

Sports



Husker center Mark Traynowicz stretches it out during workouts Tuesday at Memorial Stadium.

Shockers pushed aside, volleyball team moves on

Nebraska's volleyball team tuned up for Big Ten rival Iowa Saturday with a straight set victory over Wichita State at the UNL Coliseum.

The 15-5, 15-6, 15-6 victory started the Huskers on what is expected to be a top ten rating this week

in the national collegiate volleyball polls.

Nebraska had little trouble with the Shockers after a sluggish start that knotted a 2-2 tie for 10 minutes.

"I don't know if our intensity was way up, but it's hard to play a

team when you know they are not as talented as you are," Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said. "But, I thought it was a good match. I was very impressed with the way Wichita State hung with us in the first set."

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David Cresmer/Daily-Nebraskan

Nebraska senior Julie Herrmann waits a Wichita State serve during Nebraska's 15-6, 15-5, 15-6 victory against the Shockers Saturday. Story on Page 14.

Buffaloes realize their limitations' a winning season is all they want

By Julie Bauer
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Since Bill McCartney's arrival in 1982 at the University of Colorado as football coach, he has tried to rebuild a struggling program. This year could be the year his work starts to pay off.

While the Colorado Buffaloes won't be looking for a national championship or even a bowl appearance, they will work for a

winning record. This won't be an easy task for the Buffaloes as they take on the likes of UCLA, Michigan State, Notre Dame and the Big Eight Conference.

"Right now our goal is to post a winning record," McCartney said. "We have also identified Nebraska as the team we really would like to beat this year. That would make our season."

McCartney will have six starters back on offense, but even so,

his offense is the major question mark for the team.

McCartney said the Buffs have been able to establish neither a passing or running game, yet and the offensive line was the major problem.

"If we had to play a game tomorrow, our entire offensive line would be playing in their first collegiate game ever."

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Controversy now over, championships desired

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Sports Editor

The storm passed over the Nebraska women's softball team. Only one year after its abandonment was seriously considered, the Huskers showed up in the women's College World Series and won two games.

This season, there is still talk at the softball diamond at Mable Lee field about the team's future. Only this time with a number of key returnees, two freshman pitchers with almost non-existent earned run averages and the eligibility of redshirted transfers from last year, this year's talks of championships. First, the Big Eight Championship must be defended. Then the team returns to the World Series in May for a second shot at the sport's big guns.

"It does sound like we're going to be pretty good, doesn't it?" said the coach, who led the program from a losing record to a 39-13 mark.

"On paper, this will be the strongest team I've ever had," Daigle said. "I think we can be as good as we want to be."

This will be the last year for Denise Eckert, a shortstop who played her way into the national spotlight last season. Eckert finished the year hitting .363 (22nd in the country), with nine home runs (eighth), and 52 runs batted in (ninth) in 151 at bats. Eckert all second team All-American.

There's more. Stacy Sunny, a sophomore who led the Big Eight in hitting last year, will be moved from catcher to outfielder. Senior third baseman Ann Schroeder is one of the better players Daigle has ever coached, he said. Outfielders Peg Richardson and Wendy Turner finished the season on the all-NCAA tournament and All-Big Eight teams respectively.

Then there's second baseman Lori Richins, who had the biggest

hit of last season that brought the Huskers back into a tie with Oklahoma State in the regional playoffs, and pitcher-first baseman Shelby Mertins, who scored the winning run from first in an extra-inning regional game.

But it's Daigle's new players that could make the difference. Lisa Busby, a catcher, was a two-year All-American for Daigle at Sam Houston State. First-baseman Ginger Cannon made the all-tournament at Sam Houston. A third player, first baseman Amy Love, also is eligible this season.

Daigle also has one transfer student in outfielder Heidi Schlach, who came to Nebraska after the softball program at Northern Colorado was dropped. But the name of the game in women's softball still is pitching, particularly at the World-Series level of competition, where ERA's under 1 are fairly common. To that end, Daigle recruited Donna Deardorff, from Orange, whose prep ERA was 0.06, and Lori Sippel from Stanford, Ontario Sippel pitched the Canadian team to the gold medal in the Pan American games in 1982 - ball play. She won the most valuable player award in the Canadian national championships last spring.

Those two will join senior Mori Emmons in the mound rotation. Emmons was 25-5 last year in her first full season as a collegiate pitcher.

While most of the action will take place next spring, the Huskers will face all of their Big Eight foes this fall except for Kansas State. The Huskers are also in a Texas tournament with national runner up Texas A&M.

Four thousand people showed up during the Huskers' appearances in the World Series, which Daigle hopes will carry over to this season.

Nebraska's only home games in the fall will be Sept. 28 and 29 in the Husker Invitational.



Daily Nebraskan File Photo
Denise Eckert receives an All-American Softball player award from Coach Wayne Daigle.