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(Neb)-Huskers Drop 5th Straight 71-64 At Illinois

By: John Axtell Posted at: 02/02/2019 04:12 PM

Tanner Borchardt Photo - Scott Bruhn Nebraska Communications

[Final Stats](#)

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) - The Nebraska men dropped their fifth straight on Saturday, losing 71-64 at Illinois. The Huskers 7th loss in 9 games puts them at 13-9 on the year and 3-8 in the Big Ten while the Fighting Illini are 7-15 and also 3-8.

Illinois jumped out to a 7-0 lead, but Nebraska recovered and led by 5 before going cold for the final 12 minutes of the 1st half, allowing the Illini to take a 38-29 lead into the locker room.

The Huskers' offensive struggles continued to start the 2nd half, as they didn't score for the first 3:00 and didn't hit a field goal until more than 4:00 had passed. They eventually warmed up, hitting 6 of 8 shots in one stretch, but later suffered through a 5:00 scoreless drought and never got the deficit under 7.

The Huskers were cold all day, hitting 25 of 70 for 36% from the field and only 3-23 on 3-pointers and 11-21 from the foul line, but they dominated the boards - outrebounding the Illini 50-36.

Illinois shot well from the field - 48% overall and 8-20 from long-range, but struggled even more than Nebraska from the line, making just 9-23 free throws for 39%.

James Palmer Jr. scored a game-high 22 points and added 8 rebounds for Nebraska, who also got career-bests from Tanner Borchardt and Thomas Allen.

Allen had career highs with 12 points and 18 rebounds, scoring in double figures for the first time and pulling down double-digit rebounds for the second time. Borchardt's 18 rebounds tied for the most by a Husker in more than a decade.

Allen had 11 points, his highest total in a Big Ten Conference game and the his first back-to-back double digit conference games.

Nebraska returns to action on Wednesday, when they host #21 Maryland at Pinnacle Bank Arena. We'll have the game on KCSR with tipoff at 5 p.m. MT and pregame at 4:05. The game will also be televised on the Big Ten Network.