

Sanderford embarrassed by blowout loss to BYU

By BRANDON SCHULTE
Staff writer

Nebraska Coach Paul Sanderford challenged the seniors on his women's basketball team at halftime ON Thursday night.

It didn't work.

Down by 12 points at the break to hot-shooting Brigham Young, the Cornhuskers weren't able to balance the deficit. Instead, it doubled on them as BYU defeated NU 81-57 in front of 3,276 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The 24-point loss was the second worst in Sanderford's tenure and was the worst at the Sports Center since a 97-64 loss to Creighton on Dec. 10, 1993.

Sanderford said the second half "might have been the most embarrassing of my career."

In the final half NU shot an ice-cold 25 percent from the field on 9-36 shooting, and an even worse 3-19 from the 3-point range (15.8 percent).

"I challenged the kids, our seniors, at halftime to step it up," Sanderford said. "I guess putting pressure on this group was not the right thing to do. I did put quite a bit of pressure on them."

The three seniors in the Husker starting line-up - Brooke Schwartz, Nicole Kubik and Charlie Rogers - combined to shoot 10-31 from the field.

But its shooting woes were the least of Nebraska's worries as it fell to 3-3 on the season. As bad as the offense was, the defense might have been worse.

BYU (6-2) went 10-16 from 3-point range (62.5 percent) in the first half and 14-26 in the game. NU's defense was over-rotating on Cougar shooters, leaving open shots from the perimeter, which BYU buried all game long.

That Brigham Young was able to convert on its open 3-point looks didn't surprise Schwartz.

"Well, if you're left wide open, I suspect you should knock down a few," Schwartz said. "We left them open all night. I can't put a finger on a specific shooter - they all knocked them down. They reminded me of Iowa State; they can all shoot the ball."

Nebraska matched BYU for most of the first half and trailed by only four, 36-32, with 3:23 left in the first half. But the



CISCO GILMORE scrambles for a rebound during the first half against BYU last night. JOSH WOLFE/DN

BYU	81
Nebraska	57

Huskers couldn't put any points on the board the rest of the half as BYU went on 8-0 to end the period, which included one free throw on a technical foul charged to Sanderford.

The Cougars carried their run over the break and extended to a 50-32 lead with 18:04 to go in the contest. NU would cut the lead to 52-38 two minutes later on a jumper by freshman Stephanie Jones, who finished with

eight points and six rebounds but could get no closer.

Sanderford said he "hasn't raised the white flag yet, but the ship needs to be righted pretty quickly. If I could single something out, I'd certainly put my finger on it."

"I got to look at senior leadership again - that's all we got. We got to decide what kind of team we're going to be. If we have to walk it down the floor and pass it 17 times, that's what we're going to do. We'll do whatever we got to do to get the job done."

"Evidently our style of play doesn't fit our personnel."

Cougars' hot 3-point shooting seals victory in second half

By DAVID DIEHL
Staff writer

Brigham Young handed Nebraska its second-worst loss in the Paul Sanderford era, its worst loss at the Devaney Center in six years and also its fifth loss in the last eight home games.

In large part, it was because of BYU's 3-point bombs.

Three Cougar starters, guards Cady Williams, Erin Thorn and center Jill Adams, combined to drill 11-21 from beyond the arc to set the pace for BYU's best 3-point shooting game of the season, as the team made 14 of 26 3-pointers on the night.

"That was a big factor in the game," BYU Coach Trent Shippen said. "We were hot with 3-pointers."

The Cougars went into halftime ahead 44-32 after nailing 10-16 3-point shots in the first 20 minutes. The game was neck-and-neck for the first 15 minutes, until BYU went through the last three minutes of the first half on a 10-2 run after NU was within four at 34-30.

Adams, BYU's leading scorer averaging 16 points a game, said she wasn't surprised at all that her team went into the break on such a run.

"We have a good team," Adams said. "If we set our screens right and run our plays, we get those shots. Our defense comes out really prepared, and we know what their tendencies are."

"We should be doing that to teams."

Adams, who scored a game-high 21 points and had seven rebounds, missed only two of her seven 3-point attempts. Combining a deft shooting touch (48 percent on 3-point field goals for the season) and her size (6-foot-3), Adams extended NU's defense, benefiting BYU, Shippen said.

66
That was a big factor in the game. We were hot with 3-pointers."

TRENT SHIPPEN
BYU coach

"That's been an advantage for us this year," Shippen said. "It causes their inside players to come out and defend her."

Williams was one of four Cougars scoring in double figures, chipping in 19 points on five of 11 shooting, though she sank only two of seven 3-pointers.

Williams said the Cougars exploited NU's defense when it was in the trapping zone or man-to-man defense.

"We were able to break the zone pretty easily and get some open looks there because we had broken the front line," Williams said. "When they were in man - I think by coming off the screens hard we were able to free up the screener who was able to get the outside shot."

Shippen agreed with Williams' assessment of how BYU broke down Nebraska's zone.

"Once the ball got past the first line, we made some good passes and got some good looks," Shippen said. "They only had two defenders to guard three of our players."

BYU also got a solid contribution off the bench from senior forward Alisha Griffith, last week's Western Athletic Conference Player of the Week. She was averaging five points a game coming in and scored 11 points.

She was perfect on three shots from the 3-point range.

NU expects easy time with MU

By DAVID DIEHL
Staff writer

If so-called "bulletin board material" was as prevalent in the world of college wrestling as it is in college football, Brad Vering, the No. 3 197-pound wrestler in the nation, wouldn't be

allowed to talk to the media.

"We're going to tear them apart," Vering said when asked if he expected a good dual this Sunday vs. Missouri. "And that's pretty much it."

He added that Mizzou isn't a highly ranked team, but it has a few good individual wrestlers.

"But outside of that," Vering said, "if

the guys show up, we're going to destroy them, and that's the plan."

The seventh-ranked Cornhuskers square off against the Tigers at 2 p.m. Sunday in a home-away-from-home match in Sioux City at the sold-out Sioux Dome.

MU is 0-2 for the season in duals; it lost to sixth-ranked Illinois and to Big 12 rival and No. 3 Oklahoma State, 34-3.

Head Coach Tim Neumann had a different view on the quality of Missouri's team. He said Missouri had performances that concerned him.

"We're at a point in the season where we want the best competition we can get," he said. "Missouri has five or six guys that are legitimate, tough, Division I guys. And we're going to use this match for a springboard for Reno."

NU heads to Reno, Nev., for the Reno Challenge on Dec. 19, which is one of the tougher meets of the season, Vering and Neumann both said.

Vering was also hoping to have this dual go into the Reno matches on a roll.

"Guys broke out of their shells (in the past couple matches) and started wrestling with the intensity that they needed to," Vering said. "Now they need to carry that into this week and as a little bit of a pickup for Reno, because Reno is going to be tough."

The showcase match this weekend in Sioux City is the 174-pound matchup between Ati Conner and Missouri's John Kopinsky, the No. 15 wrestler in the country at 174.

Conner said he doesn't know a whole lot about his opponent, just that he is ranked 15th, but that doesn't mean anything to him.

"It's just whoever has a better day that day," Conner said.

WALK TO THE FIESTA BOWL!

TWIN PALMS HOTEL

24 HOUR AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL
6 BLOCKS TO THE FIESTA BOWL
4 BLOCKS TO MILL AVE. BLOCK PARTY
CALL 800-367-0835 FOR FIESTA BOWL
SPECIAL RATES



BOOTS
\$150.

OR



ELECTRIC GUITAR
BY KRAMER
\$69.

MUSICYO.COM

Yo LOW PRICES Every Freakin' Day!
BRAND NAME GUITARS, BASSES & DRUMS

Simple Pleasures

Monday - Thursday 9am-11pm
Friday - Saturday 9am-Midnight
Sunday 12pm-6pm

2310 North 1st St.
Lincoln, NE 68521
(NE corner of 1st & Cornhusker)
474-7500

Come Visit
Our New
Store

New Year's Eve Gowns
Tobacco Products &
Smoking Accessories
Dancewear • Lingerie • Adult Novelties
Unique Gifts • Incense • Body Lotions
Candles

"Life is short
kick back and
relax"



Bring
Coupon in
for 15%
off your
purchase
Good Through
12/31/99