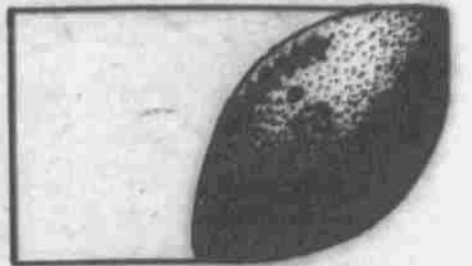


sports



On to California! Volleyballers seek prominence

By Rob Barney

Coach Pat Sullivan's undefeated (30-0) volleyball team will leave Sunday for California to compete with some national volleyball powers, in the continuing effort to thrust the Huskers into national volleyball prominence.

However, before leaving for the West Coast the team must compete in the Big 8 Conference tournament, held Friday and Saturday in Ames, Ia. It will be hosted by Iowa State University.

"I'm very confident we will take first place," Sullivan said. "But you never know about upsets."

Sullivan said the University of Colorado will not field a team at the meet, reducing the total number of teams to seven.

Kansas State could give the Huskers their biggest challenge of the meet, according to Sullivan. In UNL's 30 matches, they have lost only one game. That came against the Wildcats two weeks ago in a three-team tournament at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

"I can't anticipate what we'll do in California," Sullivan said. "I don't think we'll win the NWIT (National Women's Invitational Tournament) at UCLA."

"The NWIT is probably a stronger tournament than the real national tournament," Sullivan said. But she said she thought the team would advance to the finals.

UNL will begin play in California Monday, against California State at Fullerton. Games with Pepperdine University, UCLA, Long Beach State and Occidental College will follow on successive days leading up to the NWIT.

"I think we'll surprise a lot of people in California," Sullivan said. "We'll show them that people know how to play pretty good volleyball in Nebraska, too."

Sullivan said she thinks the team has improved during each week of the season.

"The competition has slowly been improving and we've met the challenge," she said.

"This season is much longer than ever before," she said. "Each meet is a stepping stone to regionals. And we want to make sure we peak at the right time."

In the Region 6 meet of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, at Wichita, Kan., Nov. 18 to 20, the Huskers will be able to use 12 players.

Two players are now hampered by injuries, she said. Janice Kruger has a pulled stomach muscle. Suzie Heiser has an overdeveloped hamstring muscle causing back problems. Sullivan also said some other players have minor ankle injuries.

Swimmers look for better season; Reta says new pool important factor

A new home, new goals and a new attitude are featured on this year's UNL swim team.

"The kids are as enthusiastic as I am," said Husker coach John Reta. "They have had a surprising change in attitude since workouts began in the new pool."

Last year the Huskers swam in the Coliseum's pool, but moved to the new UNL Sports Complex this year.

"We have more room, it's more comfortable and the kids aren't swimming over each other like they did before," Reta said. "It's definitely the best in the Big 8."

Senior Pat DeBiase, last year's swim team captain and the only Husker Big 8 Conference champion last season (he won the 100-meter backstroke), called the new pool, "a fine facility. I think it's one of the top five in the country."

"I'm personally really excited about the season," he said. "I had a real good year last season, and I feel I am one month ahead of last year's pace. Our team goal this year is to score more points in the Big 8 meet than any other Husker team has done in the past."

Reta said the team set a number of individual and team goals earlier this fall.

"One goal we set was to get out of the cellar," he said. The Huskers finished seventh out of seven teams in the Big 8 last year. Kansas State University does not have a varsity swim team.

"Some fellows could win individual events in the Big 8," Reta said. "We also want to qualify for nationals."

Some Husker personnel who might qualify for the national meet, according to Reta, include seniors DiBiase, John Dahir and Paul Duxbury, juniors Bryan Moss and Pat Murphy, and sophomores Ed Johnson and Mark Crowder.

Reta said Robert Ingles, Bob Hartford, Clay Smith and Rick Graham are promising freshmen.

The Huskers are now in phase one of practices, Reta said, adding that this phase emphasizes stroke techniques and endurance.

The Huskers will soon enter phase two of practice, which involves more intensity, but without an increase in swimming yardage, he said.

Phase three is the competition period, and phase four involves the tapering of championship swimmers, Reta said.

UNL opens its season Nov. 13 against the University of Wyoming in the UNL Sports Complex.



Photo by Ted Kirk

Gang tackling, such as that shown above in the Missouri game, has helped the Blackshirt defense remain the Big 8's best defense against the rush, according to conference statistics released Wednesday. The Huskers have been allowing 95.3 yards a game on the ground, 137.6 through the air (seventh in the conference) for a total of 232.9 yards a game, best in the Big 8.

sports quiz

Pro basketball

- Who was the last commissioner of the old American Basketball Association (ABA)?
- Name the four teams from the ABA that merged with the National Basketball Association (NBA).
- Name the three teams from the ABA that did not merge with the NBA.
- True or False: No player in the new NBA format played in the original ABA.
- What famous UCLA front court duo has been reunited with the Boston Celtics this year?
- What former, all-Pro guard is the new coach of the Los Angeles Lakers?
- Name the former all-Big 8 Conference basketball star who led his team to the NBA finals and was named Rookie of the year last season?
- How many pro basketball teams now exist under the new NBA format? a. 20 b. 22 c. 24.
- Julius Erving recently signed a contract with the Philadelphia 76ers making him the highest paid man ever to play professional basketball. Who had that distinction prior to Erving?
- Name the identical twins who have been reunited on the Phoenix Suns this year.

Answers

- Dave Debusschere.
- San Antonio Spurs, New York Nets, Denver Nuggets, and the Indiana Pacers.
- Spirits of St. Louis, Virginia Squires and the Kentucky Colonels.
- False. Mel Daniels, Freddie Lewis, Byron Beck and Louie Dampier all played in the original ABA.
- Sidney Wicks and Curtis Rowe.
- Jerry West.
- Alvan Adams of the Phoenix Suns and the University of Oklahoma.
- 8 b. 22
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers.
- Tom and Dick Van Arsdale.

Coach: Costs cut by no-scout rule; emphasis on game films increasing

By Mike McCarthy

Last Saturday's film of the University of Kansas (KU) and Kansas State University (KSU) game could play an integral role in UNL's game with the Jayhawks Saturday.

The film was sent by KU to Husker coaches Sunday. A new National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) rule this year prohibits colleges from sending scouts to opponent's games, so schools are now stepping up their film exchange.

But George Darlington, Husker defensive end coach, who is in charge of UNL's film exchange, said sending scouts to games "was never the main show anyway."

"Game films are where we get most of our information on a team," he said. "The scouting report was just a supplement to the films."

The rule, designed to reduce costs, has served its purpose, Darlington said.

Not all valuable

"I don't know exactly how much money the rule has saved, but I think it has saved some," he said. "Scouting is not all that valuable. We don't have to pay for the scout's travel expenses, so it does save some money."

But Darlington said scouting in person provided some information that films cannot show.

"A film can't show a player who is injured, but is still playing with the injury," he said. "It can't show the starting count of the quarterback, the mood and tempo of the game, and the timing of the kickers."

"Scouts were originally sent to games because the quality of film was universally not so good," Darlington said. "But now it's difficult to get a hold of a bad film." Darlington said a Big 8 Conference rule states that Big

8 teams must exchange films of their previous three games with each other.

Two of the films must arrive at the opponent's school ten days before their game. The third film must arrive the Sunday before the two teams meet, he said.

Films received

For the UNL and KU game this Saturday, for example, KU sent UNL films of its games against Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, and Kansas State Universities.

Big 8 schools also have the right to acquire films from schools not in the Big 8.

Darlington said he sends the Husker's films by bus or air express, depending on the opponent's locality.

The biggest problem in film exchange occurred with the University of Colorado, Darlington said.

"We had a foul up when our carrier forgot to pick up the film, which was to be in Boulder, Colo. by Sunday."

Assumption made

"Colorado assumed we tried to hold back the film, so they held back their films also. When they finally got the film on Monday, they admitted they intentionally withheld their film from us because we didn't send ours."

Darlington said a play by play recording also accompanies films, in case a play was not recorded on the film. Films are returned to opponents before or on the day of the game.

Darlington said communication between Big 8 coaches concerning other Big 8 teams for the purpose of "giving scouting reports over the phone" is negligible.

"Most coaches basically want to beat each other," he said. "I don't think there is much of the (phone reports) going on. I don't think a coach tells another coach what to look for in another team."