

Wildcats flurry of three-pointers sinks Nebraska

By Matthew Hansen

Staff writer

MANHATTAN, Kan.— Hot outside shooting had been the biggest reason for the Nebraska Cornhuskers' recent three-game winning streak. It was the Huskers' undoing in their conference opener against Kansas State.

It was the Wildcats, not NU, who lit up the scoreboard early and often, mainly from long range. When the nets had settled, NU was the victim of 15 Wildcat three-pointers and on the short end of a 97-79 score.

Sophomore guard Cary Cochran said the Wildcat's shooting performance was something the Huskers could do little about.

"You can't prepare for a team to hit every shot like K-State did," Cochran said. "When they shoot that well, your perimeter defense is going to look bad. We've done that to a couple of teams this year and embarrassed them. Tonight we got embarrassed."

Kansas State Coach Tom Asbury said his team's performance wasn't one capable of being duplicated.

"To ring up 97 points in a game that's not really uptempo, that's something impressive," Asbury said. "The way we shot tonight, we could've beat anybody in the country, and it's the reason we beat Nebraska by 20. In our wildest dreams, we didn't think we would blow them out like we did."

Former Omaha Central standout Galen Morrison was the main reason for Nebraska's embarrassment. Morrison, a junior college transfer from Iowa Western, hit seven three-pointers, including five in the first half.

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Morrison's hot start was nearly matched by guard Cortez Groves and forward Tony Kitt. The trio was instrumental in building a first-half Kansas State lead that the Huskers would never recover from.

Already trailing 34-23, Nebraska watched KSU reel off 15 straight points, all of them scored by Morrison, Groves and Kitt. The deficit would reach 27 late in the first half, and Nebraska wouldn't seriously challenge K-State again.

The Huskers' only second-half highlight was provided by Cochran, who matched Morrison's first-half performance with five 3-pointers of his own after intermission.

Cochran finished the game with 17 points. Nebraska was led by Steffon Bradford, who had 19 points and eight rebounds for the Huskers. Morrison led all scorers with 27 points, with Groves close behind at 24.

The loss was the Huskers' fourth straight in a conference opener and their sixth loss in a row at Kansas State.

Cochran said that while he was disappointed in the team's play, the loss itself wasn't too upsetting.

"No one is even considering lying down because of this loss," Cochran said. "The bottom line is that it's tough to win on the road in this conference. Teams protect their home courts well. To be successful you have to win at home, and then steal a couple on the road. We can come back from this and still do that."

NU unable to stop KSU's Morrison

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

MANHATTAN, Kan. — As much as he tried to deny it, Kansas State's Galen Morrison couldn't hide his pleasure in lighting up his home state's university.

Morrison, a graduate of Omaha Central High School, led the Wildcats to a 97-79 victory over Nebraska on Saturday night with 27 points in 27 minutes. He opened the game hitting his first four shots and set a career high for the second straight game.

"Every time I shot the ball it just seemed like I couldn't miss," Morrison said. "I was out there shooting earlier, and I told the guys in the locker room that I felt I could score 30. I felt like I was throwing rocks in the ocean."

Morrison and fellow guard Cortez Groves, who scored 24 points of his own, scored 31 of KSU's first 43 points. The two, along with Josh Kimm, connected on 15 of 24 3-pointers for the Wildcats.

NU never recruited Morrison, and he played at Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs before transferring to KSU this season. He said the only contact he had with the Huskers was when he received a congratulatory letter for making the Nebraska all-state team.

On Dec. 1 he partially tore his medial col-

lateral ligament against St. Louis. But that did not seem to hurt the junior as he hit 10 of 13 shots and 7 of 9 three-point shots.

"After the first shot I knew," Morrison said. "I knew in warm-ups that I was going to feel it tonight."

Morrison came into the game averaging 10.4 points per game while hitting 44 percent of his three-pointers.

When asked if he thought Husker Coach Danny Nee would like him to come to NU now, Morrison responded: "I don't know; it's too late for that."

Nee said Morrison's and the Wildcats' three-point shooting was the difference, but Cary Cochran, who played against the Omaha native in high school, said more.

"I have known Morrison for several years, and I knew how explosive of a scorer he was and you could see that fire in his eyes," said Cochran, who hit five three-pointers of his own. "He was playing his home state. He hit every shot."

"You have to give him credit. When a guy gets in the zone, they are just going to hit shots."

Wildcat Coach Tom Asbury said he was happy with the transfer's play so far.

"He has been solid," Asbury said. "He has played very well and has not had any bad games this season. His decision-making was better tonight, and he also used his range very well."

Huskers place fourth in Super Six Challenge

From staff reports

Nebraska's sixth-ranked women's gymnastics team kicked off its 2000 season with a fourth place performance Saturday in the Super Six Challenge.

The competition boasted six of the nation's top-ranked teams, including the top four: Georgia, Alabama, UCLA, Michigan. No. 9 Florida also competed Saturday.

With four freshmen in the lineup, the Cornhuskers finished fourth with 193.225 team points, with Alabama taking first and Georgia and Michigan following.

Freshman A.J. Lamb notched the second best all-around score ever posted by a Husker gymnast in her first competition. Her 38.90 all-around was good enough for fifth place behind four returning All-Americans.

"We are very pleased with A.J.'s performance tonight," Coach Dan Kendig said. "To come into this situation and hit four routines is a tremendous accomplishment for a freshman. She has a lot of natural ability, and she will continue to get better for us."

Senior All-American Heather Brink was the other Husker posting a top-10 all-around score with a ninth-place 38.625.

Laura Goss, who returned to her home state of Georgia for the event, posted a career-best 9.875 on the balance beam, tying for the title with two other gymnasts.

"We felt ready to perform and did a decent job overall," Kendig said. "We had a few mistakes, but they are all correctable. I was pleased with the performance, especially of our freshmen, in this type of environment. The best thing is that we have the entire season ahead of us, and we will get better."

The event will be replayed twice on television, showing on espn2 Jan. 16 at 2 p.m. and ESPN Jan. 23 at 1 p.m.

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