

Sports

UNL spikers win championship

By Rich Cooper

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

With their ninth consecutive Big Eight Championship already wrapped up, the women's volleyball team shattered Iowa State's chances of finishing in second place by beating the Cyclones 15-2 15-9 and 15-9.

Coach Terry Pettit said he thought his team looked well rested and ready to play.

"I thought the women played a good game," Pettit said. "The serving was good and they blocked well."

The Huskers dominated all three games. It was the last Big Eight home game for seniors Kathy Hermann, Mary Buysse and Cathy Noth.

Hermann led the team in

kills with nine. The Husker had 34 kills to Iowa State's 16.

In the first game, the Huskers jumped out to a 12-0 lead before Iowa State finally scored.

Pettit said his team looked sharp and they capitalized on ISU's mistakes during the first game.

In the second game the Huskers jumped out to a 6-0 lead behind the offense of sophomore Enid Schonewise. She had six kills for the night.

With the score 10-3, the Cyclones pulled within three, but mistakes hurt them to much and the game's momentum went back to Nebraska. Hermann killed any hopes of a Cyclone comeback with two kills late in the game.

Iowa State coach Mary

Fischl said the only way the Cyclones were going to beat Nebraska was by blocking well and shutting down the aggressive offense.

"We had to many unforced errors," she said. "If we are to beat Nebraska in the Big Eight tournament, we are going to have to play much sharper."

The win was the 32nd Big Eight victory. The Huskers finished up the Big Eight regular season with a record of 10-0. Since Nebraska has sponsored a volleyball program the Huskers have posted a 118-3 record against Big Eight opponents.

The Huskers will have ten days to prepare for the Big Eight Tournament in Norman, Okla., on Nov. 16th and 17th.

Good district meets could give runners chance at nationals

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A couple of years ago, the Nebraska men's and women's cross country teams would go to the district Five Cross Country Championships thinking it was the last meet of the season.

But, for the second consecutive year, coach Jay Dirksen's teams have a good chance, on paper, to go to the NCAA National Cross Country Championships Nov. 19 at University Park, Pa.

At the Big Eight Championships two weeks ago, the men's team finished third and the women's team finished fifth.

"For the men's team to go to the NCAA's they will have to have their best race of the season Dirksen said.

The top two teams will go to the nationals, as well as the top three individuals. Nebraska will have to challenge Oklahoma State, which finished in second place at the Big Eight meet. They finished only 17 points ahead of Nebraska.

Dirksen said Colorado, Kansas State, and Kansas also have a chance of challenging for second behind Iowa State, the top-rated team in the country.

The Cornhuskers are led by Senior Kurt Russell. Russell finished fourth in the Big Eight meet. Dirksen said he will take freshman Kyle Foster instead of Gerard O'Callaghan.

Dirksen said he hopes he has not put much pressure on the

women to finish higher up in the standings.

"They have got a lot of pride and they know they have a chance to go to the NCAA's. I know they will give their best," Dirksen said.

If the Huskers can finish in third place, they could get an at-large berth from the NCAA. But, they will have strong competition from Iowa State, Kansas State and Colorado.

Dirksen said Iowa State did not have a good team race at the Big Eight meet and that they should not be taken lightly.

"The other four teams ran extremely well, but the conference has become so strong that if you're just a little bit off, you'll lose a lot of points," Dirksen said.

Dirksen said Carol Nunnally ran the best race he had ever seen her run during the championships. But the other four runners only ran average races, he said.

Iowa State women's coach Ron Renko said his team had a bad day because of top runner Bonnie Sons performance.

"Bonnie really had an off day. If she would have run better we would have been five points behind Missouri," Renko said.

Renko said Sons has had good practices the last couple of days and that she should be a factor in the race.

Dirksen said anybody could win the meet. "If everybody has a good day, then it could be a very close meet," he said.

'Best ever' labels hung too early; Huskers just a good football team

It's starting again.

Speculation is beginning to filter into Nebraska newspapers that 1984 Nebraska football team, specifically the defense, is one of the best, if not the best, in Cornhusker history.

The defense is leading the nation in fewest yards allowed. That's great. The Blackshirts have done themselves proud by coming back to play well this year after an "off year" in 1983, when they played in one losing ballgame.

on defense, and many teams have been awfully stingy giving up points and yardage.

Fred Dawson's 1922 team allowed only 28 points in a 7-1 season. The biggest win came against Notre Dame, 14-6. The only loss? A 9-6 setback against Syracuse.

D.X. Bible's 1933 Huskers won eight and lost one, giving up a total of 19 points all season.

Bob Devaney's 1972 defense, with Glover, Harper and Blahak, posted four straight shutouts in a 9-2-1 season.

There have been other great defenses, but space wouldn't permit to list them all. Let's just say it would be tough to pick the best one among them.

Any comparison to the 1983 team is also premature, and tough to do. The '83 Huskers had such a powerful offense, it's hard to compare them to this year's team. Nebraska's offense is good this year; and the defense has improved from a year ago, so the Huskers are better-balanced, not better.

If the Huskers win the national title, I'll put them right up there with 1970, '71 and '83.

But until they do, they're just a good football team with three games left to play.

However, when you start wondering if this defense is the best ever at Nebraska, you're jumping the gun. The Huskers would have to be quite the team to be better than the '71 defense.

That defense featured seven All-Big Eight players: Willie Harper at end, Larry Jacobson at tackle, Rich Glover at middle guard, Bob Terrio at linebacker and Jim Anderson, Bill Kosch and Joe Blahak in the backfield.

Only two opponents scored more than seven points on the Huskers — Oklahoma (31) and Kansas State (17).

The team posted three shutouts and held Alabama's previously-awesom wishbone attack to six points in the Orange Bowl.

Glover, Jacobson and Harper were consensus All-American choices.

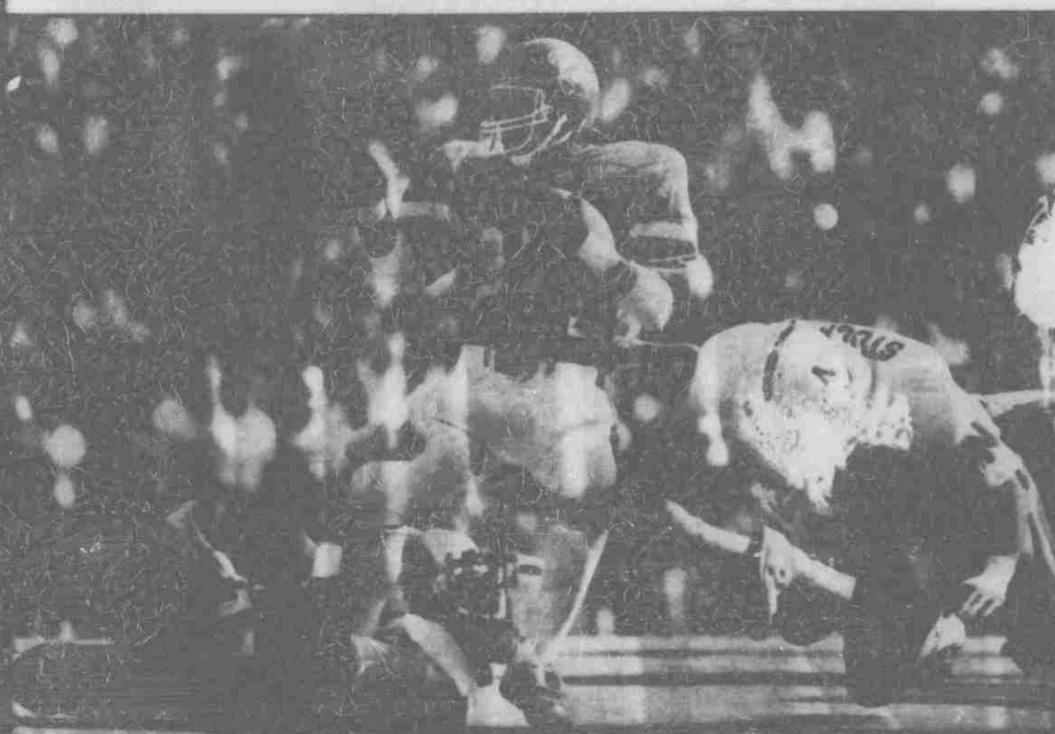
That's a tough act to follow. And, I'm not claiming that the 1971 team was definitely the best on defense in Nebraska history. NU has a tradition of excellence

Jim Rasmussen

That's not unusual. It happens every year the Huskers have a shot at the national championship, which is practically every year. People get excited, and begin to hang "best ever" labels on the team.

Well, let me take the role of Tom Osborne for a minute, and just say this: it's too early to start comparing the Huskers to the 1971 team, the 1983 team, or, for that matter, any other team in the Devaney-Osborne era. The Huskers are good, but not yet great.

Let the team go out and play. They're playing very well right now, and if they win three more ballgames, they could become national champions. But as of now, they're just a very good football team. Let's leave it at that, and enjoy it.



Daily Nebraskan File Photo

Nebraska's Bill Weber (87) and Eob Stuckey (75) gang up on a Jayhawk runner during the 1982 game in Lawrence.

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