

Sports

Husker volleyball squad beats California Bears

By Janet Stefanski

Nebraska's volleyball team pulled out a victory against California Thursday night, 16-4, 15-7, 15-17, 15-3, but neither coach felt pleased with his team's performance.

"We played like we just took the plane trip (from California), not Berkeley," Coach Terry Pettit said.

Nebraska and California both showed defensive difficulties in the first game with futile sprawls to defend the other.

Pettit said his team set well and attackers were aggressive but he said his team looked "sluggish." He said his team was not organized throughout the match.

"We played like a Chinese fire drill," Pettit added.

The Cornhuskers and Bears were tipping the ball over the net increasingly in Thursday's play.

Pettit noted Sharon Kramer as being

more aggressive at the net, and he cited the setters as doing a good job at their position.

"I'm not going to make any excuses for us, Nebraska played well," California's assistant coach Jeff Mozzochi said.

Erin Dean and Julie Hermann led Nebraska in kills and Monnet and Denise Allen led California with kills.

Nebraska's Lynae Loseke sat out with a knee injury from the California game, and the Bears' Kelly McGarrey also stayed home because of injuries she suffered. Mozzochi said McGarrey is a big part of the team but not the main reason why the team was not playing well.

"We're going to re-group and come back at Nebraska Saturday (in the Husker Invitational)," said Mozzochi.

Husker Invitational play begins today at 4:30.

Runner has competitive mentality; sets high goals for herself

By Janet Stefanski

Like any college freshman, Karlene Erickson is adjusting to new classes and study loads. But not many college freshmen run approximately 75 miles a week and may some day compete in the Olympics.

A cross country runner for the Cornhuskers this year, Erickson's best time in marathon competition is 2 hours, 41 minutes, and 24 seconds. In road race competition, she has compiled the 10-kilometer run in 33:26 and the 20 in 1:08:00.

In her first collegiate meet last weekend at the three-mile Wichita State Gold Classic, Erickson finished with a time of 17:36.37, eight seconds behind Kansas State's Betsy Silzer, who finished fifth in the Big Eight meet last fall.

"She ran extremely well for her first collegiate meet," said Jay Dirksen, women's cross country coach. "She beat some good runners in the process."

"I'm really proud of her." She has high expectations of herself. Dirksen said, "and I think she's going to live up to them."

At Wheeler Central High School in Bartlett outside of Erickson's home town of Ericson, she earned gold medals in the 3200-meter run in four consecutive state competitions. She also earned two golds for the 1600.

Erickson said when she initially became interested in running, she did not seriously train. Her oldest sister Roxi and she picked up running pamphlets at a track meet in 1977 and later decided to meet a road race in Norfolk. When Erickson entered high school, she and her sister ran track together.

"For some reason, I started training more than she did," Erickson said.

This summer Erickson placed 20th in an Olympic qualifying marathon in Duluth, Minn. Erickson said she feels if she does compete in the Olympics, "it won't be for a while."

For the time being, she is concentrating on qualifying for the NCAA championships and doing well in districts. Her daily routine includes a five-mile run in the morning and an additional five or six mile run with the team in the early evening. She also runs approximately 15 miles on Sunday.

Universities and colleges in Kansas, Tennessee, Texas, Iowa, Florida, Oklahoma and Minnesota all tried recruiting Erickson. She said she seriously considered Kansas State because she said she was

impressed with the coach and team. However, Erickson said she is happy she chose UNL.

"I guess the biggest part is I'm a native Nebraskan," Erickson said.

Erickson said she likes UNL's facilities and she attributes the improving program to Dirksen, the new coach.

"In a couple years we could be great. We could be great. We could recruit good, solid, long distance runners," Erickson said.

Jim Lewis, captain of UNL's men's track team, Ray Stevens, a fellow road race runner and Ralph Miller, who trains with the team, occasionally run with Erickson. However, she said she prefers to run alone most of the time so she does not have to worry about another runner's pace.

Although her friends now accept her interest in running, this was not always the case. Erickson said while her friends partied in Bartlee on weekends, she was running.

"At first they thought maybe she's different... crazy. They got used to it and accepted me the way I was," Erickson said.

Erickson said her family encourages her running, and her father, Tom, also jogs and runs.

Dirksen noted Erickson's tough mentality and enjoyment of racing as strong points.

"She likes to line up on the line against everybody and try to beat them," Dirksen said.

Dirksen said he thinks Erickson has the good attitude and attributes of a long distance runner, but she needs to train and work on a higher level.

Dirksen notes Erickson will be competing against recruited foreign athletes and there will be no guarantee for success.

"She's going to be good but she's not going to be a star right away," Dirksen said.

Dirksen is working with Erickson and other team members basically on mileage build-up and an endurance base. Erickson and the combined men's and women's teams will run at the Jayhawk Invitational in Lawrence, Kan., this weekend.

Erickson is formally an undeclared student but said she is leaning toward majoring in elementary education and focusing on physical education and coaching. Although she said she never has considered herself a studious person, she finds herself studying a lot of hours in college. In her spare moments, she enjoys spending time with her friends and going to movies.

Bruins prepare for NU, keep eye on Rose Bowl

The Bruins would have a very tough game against Nebraska Saturday night at 8 p.m. at NU, they've been looking at it all day long.

Field's biggest threat may be an All-American running back from the secondary.

"This is a great opportunity," defensive coordinator Bob Field said.

"We have a good, team-oriented scheme where no one player is all that important," he said. "Our defense played well against Arizona State without Nigro."

Field also bemoaned the lack of an effective kicking game his team has experienced this year.

"If you take away mistakes by the offense and the kicking game, we gave up only 12 points to Georgia and 16 to Arizona State," he said.

Neither Field nor Donahue were willing to predict such defensive success against Nebraska.

"You don't stop a team like Nebraska," Field said. "You just hope they won't do what they do. Nebraska has the ball on the ground a lot and we'll take any ball that comes to us."

During his team's short stint, Donahue could be expected about the team's ability to handle the Bruins.

"A team that was a decent team, so I think we're a decent team. I think we compare favorably to last year's team at this point."

Water skiers journey south

By Lauri Hopple

The UNL water skiing club will rely on previously developed skiing skills when it makes its third annual fall migration south to the Jayhawk Open Tournament in Lawrence, Kan., Saturday.

Jerry Althouse, a business management senior and club president, said the club has not been able to practice in Lincoln to prepare for the tourney and will be counting on individual practice done during the summer. The club has both men's and women's teams.

Five teams are expected at the Jayhawk tourney: Oklahoma, Mankato State from Minnesota, and the Minnesota Gophers will compete with Nebraska and host Kansas.

Althouse said KU is the perennial top team because of excellent facilities near its campus. The Jayhawks use a private skiing club, Mo-Ken Ski Lake, for practice during the school year.

Althouse said lack of facilities keeps the UNL club from practicing during the year. The club no longer has its own ski boat and does not have a permanent private slalom course to use.

Until last spring, the club had a \$20,000 Master Craft competition ski boat on contract through a promotional program with a local sporting goods store. That contract was not renewed and the team will use boats provided by KU at the tourney Saturday, Althouse said.

Other supplies — skis, vests and tow ropes — have been donated to the club.

Althouse said the club needs a permanent slalom course for intense practice. Nebraska requires that any slalom courses installed in state-

owned lakes be removed at night, which hampers the club, Althouse said.

"That can't be done easily," he said. "We need an exclusive place."

Slalom, normally the first event at college tournaments, has a slider towed on one ski through an entrance gate, zigzagging around a course of turn buoys, and out the exit gate. Women compete at speeds of from 24 mph to 34 mph and men at from 26 mph to 36 mph.

Althouse said the slalom event traditionally has been the men's team's strongest event. In 1982, Althouse won the event in Lawrence and fell on buoy short of the regional slalom record.

Karin Westin, a UNL junior and vice president of the club, said the women's team took first in the slalom event in the annual spring Jayhawk Open.

Collegiate water ski tournaments also include the trick and jump events. The trick event usually involves "the basics," Althouse said, including wake tricks such as toe holds, turns and backwards skiing. These may be tried on one ski for extra points.

Althouse said he usually tries tricks outside of the boat's wake for more points. A good outside trick must show air between the ski and the water, he said.

The jump event is the team's weakest, Althouse said.

"We have a lot of kids go off the jump for the first time in these tournaments because we have no access (to ramps in Lincoln)," Althouse said.

Despite that lack of experience, the men's team took the jump event at KU last year with a 114-foot jump by Todd Peterson. Peterson did not return to the club this year.

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