

## ISU loss tough pill to digest

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Nebraska's last-second loss to Iowa State on Saturday will hurt for a while. It will sting at least until NU takes the floor again on Wednesday against Missouri.



Joshua Camenzind

But wasn't it a dandy, surely the most exciting, game yet in the Barry Collier era.

Nebraska, looking to raise its record above .500 again by beating another ranked opponent at home, and Iowa State, looking to improve on its 1-3 road record and avoid its sixth overtime session in the Big 12 this season, did battle in a game for the ages.

Yes, with 10,686 fans rocking the Devaney, this one had flair.

Cookie Belcher and Rodney Fields - NU's two best defenders - went at it with the nation's best point guard, Jamaal Tinsley. The two won some battles and lost others. Tinsley would have the last laugh with 23 points and the game-winning assist.

He had a sub-par shooting night, going 6-14, but his dribble penetration was enough to earn him 11 free throws and dish off passes to teammates that, outside of Kantrail Horton, don't even deserve to share the floor with him.

"I don't think anybody can stop my penetration," said Tinsley, who at times seemed to be back at home on the inner-city playground as he toyed with NU in the first half during a 14-0 run.

Tinsley battled through chants of "high school dropout" and "why so stupid" - referring to his failure to go to high school. But that kind of stuff doesn't bother Tinsley, who said it just motivates him even more.

"They helped me out, like they were cheering for me," he said.

And then there was ISU's coach, Larry Eustachy, the hot head of the Big 12. The weirdo who drives to his Cyclones road games by himself. Eustachy must have had a good drive home after enduring long, painful drives back home from Columbia, Mo., and Stillwater, Okla., after overtime losses.

He said his team was due, and they were. He said his coach was due, and he was.

Coaches don't usually like to point to one game as a difference-maker in the scheme of the season. But Eustachy did it Saturday.

"This is a huge win for us," he said. "Some wins are bigger than others. One game never affects the rest in my thinking, but some wins do help. The win here last year helped and this one will help."

And this one will hurt the Huskers, who are now 8-9 and making their last grasps at a post-season berth. You could tell the players were drained.

Kimani Ffriend, who allowed Martin Rancik to spring free in the game's final second, won't forget his mistake. Ffriend will probably replay that second of final play in his mind for nights.

"I let down my team right there," Ffriend said. "I blame myself as a senior."

Oh, yes, this one will hurt. But should Ffriend beat himself up at night or should NU fans look to put the blame elsewhere?

Collier has undoubtedly heard the criticism by now for not sticking the lanky Ffriend right in front of Tinsley, blocking the All-American's vision on the final play.

NU's first-year coach would have been taking a page out of the play book of Mizzou Coach Quin Snyder, who had his big man guard the in-bounds in a two-point win for the Tigers against NU. Collier didn't.

Tinsley still might have found a way to squirt the pass through. Then again, he might not have.

No matter who's to blame for the loss, this one will come back to haunt the Huskers. More than NU's overtime loss to Minnesota, more than its inexcusable losses to Murray State and UMKC and more than any other loss will from this point on.

To make the post-season, a team must protect its home floor and steal a couple on the road. With a sub-.500 record at this point, it will be a challenge for NU to dig out of this hole.

Because like Eustachy said, some games help more than others. And some games hurt more than others, too.

# Defeat, then victory, then defeat

■ ISU seemed to score as time expired, but the officials had to go to the replay to make sure.

BY BRIAN CHRISTOPHERSON

What a cruel gag. The Nebraska basketball team and its fans seemed to be the butt of an evil joke on Saturday when the Cornhuskers fell at home to No. 23 Iowa State 60-59 on a buzzer-beating layup by ISU senior forward Martin Rancik.

The controversial final shot set off mass confusion amongst the 10,686 fans in attendance, including a premature rush to the floor by the Nebraska students who thought that the game's referees had ruled the shot no good.

The officials were instead indicating that they would review the buzzer beater on instant replay, which showed that "the shot was clearly out of the young man's (Rancik's) hand before time expired," according to referee Tom Rucker.

And with that official decision, Iowa State players and coaches celebrated their victory for the second time. Rancik's layup had initially set off a floor scrambling celebration by the Cyclones, a team who had seemed destined for defeat only moments earlier when Nebraska senior Kimani Ffriend blocked Iowa State senior Jamaal Tinsley's shot into press row with only eight-tenths of a second remaining.

Iowa State used a little Cyclone magic along with some Husker "defensive confusion," as Nebraska Coach Barry Collier would call it, to steal away the win. "It's one of 10 times that something like that actually works out," Iowa State Coach Larry Eustachy said of ISU's final play.

On the play, everything worked as well as ISU could have ever imagined, with Rancik slipping loose to the basket after setting a screen for senior guard Kantrail Horton. Tinsley fired the inbounds pass to Rancik,

whose layup tipped in before Ffriend could recover to block the shot. "I knew it was good," Tinsley said of the winning hoop. "The ref saw it and said it counted. I wasn't worried at all." The dramatic win improved ISU's record to an overall 15-3 and a 3-2 in conference play. The Huskers' season record fell



Scott McCurdy/DN



Scott McCurdy/DN

Iowa State players celebrate the instant replay-decided win over Nebraska on Saturday at the Devaney Center. ISU inbounded the ball to forward Martin Rancik with .8 seconds left where he made the last shot to help the Cyclones defeat the Huskers 60-59.

to 8-9, 1-3 in the Big 12. Early on, it looked as if the game wouldn't have any drama.

Iowa State jumped all over Nebraska, taking a commanding 14-2 early lead. "We weren't executing offensively," Collier said. "But I didn't sense panic or anyone tossing in

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LEFT: Nebraska fans celebrate what they thought was a NU win over Iowa State before the referees reviewed the last shot to determine that it was made before the end of regulation.

## Tinsley unstoppable Cyclone down stretch

BY JOSHUA CAMENZIND

Iowa State Coach Larry Eustachy said after his team's 60-59 victory over Nebraska on Saturday that there is a fine line between winning and losing.

And that line just may be the man he has running his team - point guard Jamaal Tinsley.

"Jamaal has stepped it up the past few games," Eustachy said. "I have seen a different Jamaal."

The new and improved Tinsley has seen his team win two in a row against Colorado and the Huskers after falling to Missouri in a four-overtime heartbreaker.

Against Colorado, Tinsley had 16 points, nine assists and six rebounds in an 84-68 Cyclone cakewalk.

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Larry Eustachy  
Iowa State coach

But in facing the Huskers, Tinsley was forced to be at his best and came out a winner.

The senior fueled an early 14-0 ISU run that stunned the NU crowd, then continuously kept the Huskers at arm's length with timely baskets in the first half.

In the second half, Eustachy said, the Cyclones attached a

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## Clanton, Amos shine in testing

BY SEAN CALLAHAN

It's always nice to have momentum on your side.

On Wednesday the Cornhuskers stepped onto the playing surface for the first time since their 66-17 victory over Northwestern in the Alamo Bowl.

After a record-breaking day of pre-winter testing, the Huskers will enter their 2001 winter conditioning program on some pretty high notes.

Sophomore defensive lineman Jon Clanton became the first NU athlete to break 1,000 points on one performance indicator with his time of 3.97 in the pro-agility run.

"Jon was the story of the pre-testing," Nebraska Director of Athletic Performance Boyd Epley said. "It was just a great effort."

It's quite an honor when you look at all the athletes that we've had come through here. It's something that we won't forget."

In the overall scoring, Clanton led the way as well with a mark of 2,648.

Freshman linebacker Jason Richtenberger scored 2,477 points while freshman defensive back Willie Amos scored 2,449 points to round out the top three.

The fourth-best index mark was

from walk-on freshman fullback Curt Tomasevich, who notched 2,421 points.

The Shelby native's index score of 677 points in the vertical leap broke the old position record held by Lance Lewis since 1988.

"Curt Tomasevich is a kid that you're going to see move up the charts in the spring," Epley said. "The coaches are going to be watching him a little closer."

"He's done well in practices on the scout team. They're pleased with where he is at and the power he has brought to that position."

Other top marks for the Huskers came from junior linebacker Randy Stella in the 10-yard dash (1.56) and Amos in the 40-yard dash (4.45).

NU averaged 1.74 in the 10-yard dash overall, better than last season's time and equal to the 1999 team's results in the pre-winter conditioning.

The 1999 team ran on artificial turf, while this year's squad ran on FieldTurf, a slower surface.

"The FieldTurf is categorized by the NFL as grass," Epley said. "So this is like comparing grass times to turf times."

"People that read our times across the nation are thinking Nebraska's slow. That's just fine with us. I promise

### Measuring Husker Power

The top performers from NU's pre-winter conditioning testing.

**Top performance index points:**  
Jon Clanton (DL) 2,648  
Jason Richtenberger (LB) 2,477  
Willie Amos (DB) 2,449

**Top 10-yard Dash Times:**  
Randy Stella (LB) 1.56  
Jeff Hemje (DB) 1.56  
Lannie Hopkins (LB) 1.57

**Top 40-yard Dash Times:**  
Willie Amos (DB) 4.45  
Lannie Hopkins (LB) 4.58  
Erwin Swiney (DB) 4.58

**Top Pro-Agility Run Times:**  
Jack Scholting (DB) 3.89  
Jack O'Holleran (IB) 3.94  
Jeff Hemje (DB) 3.94

**Top Vertical Jumps (inches):**  
Curt Tomasevich (FB) 37"  
Willie Amos (DB) 36.5"  
Tim Demerath (DB) 35.5"

Delan Lonowski/DN

you, we are not slow."

The Huskers begin the six-week winter conditioning period today in Cook Pavilion. The team will be tested again at the end of winter conditioning.

## Losing streak at three as NU routed by UT

BY LINCOLN ARNEAL

The women's basketball team's defense did everything it needed to against No. 17 Texas (15-5, 3-3 Big 12). The Huskers held the Longhorns to 34 percent shooting from the field, 10 points under their average. But Nebraska couldn't get it done offensively as NU (9-9, 1-4 Big 12) dropped its third straight game to a top-20 team 62-48.

"We did all we could to win," Coach Paul Sanderford said. "We just have to get better offensive production."

The Huskers took an early 6-2 lead behind senior Casey Leonhardt as she scored eight of NU's first 10 points.

Their lead would be short-lived as Texas stepped it up on both ends of the court and went on a 23-6 run to take a 33-18 halftime lead.

The Longhorns frustrated NU's offense as they forced the Huskers to shoot 24 percent and blocked six shots in the first half.

The Huskers' defense stepped it up a notch in the second half as they switched to a newly unveiled 1-3-1 defense.

"We tried to mix it up," Sanderford said. "The 1-3-1 was very effective for us."

Nebraska's offense started to show some life as well as they began to cut into the Longhorns' lead. Monique Whitfield narrowed the margin to 44-39 after she put back a miss with seven minutes left.

That was as close as NU would get as Texas answered with a 6-0 run that shut the door on the Huskers' rally.

Fouls and mental mistakes killed Nebraska during that run as they gave Texas several easy opportunities to score.

"We came back and worked very hard," Leonhardt said, "but the mental lapses hurt us late."

The Huskers have been held to 50 points or less in the past three games. Sanderford said his team needs to find a way to more production on offense.

"When you can't score, it is difficult to win," he said.

We tried to mix it up," Sanderford said. "The 1-3-1 was very effective for us."

Paul Sanderford  
NU coach

## Wrestlers struggle, finish 1-2 at Duals

■ Bryan Snyder does avenge an earlier loss to Minnesota's Becker, but the Gophers roll over Nebraska.

BY VINCE KUPPIG

For the first time since 1989, the injury-plagued Nebraska wrestling team did not place in the top eight of the Cliff Keen/NWCA National Duals with a 1-2 showing in State College, Pa., on Saturday.

After defeating host school Penn State, the eighth-ranked Cornhuskers were eliminated with losses to second-ranked Minnesota and 18th-ranked Lehigh University.

Seeded seventh, NU started out the tournament with a 21-13 victory, win-

ning six of 10 matches over the Nittany Lions.

Plagued by injuries, NU was forced to use 125-pound redshirt freshman Ty Malia at 141 pounds against PSU. Already missing starters at 149 pounds and 184 pounds, NU was without 141-pound starter Dusty Spaulding, who suffered a hairline fracture of his clavicle last week.

In the quarterfinals, NU met Minnesota for the second time in the last 10 days, the first a 26-13 loss on Jan. 11.

The Huskers fared even worse this time around, winning just two matches at 157 pounds and 197 pounds in a 30-9 loss. One of the few highlights of the day came from second-ranked Bryan Snyder's defeat over fifth-ranked Luke

Becker, a 3-1 double overtime victory. In their last meeting, Minnesota's Becker upset Snyder.

Just 20 minutes after the Minnesota loss, NU met Lehigh in the consolation bracket. After a 9-0 start, Lehigh went ahead 12-9 with a forfeit and a pin.

Snyder tied it up with a 10-5 win over No. 11 Ryan Bernholz. Lehigh prevailed in three of the final five matches to win 24-18.

With the 1-2 showing, Nebraska's dual record now stands at 10-3, its 13th consecutive 10-win season.

Nebraska returns to dual competition on Feb. 2 at Northern Iowa, Coach Mark Manning's former team. Individuals Brad Vering, Todd Beckerman and Snyder will be competing at the NWCA All-Star dual on Jan. 29.