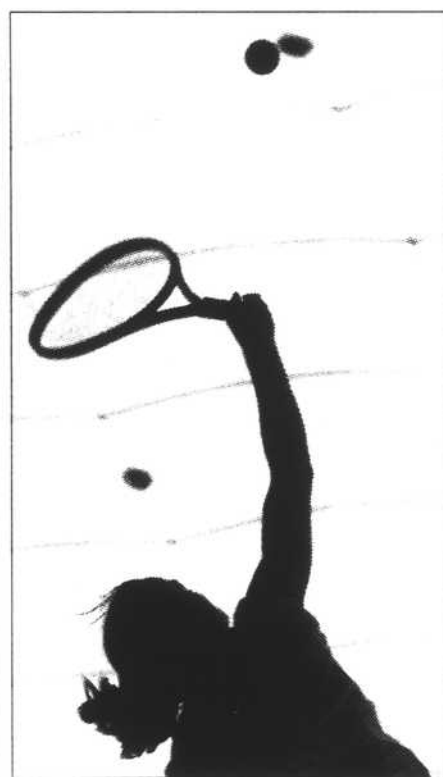
Please see ISU on 8



RYAN SODERLIN/DN

NEBRASKA'S TODD BECKERMAN hangs on as Minnesota's Bart Golyer tries to score a takedown. Beckerman lost the match to Golyer 3-1.

Under the dome



RICK TOWNLEY/DN

JUNIOR GINA PELAZINI serves in a doubles match vs. Wyoming at the Woods Tennis Center on Sunday morning. Pelazini and partner, freshman Amy Frisch, went on to lose the match 8-4 to Melanie Roberts and Natalie Morozova. The women's tennis team ended up defeating Wyoming 6-3, improving NU's record to 3-1 on the year. No. 1 Junior Sandra Noetzel defeated Sarah Kay 6-4, 6-3, improving her record to 3-1. In doubles, sophomore Danica Hardy and freshman Katarina Balan defeated Wyoming's Amanda Roberts and Lindsay McPhail, 8-3. On Feb. 19 the Huskers will meet Sam Houston State in College Station, Texas.

Gophers deflate NU wrestlers

Vering earns victory over top-ranked UM wrestler despite loss

BY LISA VONNAHME
Staff writer

Tim Neumann found himself at a loss for words after Sunday's dual with second-ranked Minnesota.

Minnesota 22
Nebraska 9

And when the Nebraska wrestling coach finally did speak, he was torn between NU's "weaknesses that were obvious to everybody in the arena" and "feeling good about a guy who just upset the No. 1 guy in the country," in reference to Brad Vering's win over UM's Brandon Eggum at 184 pounds.

Neumann's indifferent feelings toward his No. 4 wrestling team came after the Cornhuskers

suffered a 22-9 loss to the Golden Gophers in front of 1,369 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in NU's last home dual of the season.

The loss puts the Huskers at 16-6 overall and 2-3 in the Big 12 Conference as they head into their final dual of the regular season at Missouri on Wednesday.

"I am not happy at all with whatever the hell the score was," Neumann said. "There is no moral victory when you're as talented a team as we are."

"Half the guys fought like they were trying to protect the mother land, and the other half didn't think it was that important."

With the all-important Big 12 Tournament and NCAA Championships next month,

"I am not happy at all with whatever the hell the score was."

TIM NEUMANN
NU coach

Neumann stressed that individual team members must decide to take their wrestling to the next level or they won't be competing at the national tournament.

For seventh-ranked Vering, the upset over Eggum, who was undefeated this year prior to Sunday, will give him extra momentum and a possible top-three seed for NCAAs if he clinches his second Big 12 title on March 6.

Please see VERING on 8

Scoring droughts stop NU women at KU

BY JAY SAUNDERS
Staff writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — With three minutes and 51 seconds left in the Nebraska women's basketball team's game at No. 21 Kansas, the opportunity presented itself.

Junior Nicole Kubik hit two free throws to make the score 55-52. It was the closest NU had been to the Jayhawks in the second half.

KU was starting to show signs of fatigue. Even its coach, Marian Washington, said so. The Jayhawks were turning the ball over and not cashing in on scoring opportunities.

But Nebraska went blank and Kansas held on 63-58 in front of 3,900 people at Allen Fieldhouse.

"We were in position to win the game," NU Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We took it at them but we just didn't get the job done."

The Huskers were unable to score for 2:44 after the Kubik free throws. A pair of Brooke Schwartz 3-pointers was all the offense Nebraska could muster in the closing minutes.

The second-half scoreless streak was the second of long scoring droughts for the Huskers. In the first half, after taking a 12-10 lead, NU didn't score for the next 3:50.

"We've had trouble scoring all

year," Sanderford said. "I don't have any magic formulas."

When the Huskers (16-9 overall and 5-7 in the Big 12 Conference) did get out of the scoring funk, it was too late. KU (19-6 and 6-3) took the lead 21-14 and didn't give it back.

"We battled," Sanderford said, "but it came back to the same thing that haunts us. Lack of rebounding really hurt us."

Nebraska was beat on the boards 47-32. Kansas' Lynn Pride, Jaclyn Johnson and Nakia Sanford combined for 35 rebounds, three more than the entire Husker team.

Schwartz led NU with a career-high 24 points but could only muster

Kansas 63
Nebraska 58

one rebound.

"Three of their girls outrebounded our whole team," Schwartz said. "We can't have that. Not enough people wanted it, I guess."

Despite the rebounding and the scoring droughts, Sanderford and the players found a silver lining in the team's sixth consecutive road loss.

Even though it suffered a 5-point setback on the road, Sanderford said the team showed signs of improvement.