

Neumann unhappy with Husker effort

Wrestlers win only 6 of 20 vs. OU, OSU

By David Diehl

Staff writer

Sour attitudes were more than plentiful from the Nebraska wrestling team as the No. 5 Cowboys showed just how much distance there was between them and the seventh-ranked Cornhuskers.

The Cowboys won eight of 10 matches Sunday, tallying a 30-7 victory in front of 1,143 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The win was the Cowboys' seventh-straight victory over the

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Huskers.

"We've got to get better," Coach Tim Neumann said. "We only won six of 20 matches this weekend, and that really concerns me."

Nebraska fell to Oklahoma 27-12 Friday night, winning four matches vs. the Sooners.

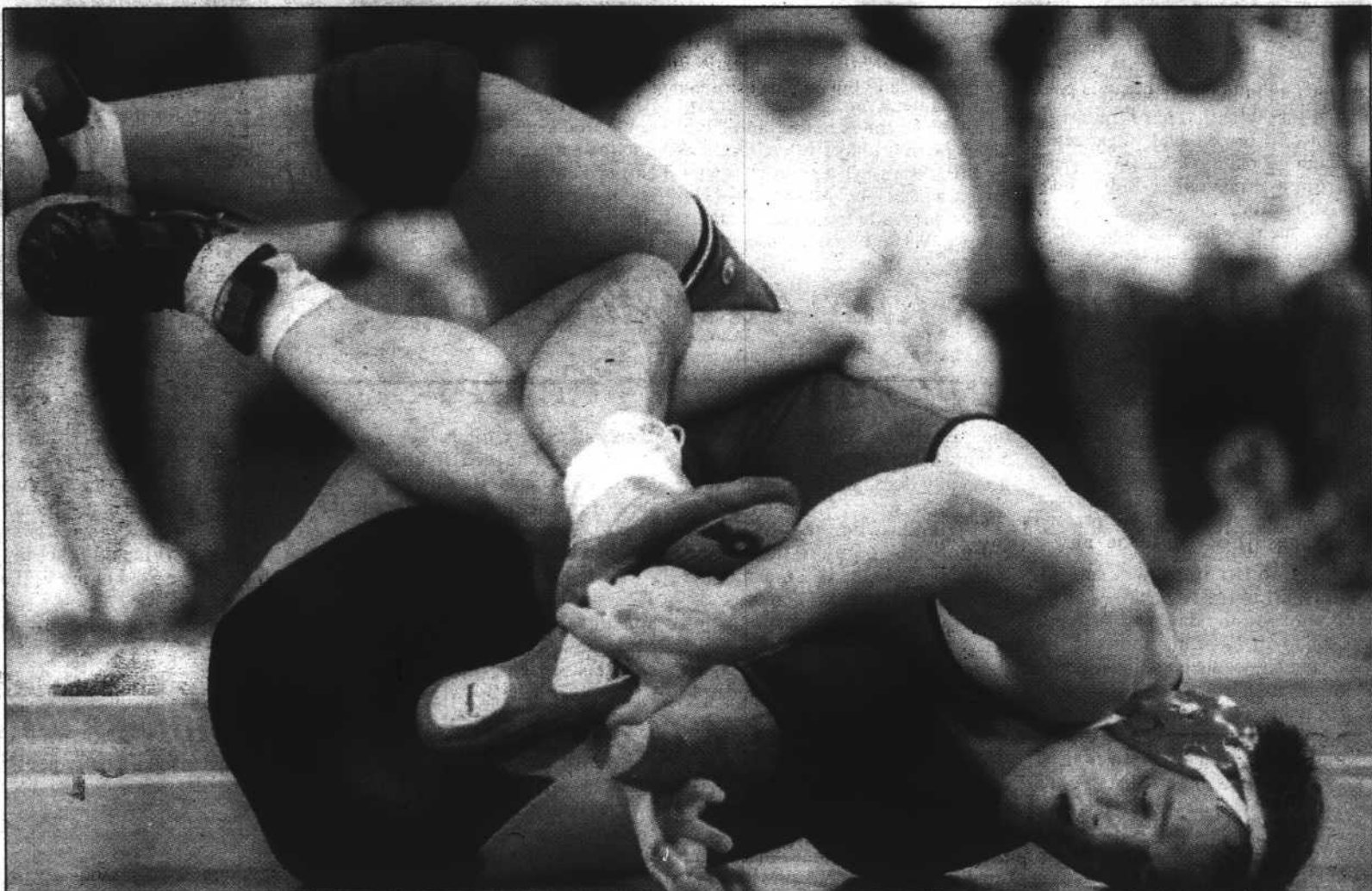
Neumann said the Huskers have a long way to go before the Big 12 meet March 4.

"We have guys that question themselves," he said. "We got some guys that are going to have to regroup after tough losses today."

The toughest loss for NU came in the 197-pound matchup pitting No. 2 Brad Vering against the Cowboys' third-ranked Mark Munoz, who was the only person to beat Vering this year.

Vering took control of the match in the first period, notching a quick

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BRAD VERING IS TAKEN DOWN by OSU's Mark Munoz, during the meet on Sunday at the Devaney Center. Vering, who lost to Munoz in December, failed to beat No. 3-ranked Munoz. The Huskers lost to OSU 30-7. Josh Wolfe/DN

OSU bounces back from loss to No. 1 Hawkeyes

By Rob Petzold

Staff writer

Coming off a 20-14 loss to No. 1 Iowa, the No. 5 Oklahoma State Cowboys rebounded Sunday afternoon by routing No. 7 Nebraska 30-7. Cowboys' Coach John Smith was

relieved to leave Lincoln with a victory.

"It was good to come back," Smith said. "Friday night we wrestled Iowa and had a hard loss there. It was good to come out and make some things happen for ourselves."

Smith acknowledged the Cornhuskers' extremely tough week-

end, which started Friday night against No. 4 Oklahoma.

"Nebraska's a tough team," Smith said. "They had a tough weekend. The weekend that they had, we have to treat ourselves like we just had it, going into next week. We can't sit on the good match we had today. We have to come out Monday and

Tuesday and get ready to go. We have a tough weekend ahead of us."

The Cowboys started to pull away from NU after the fifth match of the afternoon.

With OSU leading 9-7 going into

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NU breaks down late against Tigers in tough loss

Huskers fail to find Ffriend in closing minutes

By Matthew Hansen

Staff writer

A depressed Kimani Ffriend sat in front of the microphone, eyes downcast, mouth agape.

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A question was asked about his level of disappointment following the Husker's 84-78 loss at the hands of the visiting Missouri Tigers.

Ffriend didn't really have to answer. His expression spoke volumes. But he

did anyway.

"This is a worse loss than even the Texas game," the NU center said. "We keep putting out our all in practice, and we came in and everything was going right for us..."

Then Ffriend's voice trailed off, barely audible.

"Then I think we just gave them the game," he whispered.

The Cornhuskers had led by 11, 37-26, at halftime. With eight minutes to play, the margin was eight.

But Mizzou, despite foul trouble, an off-shooting day from leading scorer Clarence Gilbert and an opening 10

minutes in which they scored only six points, somehow managed to win.

And, according to Husker guard Matt Davison, Nebraska somehow managed to lose.

"We should've won this game," he said. "The lull we had late in the second half, you can't do that against a good team. In the late minutes, we needed somebody to step up and deliver, and it just didn't happen."

That late Husker lull actually began with seven minutes left and NU leading

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Freshman, coach play it cool, come out on top

By Joshua Camenzind

Staff writer

Missouri Coach Quin Snyder and guard Kareem Rush stood in the hallway answering questions in a calm and collected manner - no different than how they had played against Nebraska.

In a game where most would have panicked and lost their cool, the two rookies kept theirs and found a way to win in comeback fashion against the Huskers, 82-78.

With Tiger leading scorers Keyon Dooling and Clarence Gilbert strugg-

ling to find their shots early in the game, Rush entered the game and made sure Mizzou stayed within distance of the Huskers, all the while playing in a fashion that would have suggested the Tigers were up 12 instead of the opposite.

"Kareem is a steady influence," said Snyder, who has guided his team to a 7-1 start in the Big 12 Conference in his first year at Mizzou. "He plays at a nice tempo, and he has that gift. He makes me relaxed."

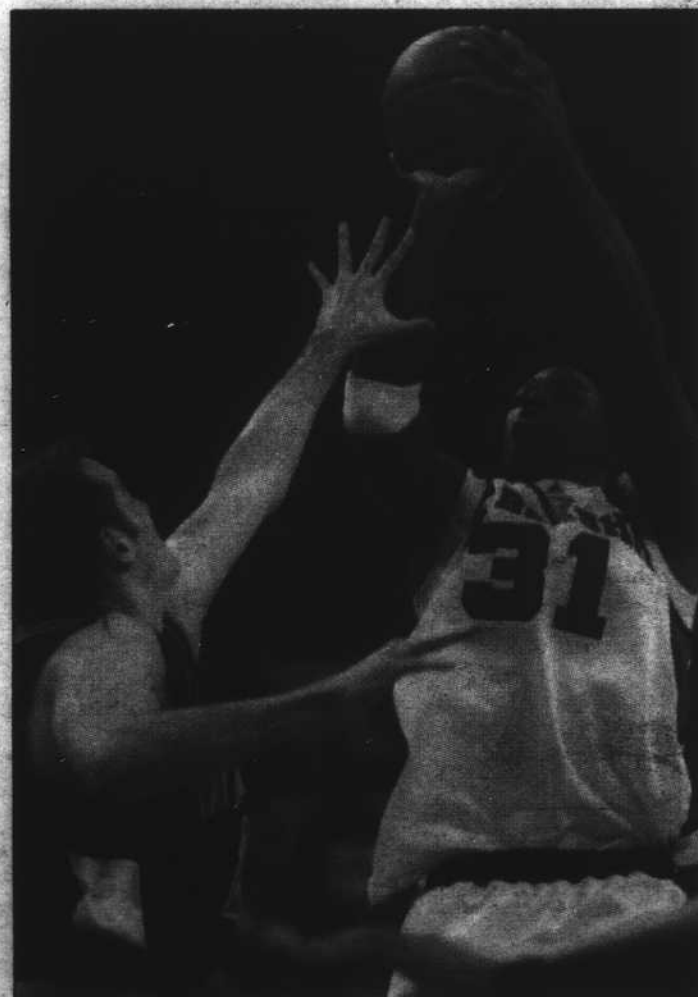
Snyder coached the game much like Rush played it. The former Duke assis-

tant watched as the season-high home crowd cranked up the volume, and his players missed shot after shot. Meanwhile, Nebraska had built a 21-8 lead halfway through the first half.

But you could not tell from looking at the coach. There was no panic from the sidelines.

"We knew they were going to come out aggressively," Snyder said. "The wheels didn't come off, and we hung in long enough to have a chance in the second half."

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KIMANI FFRIEND FIGHTS with Missouri to make a basket Saturday in the Devaney Center. The Huskers lost to the Tigers 82-78. Josh Wolfe/DN