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# NU looks to Big 8 tournament

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

As the Nebraska volleyball team tallied its final point in its 15-9, 15-4, 7-15, 15-4 victory over Oklahoma on Friday night, there was a look of relief on the faces of the players.

However, their enjoyment after avenging an early-season loss to the Sooners turned to slight disappointment when the Cornhuskers realized that they wouldn't win an 18th-straight regular-season Big Eight championship.

Colorado beat Missouri in a three-game sweep Saturday, and Nebraska had to settle for a second-place finish in the Big Eight.

"It's disappointing, but we have no control over that," Nebraska assistant coach Cathy Noth said. "We can only control what's ahead of us and not what's behind us."

Nebraska senior setter Nikki

“*We can only control what's ahead of us and not what's behind us.*”

— Noth  
Nebraska assistant volleyball coach

Stricker agreed.

"We can't do anything about that now," she said. "Our focus right now is on Illinois and getting ready for the Big Eight tournament."

The Huskers will host Illinois in their final regular-season matchup Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the NU Coliseum. They then will travel to the Omaha Civic Auditorium on Friday and Saturday for the Big Eight tournament.

The Huskers will have to face Oklahoma for the third time this season during the first round of the Big

Eight tournament on Friday.

Stricker said this win should have sent a message to Oklahoma and the rest of the Big Eight that Nebraska is back on track.

The Huskers have won four-straight matches since their loss to No. 2 Texas on Nov. 6.

Although Oklahoma will want to avenge Friday night's loss, Stricker said, the Huskers aren't worried.

"No matter what the situation is, we want to go out there and play well," Stricker said.

## Polls

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counting their eggs before they hatched.

He said the Irish, who were coming of a big win against Florida State, fell in the same trap that Nebraska fell in last year at Iowa State. The Huskers lost 19-10 in Ames, Iowa, after big victories over Colorado and Kansas on national television.

After watching football all day Saturday, Osborne said, he was looking forward to spending some time on the field again.

"I was exhausted," he said. "That's harder than playing games. I don't want to be a fan anymore. I spent one day as a fan and I want to retire. I watched three games and it wore me out."

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Julia Mikolajcik/DN

Above: Members of Nebraska's new wheelchair basketball team, the Rolling Storm, form a pick against the Southwest (Minn.) State squad. Right: The Rolling Storm's Nhat Dinh prepares to shoot over a Southwest State player.



Julia Mikolajcik/DN

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## Wheelchair

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Dahlgren said the biggest concern still facing the UNL team was finding a coach and sponsors.

He said the university had been supportive in helping him accomplish his goals with the team.

The club is sponsored by the Office of Campus Recreation and the university is buying the seven-member team new wheelchairs, he said.

"That was a really big help to us," Dahlgren said. "(The chairs) are such a huge expense and something we really needed."

Dahlgren said he hoped to receive the same kind of support from the public.

"For our first game, I thought there were quite a few people there," he said. "We needed a little more exposure before, but I was happy with it."

## Reaction

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Headed into last weekend, Nebraska was in jeopardy of not playing for the national title. Even with an undefeated season, the bowl coalition had Notre Dame and Florida State meeting in the Fiesta Bowl for the championship, since both were ranked ahead of the Huskers.

Nebraska tight end Gerald Armstrong said he was happy that the

Huskers will now get a shot at the title with a win over the Sooners.

"It does take some of the pressure off," Armstrong said. "It doesn't really matter to me if we're No. 1 or 2, just as long as we get to play for the national championship."

This is the first time Nebraska has been ranked No. 1 since 1987, and Oklahoma came into Lincoln and upset the Huskers 17-7, ending their hopes of an undefeated season.

Nebraska split end Corey Dixon said he doesn't want history to repeat

itself.

"We need to just continue to focus on Oklahoma and not think about the polls," Dixon said.

Armstrong said, however, that a No. 1 ranking reflects well on the Huskers.

"Our philosophy this season has been 'to refuse to lose,' so this is kind of incorporated into it," he said.

Lundberg agreed. "This is a positive for us in that it makes us confident in our abilities and in ourselves," Lundberg said.