

npr collect, sports desk, the times, okla. city, okla.

kansas city, mo., .dec. 29.... nebraskax rules an eight-point favorite over oklahoma here tuesday night ~~ax~~ in the ~~svsvndxvf~~ cleanup end of the semifinal round of the big seven tournament. but there will be scant surprise if bruce drake's sooners edge their way into the king row against the missouri-kansas winner.

here's why, nebraska is a notoriously hot and cold club. the cornhuskers played their best game in tournament history monday night in upsetting kansas state, 78-74, in the leadoff match of the final night of first round play. it isn't likely the cornhuskers ~~pxyx~~ will play another like that for a few outings. they lost the ball on bad passes only twice ~~thrv~~ through the second half and came from as far behind as 13 points.

the pace was terrific all the way and nu horsed through the entire closing 20 minutes without a substitute.

meanwhile the sooners were arming themselves with a new university single-game scoring record in whacking washington's guest team, 87-77 with a 48-percent shooting night.

it was described as " a big victory which will help our confidence " by drake. moreover, ou broke the game open in the final half ... it was 42-42 at intermission ..... with its regular center, bob waller, playing less than five minutes. he drew his fourth foul with 5:37 remaining in the third period and returned for only 17 seconds in the fourth before drawing his fifth. walt morrison, 6-10 junior, had to plug the breach the remaining time.