

By Larry Pritchett

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Things I think might be factual but they might just be an opinion:

The Husker men's basketball team lost to Missouri last Wednesday to end an 11 game winning streak. They are now 1-1 in the Big 12 with a game this Saturday on the road at KU.

If you like to compare scores, the Huskers appear to be a team that can compete with the Jayhawks.

Nebraska got by Iowa State at Lincoln by one and the Jayhawks won by five against Iowa State at Ames. Should be a barnburner at Allen Field House if you put stock in the score comparisons type of thing but I don't know if it will or not.

I know I am prejudiced here but the Huskers will have a lot going against them.

First of all, Nebraska's pre-season schedule wasn't all that strong. Their biggest win has to be the come-from-behind after being 20 down victory over USC. USC has been pretty competitive since that time.

KU struggled against the Trojans and that game was at Allen Field House where the Jayhawks have the longest winning streak in the nation, 68 games in a row.

KU, although undefeated, has had some really close games but the biggest thing is that the teams they are playing and defeating are pretty good groups—UCLA, Michigan, USC, Arizona and Memphis just to name a few of the Jayhawks opponents this year, and that is a little bit tougher than the Huskers' schedule.

Another problem that the Huskers are facing and this might be a problem the rest of the schedule is that although Nebraska isn't the smallest team in the nation anymore, they haven't been getting great production out of their big men in the two Big 12 games that they have played.

Nebraska has two 6-11 players in Jorge Brian Diaz and Andre Almeida but in the Missouri loss, the two combined for only 12 points and nine rebounds.

The Tigers' tallest player was 6 foot 9. Against Iowa State in a Husker win, Diaz and Almeida combined for 10 points and seven rebounds. That probably won't get it done against the rest of the Big 12.

KU has the Morris twins, Marcus and Markieff, and Marcus went off for 30 points and double digit rebounds against Iowa State last Wednesday night. His brother also had a double-double, plus they have 6 foot 9 Thomas Robinson who is another outstanding post.

Last year I got to see in person the KU-Nebraska game and the Huskers really played well for the first half. But the Hawks went on a 20-2 run early in the second half and the game was over.

I really like Doc Sadler and I think he is doing a good job of getting kids to play hard—but the talent level isn't the same as a lot of the other Big 12 teams.

Next year, with Nebraska moving to the Big 10, which remember has 12 teams, won't be any easier. There are some quality teams there and they have big post players. Hopefully the recruiting will continue to improve.