

NCAA first round: Nebraska 76, Troy 47 /// Second round: Vanderbilt on Saturday

OKC was GBR Thursday while former Huskers reach out to current team, Page B2

Top seed Duke survives, Wisconsin does not. More March Madness, Page B6, B7



AT LAST, THE HUSKERS HAVE THEIR FIRST

Electric crowd, emotional team and finally an NCAA tourney victory

WILSON MOORE
World-Herald Staff Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sam Hoiberg stood at center court, a victorious fist raised in the air. The unrelenting noise of joy and catharsis rolled like a flood from the Paycom Center stands, washing over him and a Nebraska program now clean of the narrative in its forgettable postseason history.

The Huskers spent the previous two hours thoroughly shedding their status as the only power-conference team without an NCAA tournament win. A deafeningly loud pro-Nebraska crowd was the soundtrack to a 76-47 dismantling of 13 seed Troy on Thursday.

NU, in turn, played with palpable emotion and passion.

The usually stoic Pryce Sandfort roared and waved his arms as each of his seven 3-pointers pushed this group



NIKOS FRAZIER, THE WORLD-HERALD

The arena was rocking before and after Braden Frager (top) threw down a second-half dunk, putting Nebraska one step closer to history. Rienk Mast (above left) and Pryce Sandfort also poured out their emotions as the Huskers captured the program's first NCAA tourney win.

All the past heartbreak made NU's historic moment this magical

COLUMN BY AMIE JUST
Lincoln Journal Star

OKLAHOMA CITY — What does a historic moment look like?

It's unbridled joy manifesting as infectious smiles. It's unconditional love shown through lengthy hugs, high-fives and chest-bumps. It's pride so overwhelming that tears begin to form.

On a Thursday morning that spilled into the afternoon, decades of dreams culminated in a series of magical memories at the Paycom Center. In front of a pro-Nebraska crowd so raucous that it drowned out the pep bands, Pryce Sandfort and Co. vanquished the nightmares of a fanbase tormented by decades of demons.

Nebraska basketball is no longer the punchline. Nebraska basketball is