



Dave Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's No. 6 player, Jean Halahan, returns a volley en route to the No. 6 title in the Husker Invitational.

Tennis team captures second place

By Brent Cobb
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team had one of its most impressive days ever Saturday and as a result captured second place in this weekend's Husker Invitational.

The Huskers, who finished fifth in last year's tournament, started Saturday in fifth place with nine matches remaining. But the netters won eight of those nine matches to vault past Minnesota, Wichita State and Utah.

Texas Tech won the overall team title with 20 points, followed by Nebraska's 17. Minnesota placed third with 15 points followed closely by Wichita State (14), Utah (12), Colorado (11), Iowa (10) and Ohio State (9).

"I think that this was the best weekend ever for women's tennis at the University of Nebraska," coach Kathy Hawkins said. "There were some high-caliber teams here and some quality players."

Individually, three Huskers reached the finals in their brackets and all three won. Jamie Pisarcik won No. 1 singles, Liz Mooney was the top finisher in No. 2 singles and Jean Halahan took the bracket in No. 6 singles.

Pisarcik started the tournament off somewhat slowly, taking three sets to defeat Annemarie Amaral of Colorado. But the senior finished strong winning 6-1, 6-2 on Saturday to win the Invitational's top bracket for the second straight year.

"I've been working on my serve and I had a little trouble with it early in the tournament, but it was consistent in the finals and

that helped put the pressure on my opponent," Pisarcik said.

Mooney had to overcome a recurring wrist injury. But despite the injury, she finished strong to beat Utah's Marcia Foote 6-4, 6-4 to win the No. 2 singles singles title.

Mooney's wrist injury will require minor surgery, but she said she hopes to complete the fall season before surgery is required.

Halahan's win in the No. 6 singles was especially pleasing to her because she had a disappointing performance in the same tournament last year. The sophomore said she also was pleased with the way in which she won: Two of her three matches went to a third set and she responded well to the pressure situation.

"I go out there to win, but I'm not afraid to lose," Halahan said. "Last year, as a freshman, I had a fear of losing but it happens to everybody."

Three other Huskers won individually Saturday to help Nebraska move up in the standings. Jill Pisarcik won a three-set match to place third in No. 3 singles, Lisa Brooks also went three sets for a win and freshman Beverly Roberts won two sets.

While there were several strong individual performances, Nebraska's doubles showing was disappointing, Hawkins said.

The No. 1 doubles team of Jamie Pisarcik and Mooney was defeated Friday afternoon, but came back to win Friday night and Saturday to place third. Halahan and Jill Pisarcik placed seventh in No. 2 doubles, and Brooks teamed up with Jenny Mortell for a sixth-place finish in No. 3 doubles.

"Our doubles performance was disappointing, especially the first day," Hawkins said. "Doubles was the difference between us winning and finishing second."

Still, Hawkins said she was very pleased with her team's overall performance this weekend. She said she could see that her team was motivated and they supported each other well.

"Everybody's a lot closer and it really helps the morale on and off the court," Mooney said.

"Our team is really supportive of each other, and we're a lot closer this year. We've meshed well together and we're more team oriented this year," Halahan said.

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Abel Six 30 (3.0), Schramm Ten 20 (3.2)
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Husker defense...

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very pleased with the way the offense came out and went after Missouri. And, I thought our defense played pretty well. It might not look that good on paper, but when you consider the type of offense Missouri has, we played pretty well.

Nebraska held the Tiger offense to 258 yards. Missouri had averaged 499.4 yards in its first five games.

Osborne praised Missouri, calling the Tigers "a great football team." Osborne said he thinks Missouri is better than most of the teams it lost to this year. The Tigers dropped close decisions to

Notre Dame, Illinois and Wisconsin. The Tigers beat Mississippi State and Colorado.

Tiger coach Warren Powers said Nebraska deserves credit for playing well against his team.

"We had no excuses," Powers said. "They took advantage of our mistakes."

The game marked the first collegiate start for Nebraska quarterback Travis Turner. Turner completed four of nine passes for 76 yards, and one interception. Former starter Craig Sundberg came in to direct Nebraska's last touchdown drive.

"I think we both moved the team well," Turner said.



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