

Senior spiker values positive attitude most

By Jeff Korbellek

Back in 1980, the Nebraska volleyball team opened the season with a win against Kansas. The opener was the first time that then freshman Erin Dean played in a Husker uniform. Since then, she has started in 123 matches and has been on the winning side 91 times.

The senior from Kansas City, Mo., has played every match without the slightest injury problem.

"I've probably been blessed by God," Dean said, referring to her injury-free career. "I had an injury in the summer of my sophomore year ... a sprained ankle, but I didn't miss any games. That was the only one that was major."

"A lot of people fear being injured, but I don't fear," Dean explained. "Volleyball is not my God and those that think it is God usually get injured."

Dean has racked up some impressive credentials in her three seasons playing for Nebraska. She is a two-time All Big Eight selection, was named to the 1982 NCAA Midwest Regional All-Tournament Team and was named an All-American Honorable Mention by Volleyball Monthly magazine. She attributes her success to God.

"I am a born again Christian, and that is where all my strengths come from," Dean said.

Dean graduated from St. Mary's High School in Independence, Mo., where she earned 11 varsity letters in track, basketball and volleyball. She was recruited by Nebraska, Missouri, Southwest Missouri and Kansas. Dean wanted to attend Southwest Missouri so she could compete in basketball and volleyball, but eventually she chose Nebraska.

Coach Terry Pettit saw the potential in her, Dean said. The other schools found her too intense. Another reason she chose Nebraska was Reba Govier, a friend who is a former volleyball player.

"I think greatly of him," Dean said, referring to Pettit. "Some people don't understand him, but he is usually right. He knows our strengths and weaknesses and knows how to deal with us."

"He shows us where we're at and where we can be, and we usually surpass our goals," Dean explained. "If not this year, it will be next year that he will be coach of the year (NCAA or Volleyball Monthly)."

Dean said her quickness from her outside hitter's positive is her greatest court asset.

"I have everything down technically, how to pass and how to set," she said.

Blocking is her only weakness, she said, but added that she has improved greatly in that area.

Looking toward the future, Dean said she plans to get her degree in interior design, a major personal priority because too many people believe athletes come to school just for the athletics. After graduation, she plans to enter the Maranatha Ministry.

She is also looking at a chance to play in the Olympics, but said she would have to move from outside hitter to setter because of her lack of height.

Dean said her mental attitude between her freshman and senior years has been the biggest change.

"I've become more positive and an encouragement to the other players," she said.

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Big Eight review — Heroes, quotes, game report cards

Analysis by Scott Ahlstrand

THIS WEEK'S TOP GAMES

Ohio State at Oklahoma. ABC will telecast this duel between the two nationally ranked teams. The No. 6 Buckeyes are led by the passing of quarterback Mike Tomzack, while No. 2 Oklahoma is sparked by the running of Marcus Dupree and Spencer Tillman and Earl Johnson.

Colorado State at Colorado. This battle for the bragging rights of the Rocky Mountain state may be the only chance either team has for a victory this season (with the exception of Colorado vs. Kansas State).

HEROES

Marlon Adler — The Missouri quarterback threw for two touchdowns and ran for another in the Tiger's 28-18 victory over Illinois. The 183-pound junior completed 10 of 14 passes for 163 yards with no interceptions. Based on the NCAA's efficiency formula, Adler's passing rating Saturday was 216.4, more than 60 points better than UCLA's Tom Ramsey, who led the nation last year with a 153.5. Adler did a little bit of everything as he also punted (and sold popcorn at half-time).

"I thought Marlon played just a brilliant game — he didn't get rattled out there and he was able to make the big play for us," Missouri Coach Warren Powers said.

For his performance, Adler was named the Big Eight's offensive player of the week.

Mike Rozier — Rozier slashed through Wyoming for 191 yards on 19 carries and scored four touchdowns. Rozier boosted his career rushing total to 2,894 yards, breaking the old Nebraska record of 2,814 by L.M. Hipp. Along the way Rozier picked up his share of praise and nicknames.

"You can just call him Michael Heisman' from now on ... After what he did today, he's going to win the Heisman ... He's going to do that the rest of the season," Nebraska wingback Irving Fryar said.

QUOTES

Oklahoma State Coach Jimmy Johnson on what it takes to win: "Nowadays, you'd better do what you have to do to win the game. I don't care if you run the quarterback sneak 52 times."

Kansas State Coach Jim Dickey on the lack of breaks for the Wildcats: "I'll tell you one thing, if they don't start evening out, there's a whole lot of things I'd rather be doing than coaching."

Oklahoma's Barry Switzer, when asked if his relationship with running

back Marcus Dupree was still shaky: "Certainly not," Switzer replied, and reached over and kissed Dupree on the cheek. Reminded that he was near San Francisco when he kissed Dupree, Switzer looked at Dupree and said, "Don't take that seriously. I don't want you coming to sit on my side of the plane."

BIG EIGHT REPORT CARD

COLORADO: Coach Bill McCartney said that the Buffaloes' goal against Michigan State "was not necessarily to play well, but to win." But his players got it the other way around. They played fairly well, getting almost 300 yards in offense, but dropped their season opener to the Spartans 23-17. B minus for the first three quarters, F for the fourth.

IOWA STATE: The only thing saving the Cyclones from getting an F after the 51-10 stomping they received from Iowa is the fact that the Hawkeyes are a nationally ranked team. Iowa kicked Iowa State all over the field, racking up 535 yards on offense. Our grade: D minus.

KANSAS: After dropping a game that they never should have lost (Northern Illinois 37 Kansas 34), the Jayhawks improved to tie Texas Christian 16-16 Saturday. KU's grade: C.

KANSAS STATE: What can you say about a team that is 0-2 and got drubbed by Kentucky? Let's be charitable and say the Wildcats have many areas they could improve on. Grade: D minus.

MISSOURI: Warren Power's team really played a sold game in beating Illinois 28-18. The Tigers looked tough. Grade: B.

OKLAHOMA: The Sooners just don't like playing in the first month of the season. They played an overly matched Stanford team, and if freshman Earl Johnson hadn't come off the bench for two touchdowns, they may have lost. They rushed for 395 yards, but Stanford passed for 291 yards. Give the offense a B, the defense a C minus and the team a C.

OKLAHOMA STATE: The Cowboy's won a close game against North Texas State, but didn't do it in an overly impressive manner. Oklahoma State running back Ernest Anderson was hampered by a groin pull and only rushed for 80 yards. Grade: B minus.

NEBRASKA: The first half was 42-3 Nebraska and everyone gets an A. The second half was 17-14 Wyoming and the Cornhuskers should probably get a D minus. Overall grade: B minus.

(Information provided by the Big Eight Service Bureau and sports information releases from each university.)



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