

# SPORTS

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## Nebraska goes cold in loss to Cowboys

By ADAM KLINKER  
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Danny Nee knew it was coming. No, it wasn't the 60-48 loss his team suffered Wednesday night to Oklahoma State.

Rather, the Cornhusker men's basketball coach knew what to expect when the Cowboys, stretching their bus legs after a three-game losing streak, rolled into the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"Oklahoma State played like our coaching staff knew they were going to play," Nee said. "They were going to come in and play hard and play smart and find a way to win."

And OSU (17-8 overall and 8-5 in the Big 12) found that route wide open and running right along the 3-point arc.

In the second half, the Cowboys shot 5-11 (.455) from 3-point range, with four 3s coming from guard Adrian Peterson, who led all scorers with 21 points.

But the kicker was a 23-foot fade-away in traffic by guard Joe Adkins with just minutes remaining in the game.

With the Huskers (17-9, 9-4) trailing 52-46, and 2:40 left, NU guard Chad Johnson hit a jumper from the elbow and called an immediate 20-second timeout. As the crowd of 13,146 collectively rose to its feet during the break, the noise level in the Devaney Center hit its max for the evening.

OSU in-bounded the ball and walked the ball up the court, as was their pace all night in slowing the Husker running game.

With three men on the perimeter, the Cowboys swung the ball from man to man, looking for a good shot that the NU defense was not likely to yield. With two seconds left on the shot clock, the ball went to Adkins. He threw it up,

going away from the basket, over two defenders, one of them NU center Venson Hamilton.

"After that went in, I just looked at Larry (Florence) and told him right there, 'It just wasn't meant for us to win,'" Hamilton said.

But Adkins' proverbial nail in the coffin was helped along with a little help from hard-luck Husker shooting all-around the court.

For the game, NU was 1-16 (.063) from 3-point land, and 3-8 (.375) at the free-throw line, and hit just 40 percent from the field, including a 32.1 percent (9-28) mark in the second half.

"We had an off night tonight," Hamilton said. "We played miserable."

In addition, the slow-tempo offense with which OSU came at the Huskers, and a stubborn Cowboy defense fanned the flames that ended up burning the usually running, gunning Huskers.

"Give Okie State credit," Nee said. "They came and played their game and played it well. They've got great athletes, great coaching. Eddie had them ready to play."

Also a thorn in the Huskers' side was 12 sec-

ond-half turnovers, eight charged to Hamilton, who also led NU with his 14<sup>th</sup> double-double of the season - 20 points and 15 rebounds.

But the numbers weren't the story for Hamilton, who faced reporters following the game in his usual reserved manner. The Huskers' Big 12 Championship hopes may be in serious doubt.

Going into Wednesday's game, NU was in sole possession of third place in the conference behind Oklahoma and Texas. They now fall into a three-way tie for third with Missouri and Kansas.

"This is going to hurt our chances bad," Hamilton said. "Everybody's mad. Everybody knows they could have played better ... much better."

Still, Nee said that the Huskers will only get stronger. NU's one-game-at-a-time formula will provide the sustenance for the remaining three games and the conference tournament.

"We're still in a good position to control our own destiny," Nee said. "We just talk about winning the next game."



HEATHER GLENBOSKI/DN

NU SPURTER VINCE BROWN is trying to get back into the starting blocks after a hamstring injury. He will be running for the Huskers in the Big 12 meet in Manhattan, Kan., this weekend. Brown is second in the conference in the 60-meter dash.

## 'Mama's boy' wants Big 12 title

By BRANDON SCHULTE  
Staff writer

Mama's boy.

It's not exactly the first thought that comes to mind when you meet Vince Brown.

But that's exactly the way Brown, a senior sprinter on the Nebraska track team, describes himself and his affection for his mother, Lessie Cox.

"I'm a mama's boy," Brown said. "She knows I can't live without her, and she can't live without me. We can do anything together. She's behind me 100 percent."

Brown has said he runs for glory and run he does. Heading into the Big 12 Indoor Track Championships this weekend in Manhattan, Kan., Brown has the second-fastest conference time and seventh nationally (6.66 seconds) in the 60-meter dash. He also has the fourth fastest conference time in the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.28 seconds.

Last indoor season, he was leading the nation before a series of injuries slowed him, but he was able to persevere and earn a ring at the outdoor Big

12 Championships.

"It was horrible," Brown said. "I was emotional, I didn't know what to think. But my mama always told me that everything happens for a reason. And I came back and did all right the rest of the season."

He has a slightly strained hamstring going into the Big 12 Championships.

If he can stay healthy, his coach, Billy Maxwell, says there is no telling what he can accomplish.

"He's got to get in there and compete real hard," Maxwell said. "Even though he's had some nagging injuries, he's got to toss them aside."

Brown, originally from Chattahoochee, Fla., came to Nebraska from Bakersfield College in California. In Bakersfield, he clocked the second fastest 100-meter time in school history.

He credits his coach there, Bob Covey, for showing him he had a future in track. Brown always thought his small compact frame and speed were better suited for football rather than track.

Don't be surprised if Brown is seen on the football field next fall. He has talked to Coach Frank Solich about coming out and returning punts for the

Cornhusker football team, something he hasn't done since his days in California.

Brown first became comfortable with the idea of coming to NU by speaking to Maxwell, whose hometown of Cairo, Ga., is a mere 30 miles from Brown's. They are as close to each other as their hometowns are.

"Coach Maxwell is like my daddy away from home," Brown said. "At a meet, even with all of the people there during a race, his voice is the only one I hear in the crowd."

Before a race, one might see Brown "talking trash" to opponents, but once he is in the blocks, he becomes all business. Once there, he doesn't worry about anything but getting a fast start. The start is everything.

Then there are the races when the two most influential women in his life, his mother and his 6-year-old daughter, Charronnae, who lives in Florida, are present.

"It gets me higher when I run in front of my mother and daughter," Brown said. "They are my biggest fans. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be here today."

## Nebraska notches road win

By JAY SAUNDERS  
Staff writer

Finally.

The Nebraska women's basketball team got rid of a huge monkey that has been on the team's back since Dec. 28 - the last time the Cornhuskers won a game on the road.

Nine road games later, the losing streak ended Wednesday night as the Huskers knocked off Texas A&M 62-54.

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Texas A&M	54

"Hopefully this answers some questions of can we win on the road," NU Coach Paul Sanderford said.

Point guard Nicole Kubik led Nebraska (17-9 overall and 6-7 in the Big 12 Conference) with 20 points. The junior was one of three Husker players who scored in double figures.

Junior Brooke Schwartz had 13 points, and fellow junior Charlie Rogers added 10 points and eight rebounds.

"Charlie Rogers was huge," Sanderford said. "This was her best game in a month."

The Huskers led 33-19 with 18 minutes and 58 seconds left in the game. A&M started to chip into the lead and cut the NU advantage to 49-46 when Aggie junior Prissy Sharpe hit a pair of free throws with 4:35 to play.

Three points would be as close as A&M (7-16 and 2-11) would get as Rogers, who has been struggling offensively, scored four straight points.

"That was a nice confidence booster for me," Rogers said. "I am really thankful my team hung with me. It felt really good to break out."

Rogers had the answer down the stretch, but Sanderford had the solution to the Huskers' problem of slow starts. Her name was Candice Blackbird.

The freshman from South Sioux City started her first game, and had four assists and three rebounds in the first four minutes of the game.

NU made 16 of 24 free throws, including four shots from the charity strip in the last minute.

The Huskers were outrebounded for the third consecutive game, but Nebraska scored 10 second-chance points off of 11 offensive rebounds.