

Ffriend gets hot, but KU pulls away



NEBRASKA CENTER KIMANI Ffriend drives for the basket over Kansas's Lester Earl in the second half of Saturday night's game. Ffriend finished the game as the leading scorer with 23 points.

Heather Glenboski/DN

■ A 17-2 run to end the first half is the difference as Nebraska moves to 0-3 in the Big 12 Conference.

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The Nebraska basketball team stuck with Kansas on Saturday night for the first 16 minutes, but succumbed to a feared Jayhawk "run" in a 97-82 loss.

In the final 4:20 of the first half, KU forced four NU turnovers and turned a 32-30 lead into a 49-32 half-time advantage to seize control of the game.

The four turnovers were part of a 16-turnover first half for the Huskers that was caused by the Jayhawk pressure and a sell-out crowd of 16,300.

"I really thought that it was the Kansas press in the first half," Nebraska Coach Danny Nee said. "When we got the 16 turnovers, that was the turning point in the game. It was something that we can't simulate; they just come at you in waves and do a great job with it."

In the first half, near-perfect offensive post play sparked Kansas. Nick Collison, Eric Chenoweth and Drew Gooden combined to shoot 8 of 8 from the field while scoring 19 points alto-

JAYHAWKS	97
HUSKERS	82

gether. But Nebraska received a boost from one of its own post players who was coming off a disappointing performance against Iowa State.

Center Kimani Ffriend scored 13 of his game-high 23 points in the first half while shooting a perfect 5 for 5. Ffriend used his quickness to allude Jayhawk defenders and score underneath.

"My confidence level was down," Ffriend said. "I didn't have a good game the last game, and I just wanted to come out here and prove I can play at this level."

Ffriend grabbed 14 rebounds on the night for his second career double-double and made 11 of 19 free throws for the night. The junior also tied a Kansas-opponent record with six blocks. Nee said he liked what he saw from Ffriend.

"Kimani played just about as well as he can," Nee said. "I am pleased with his progress throughout the season."

Nebraska won the second half, 50-48, but KU Coach Roy William's strategy to play a 12-man rotation in the first half killed the Huskers.

"Kansas has a great program," Nee said. "From their one man down to their 13th man, they have some hellacious players. When Lester Earl

comes in as your 12th or 13th man, you realize how deep and how many quality players they have."

NU used only eight players in the first 20 minutes because of a foot injury to starting guard Rodney Fields and the suspension of forward Louis Truscott for the first half of play. Nee said Truscott sat out the first half because of his "breaking a team rule," and he "forgot where the classroom was for a day."

Saturday night marked the first action for the team's newest player, Matt Davison, who joined the team on Monday and played his first game of Division I basketball at Allen Fieldhouse.

"I was very pleased with him," Nee said. "He did a very good job under the circumstances."

Davison's line for the game was two points, two rebounds, three assists and one steal.

"I am not going to go in there and start firing the ball up," Davison said. "If I am open, I am going to take the shot, but I am not going to take 12, 15 shots per game. I am just in there to spell Danny and Cary, and we stayed close in the first half."

The Huskers were also led by Steffon Bradford, who tallied another double-double with 12 points and 17 rebounds, and Cary Cochran, who had 17 points on 5 of 12 shooting from 3-point range.

ISU finally wears down Nebraska

By John Gaskins

Staff writer

What do you do when the No. 8 team in the nation busts open a tight game on you in a heartbeat in front of a ruthless home crowd?

"Start up the bus," Nebraska Women's Basketball Coach Paul Sanderford said. "The party's over."

Iowa State crashed a Nebraska party that the Huskers carried over from their feel-good 81-69 road win over No. 21 Kansas on Jan. 11 and well into the second half of their clash with the Cyclones on Saturday.

A Hilton Coliseum crowd of 12,134 — the third-largest in school history — saw NU go blow-for-blow with ISU and take a 56-54 lead with 10 minutes, 51 seconds to go. Then the Cyclones bolted to a 24-2 run in the next seven minutes and left the Huskers feeling like they had been blown out, 89-66.

"I wish half of the games we lost were only 30 minutes long," NU guard Brooke Schwartz said of the 7-7 Huskers, who fell to 1-2 in Big 12 Conference play.

"We held up with a top-10 team for a majority of the game and had them on their heels. We just couldn't close the door. Iowa State is a team that is going to fight until the final buzzer."

The fight became a lot less bruising to ISU (12-2, 4-0) after NU center Casey Leonhardt committed her fourth foul with 12 minutes left.

CYCLONES	89
HUSKERS	66

ISU sophomore center Angie Welle took advantage of not having the 6-foot-5-inch stalwart to move around, scoring 20 of her career-high 24 points in the second half.

"I can usually push people around," Welle said, "but when she gets her position, you're not going to move her."

After Charlie Rogers (16 points) hit a jumper to give the 56-54 lead, ISU went on a tear. Welle hit two quick jumpers to go up 58-56 before the Cyclones forced NU to foul on

four of its next five possessions.

Two free throws by guard Stacy Frese put ISU up 65-56 with 8:55 left, and the Cyclones never looked back after Sanderford was charged with a technical foul 1 minute, 6 seconds later. After a barrage of NU misses, fouls and turnovers converted into ISU points, Megan Taylor's jumper with 4:01 left put ISU up 78-58.

Welle, who made nine of 14 shots and grabbed eight rebounds, helped guards Taylor (17 points, 10 rebounds) and Frese (19 points) to bully the overwhelmed Huskers down the stretch. The victory was Iowa State's eighth in a row and 41st in a row at home in the regular sea-

"We held up with a top-10 team for a majority of the game and had them on their heels. We just couldn't close the door."

Brooke Schwartz

NU guard



PAGE SUTTON fights with ISU's Desiree Francis for control of the ball during the second half. The Huskers stayed with the eighth ranked Cyclones for much of the game before falling 89-66.

Josh Wolfe/DN

Please see ISU on 14