

sports

Melcher goes from 'scared' to All-Big Eight in volleyball

By Paula Clark

Nebraska's All-Big Eight player did not plan on going out for volleyball or even attending UNL after graduating from high school.

Plans, however, do change, and Lori Melcher can testify to that.

Melcher, a recreational therapy major, graduated from Beatrice High School in 1977 and came to Lincoln to find a job and be independent. She said she was set to enjoy being finished with school and sports, but an "indescribable something" changed her mind.

When Melcher attended Beatrice, a Class A Nebraska high school, she played volleyball as a hitter and gained All-State status both her junior and senior years. Her athletic abilities also carried over to basketball, where she was named to the All-State roster her senior year.

'Scared to death'

Melcher enrolled at UNL in the fall of 1977 and although she said she was "scared to death," she tried walking on the volleyball team where she joined 11 other freshmen and nine upperclass players. Today, only three of those 12 freshmen remain on the squad.

Head Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit noted that both Melcher's tangible and intangible athletic abilities have improved.

"She relates well with her team and also under pressure," he said. "Lori is a good college setter."

Melcher, who said she would rather set than hit, finds college volleyball more exciting because of its speciali-

zation. The most enjoyable things about playing at UNL, Melcher said, is the relationships established with her fellow team members.

As a setter, Melcher touches the ball on every offensive play. Setters can make the hitters, and consequently the team, look better, Pettit said.

"Lori possesses that ability, she relaxes her team," he said.

'Shocked' at honor

Last year as a junior, Lori was "shocked" to learn that she had made All-Big Eight. Pettit said Lori deserved it because she performed better than the other setters.

During last spring's season, Pettit experimented with a new offense, but because of surgery, Melcher was unable to acquaint herself with the new offense. Melcher attempted to make up for that on her own this summer by setting 1,000 volleyballs each day.

In this, her last season, Melcher feels that she has to go through extra workouts in order to do well in team practices. Melcher said she hopes to improve her individual defensive play this year.

Being one of two setters for UNL, she said she wants to be able to lead the team with confidence and be more aware of the total game. Much of the team's success will depend on the setter's abilities, she said, and Melcher wants to provide the necessary leadership.

She said she feels this year the team's practices have been intense and this will allow relaxed play. Melcher says that the team knows its capabilities and has set goals of winning the Big Eight title for the fifth straight year and qualifying for the national tournament.

Cyclones hoping for change of luck

By Pat Beecham

As the 1980 football season draws near, Iowa State Head Coach Donnie Duncan is hoping for a little change of luck from 1979.

Last year the Cyclones were hit with some injuries to key players, but Duncan is looking for a much improved Iowa State team this year.

"We're a better football team than we were a year ago, and I expect that to be reflected in our won-lost record," Duncan said.

If the Cyclones are to do it this year, it will have to be done with a young squad. Iowa State has 72 freshmen and sophomores on their roster. Along with being young, the team will be learning a new offense and defense.

The Cyclones will be switching to the multiple 1 on offense and the 4-3 alignment on defense. Duncan said he is a little more concerned about the defense than the offense right now.

"Actually, the offense isn't totally new to us," Duncan said. "We are using the 1 but we are also incorporating motion and shifting of the backs to give us added dimension. Defensively, though, we don't have a player on our campus who is a true noseguard in the 50 defense."

The Iowa State offense will be led by junior quarterback John Quinn. Quinn injured his knee a year ago and did not make it through the whole season. However, he did have a good spring and Duncan thinks Quinn will be a good quarterback.

"I want him to be the best quarterback in the Big Eight," Duncan said, "and he has taken strides to be there."

The Cyclones also have a wealth of running backs returning. They have six letter winners returning along with two freshmen and a junior college transfer who rushed for over 1,800 yards in the junior college ranks.

The Cyclones also appear solid at wide receiver. They have both starting receivers

back from last year. Vinny Cerrato, who was injured a year ago, will be back to fill the flanker position and 6-7 Jim Knuth will be the Cyclones starting split end.

Duncan also said he feels comfortable with this year's offensive line.

"We concentrated on being able to come off the ball and move people around with base blocking," Duncan said. "We're pleased with the progress we have made."

Iowa State's decision to switch to the 4-4-3 defense was a result of the number of big, strong defensive linemen they have this year. They have six lettermen returning along with what Duncan believes are some good younger players.

"We have some solid players in the defensive line and some promising young ones coming in," Duncan said. "We have a healthy, competitive situation at the tackle and end spots."

The linebacker positions are of a little more concern to Duncan. The Cyclones only have two senior linebackers to go along with the freshmen and sophomores. Duncan figures to start three sophomores at the linebacker positions.

"The linebackers showed us some good things this spring," Duncan said, "but they were all prone to sophomore mistakes. With experience, this should be a good group, but they have to mature in a hurry. This is still an area of concern."

In the defensive backfield, Iowa State appears to have some experience coming back at the corners, but depth at this position could prove to be a problem for the Cyclones with only three lettermen coming back at this position.

The strong safety job seems to be in the hands of John Arnaud, who took over the starting spot the last week of spring drills. The free safety spot still seems up for grabs, however, with three of four players still in the running for the position.

The place kicking job seems fairly secure for the Cyclones, but "punting is a concern," according to Duncan.



Daily Nebraskan Photo

Jim Knuth, starting Cyclone split end

sports shorts

The UNL Soccer Club is looking for a coach. Anyone interested may contact Phil Streyve at 476-3041. Soccer practice scheduled Sunday through Thursday at 5 p.m. behind Mable Lee Hall.

Practice for UNL Boxers is scheduled Monday through Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the basement of Schramm Hall. All interested boxers are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Randy Nelsen at 475-6144.

The season's first Extra Point Club luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m., Sept. 15 on the fifth floor of Brandeis 11th and O Streets. The public is invited.

The luncheons will be every Monday and will feature Nebraska Head Football Coach Tom Osborne and game films.

The Rebounders Club is sponsoring a free pre-season barbecue at 5:15 p.m. Sept. 14 at the Lincoln Moose Lodge, 4901 N. 56th St. The club will introduce the

1980-81 UNL basketball team and new basketball recruits. For more information contact Nancy at 472-2265.

The Utah Utes, Nebraska's first football opponent this season, begin their season Saturday against Boise State in Salt Lake City. Utah Head Coach Wayne Howard is starting his fourth year at the Utes' helm. His three-year record at Utah is 17-17. His eight-year record as a major college head coach is 57-30. This is the first football meeting between Utah and Boise State.
