

# KU cruises; Williams cites defense

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The sign that hangs in the famed Allen Fieldhouse gym reads, "Pay heed, all who enter."

On Wednesday, Kansas showed NU exactly why visitors should follow such advice as it ground to a halt any NU hopes of stealing a Big-12 win in the Jawhawks' house. They did so by guarding the home court with a stingy defense that held Nebraska to only 20 first-half points in a 84-62 KU victory.

Throw in slashing senior guard Kenny Gregory's game-high 20 points, the 33 from the inside combination of sophomore forwards Drew Gooden and Nick Collison with a tough defense, and KU showed the rest of the Big 12 conference exactly why they are tops in the standings and No. 5 in the national polls.

"Nobody else in the Big 12 is

at the level we're at," Gooden said. "Everyone wants to beat us and we feel like we have something to protect and we did that tonight."

Kansas Coach Roy Williams credited the win to his team's defense in the first half, which held the Cornhuskers to only 20 points and gave the 'Hawks an 18 point half-time cushion.

"We played very good defense in the first half and got some easy baskets off of it," Williams said. "I wouldn't go so far as to say we played that well in the second half. I think Nebraska actually outplayed us for large portions in the second half."

The first-half hole that Nebraska left itself was way too deep to dig themselves out, though.

KU used three big runs in the first 20 minutes to put NU in check. The dagger was a 10-0 run that Kansas ran off following

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Roy Williams  
Kansas basketball coach

junior guard Jeff Boschee's technical foul.

After NU junior guard Cary Cochran converted the technical foul shots and brought the score to 26-18, KU exploded with five straight baskets.

Williams said he didn't think the technical inspired his team or at least he hoped not.

"It didn't spark me, that's for sure," Williams said. "The team will run for his technical foul tomorrow."

The boys in blue will be running with smiles on their faces though, sure to climb in the rankings after the win, coupled with No. 4 Tennessee's Tuesday night loss to Kentucky.

Williams said his team can't rest on its 14-1, and 3-0 conference-leading record now. He said things are just getting started.

"We're 3-0, he said. "We got 13 left. That means we could end up 3-13."

# Brands preaches high intensity to Huskers

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more." Brands said the key to becoming a successful coach is building a bridge of trust between mentor and subject. It's a task that is a lot harder than it sounds, he said.

"Any punk can talk," Brands said. "I can come in here and talk a good talk. But why should they believe us? There's so many examples where people give their word and say things and they don't follow through with it."

But it is clear why Husker wrestlers should do a little more than just lend an ear when Brands begins to talk. His record speaks for itself and it speaks volumes.

After graduating from Iowa in 1992, Brands had accumulat-

ed numbers that are just staggering. He was a three-time All-American and won as many Big Ten titles.

As a two-time national champion, he won 137 matches and lost only seven in four years as a Hawkeye. He also won a bronze medal in this year's Olympics in Sydney, Australia, and has claimed two titles each in the World Cup and World Freestyle Championships.

It's no secret, Manning said, how Brands achieved heights that are astonishing. And it's no secret how he's going to try to get his wrestlers to attain similar accomplishments: its through hard work and intensity. High intensity.

It's the first trait that Manning noticed when he first met Brands in 1993.

"They're honest and

upright," Manning said about Brands, as well as his twin brother Tom, an assistant coach at Iowa and equally dominant wrestler. "What you see is what you get."

With his numbers, knowledge and attitude, Brands stuck out to Manning as a clear cut favorite to be one of his right-hand men.

Now as Brands is going through the second leg of his life with wrestling, he said he came to NU to open doors to other opportunities, namely running his own program.

He won't, however, put a timeline on his coaching career that will cap off his relationship with wrestling that started in a body shop in his hometown of Sheldon, Iowa.

Young Terry and Tom were approached by their father's co-

worker who immediately told them wrestling would be their sport.

"I remember his exact words," Brands said. "You're going to be too small to play basketball. Here's a cradle and this is a cross face. We'll see you next week."

And so began a wrestling career. The rest, as they say, is history. And it's still being written.

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# Sooners' Stoops wins top coaching award

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON Bob Stoops, the Oklahoma coach who led the Sooners to the national championship in only his second season at the school, received the Bear Bryant Award on Wednesday night as the top college football coach.

Stoops was selected from a field of six finalists in voting by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

"We need to do it again or there will be pressure on me, too," Stoops said. "That's the nature of the beast. I think it's neat what our program was able to do in a short time, but now we've got to do it again."

"We are no different from anyone else. We'll put it to rest shortly and get back to work."

The Sooners finished 13-0 and beat Florida State 13-2 in the Orange Bowl for the school's first national title since 1985. Oklahoma started the season ranked No. 19 and made a steady rise to No. 1, defeating No. 11 Texas, No. 2 Kansas State and No. 1 Nebraska in October.

Stoops took over in 1998

from John Blake, who led the Sooners to a 12-22 record over three years. Oklahoma finished 7-5 in Stoops' first season and went to a bowl game for the first time since 1994.

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# NU women fall again

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school steal record (309) by grabbing seven of the Raiders' 19 takeaways. Sophomore forward Plenette Pierrson led all scorers with 16 points while grabbing eight rebounds.

For the second straight game, no Husker scored in double figures. Greichaly Cepero and Stephanie Jones both had

nine points. Tech — whose largest lead was 24 — shot 19 more field goals and 13 more free throws and grabbed nine more offensive boards than NU.

There's no mercy in the near future for the Huskers. Next up are road games at No. 17 Texas and third-place Colorado.

"I'd like to pull my hair out," Sanderford said. "But all I can do is go to work tomorrow."

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