

Sports

Husker spikers to meet 'improved' Panthers

By Ward W. Triplett III
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Nebraska and Pittsburgh will meet in a rematch Saturday in Lincoln in the first round of the NCAA women's volleyball tournament.

The Huskers, 27-3 and ranked seventh in the nation, beat Pittsburgh 12-15, 15-9, 15-10, 15-4 in the Tennessee Invitational in October.

"I think it (the rematch) will be an advantage for both teams," Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said. "Our biggest advantage is playing at home and not having to disrupt the class or practice schedule."

Both teams earned their way into the tournament through automatic bids from conference tournaments. The Huskers were 10-0 in the Big Eight, while Pittsburgh easily won the Big East conference. The Panthers finished the season at 30-7, with three of those losses coming in the Tennessee Invitational.

"They've really come on strong the last part of the year," Pettit said. "They're playing right at their best now."

For Pittsburgh, the chance to get in the NCAA is enough to

reward the eight-member team for a good season. Shelton Collier, the fifth year coach, said the honor of playing is enough for the Panthers.

"We are going there with the idea of winning," Collier said. "But win or lose, it's going to be a quality experience for us."

Pittsburgh was 11-1 and well on their way to the conference title when they came to the Tennessee Invitational. The competition there in the form of top 20 teams Nebraska and Texas and the host was a little too steep for the squad. They dropped all three matches and won only two sets.

"It was only the second serious competition we had seen all year," Collier said. "We had been playing teams in the East that were really pretty easy to beat."

"But those losses motivated us for the rest of the season. We saw what we had to do. It's helped us a lot."

Pittsburgh won 12 out of their last 13 matches, including a three-set sweep over Penn State just after that team took three straight from another NCAA qualifier, Western Michigan.

The Panthers are smaller than most of the Big Eight teams, with the tallest player only 5-10. They

play a 5-1 offense, as opposed to the two-setter 6-2 offense Pettit runs. The best Pittsburgh players are a pair of seniors whom both coaches had praise for. Cathy Rupp, a 5-8 setter from Archbold,

Ohio, may have been "the strongest server we saw all year," Pettit said, noting a "vicious top spin set from the backcourt."

"Our strength is in our serving, and Cathy's the reason for that," Collier said.

The other Panther standout is 5-10 middle blocker Diana Kohutiak, one of two Pitt players from Mississauga, Ontario. Kohutiak was the Most Valuable Player in four tournaments this season.

"She's probably the best spiker in this half of the country," Collier said. "What makes it so amazing is that other teams know that and double team her, but she's still managed to hit for a high percentage."

Missouri found out the hard way about the Pitt stars. In a four-set victory, Kohutiak had 40 kills and Rupp, 80 assists. The most kills any Nebraska player has gotten in a single match is 24.

Pittsburgh has been to the NCAA's twice before, finishing ninth in 1981 and losing in the first round of the 1982 tournament to California Polytechnic at San Luis Obispo. They were the Big East favorites last season but were upset by Providence in the conference tournament.

The prospect of playing Nebras-

ka again doesn't bother Collier, especially with the upsurge in recent weeks.

"As a result of playing Nebraska before, we're a little more confident we could beat them, as opposed to a team we've only heard about," he said.

"That (Tennessee tournament) was very early in the season. We're playing much better now. There's no mystery about Nebraska. We know we're capable of beating them."

The Huskers are making their third trip to the NCAA's. In 1982, Nebraska beat Penn State at home then lost to Purdue in West Lafayette. The Huskers lost a first round game at Western Michigan last season.

Should Nebraska win, the Huskers could also host the second round, which would send the winner of two consecutive matches to the final four in Los Angeles, Calif. The other midwestern games include Western Michigan (25-7) against Illinois State (36-5), the winner of which will play the winner of the Nebraska-Pitt match. Fourth-ranked Pacific, 28-7, has a bye in the other bracket, and will await the winner of the Penn State (29-5)-Northwestern (17-9) match in the second round.

Huskers need fans

The Nebraska-Pittsburgh NCAA volleyball match will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday at the UNL Coliseum. Admission will be \$3 for students and \$4 for adults.

Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers will need about 2,000 fans in order to get a home court advantage for the second round. The NCAA tends to place the tournament at the site where attendance has been the best, evidenced by the fact that 12th-ranked Illinois State will play its first round game at Western Michigan, unranked this season but averaging more than 4,500 fans a game.

"This is like a bowl game for us," Pettit said. "If you can spend \$25 to go to New Orleans, you can spend \$3 to see some of the greatest athletes Nebraska has ever had play volleyball match."

Husker cagers crush Canadian Club

By Mike Reilley
and Stu Pospisil

Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporters

Windsor's Canadian Club went down smoother than any liquor for Nebraska Monday night.

The Huskers men's basketball team tuned up for its regular season opener Thursday against Southern Colorado with a 117-49 crushing of the Windsor Basketball Club.

The Husker points set a Bob Devaney Sports Center record, surpassing the 113 Nebraska scored against Augustana in the 1983-84 season opener.

Nebraska jumped out to a quick 13-4 lead on a jumper by center Dave Hoppen.

Junior college transfer Harvey Marshall made a successful debut, scoring 14 of his game high 20 points in the first half.

An alley-oop slam dunk by Curtis Moore with 6:24 remaining in the half pushed the Husker lead to 37-21.

"Curtis Moore played awfully well," NU head coach Moe Iba said. "He went out there and played really hard and got a side cramp."

Moore also drew praise from Windsor coach Bob Hanson.

"He really gets up there when he shoots," Hanson said of Moore. "And not only does he get up, but he really hits those boards hard."

Moore finished with 14 points and a game high of 9 rebounds.

Nebraska went into the locker room with a 51-26 lead and outscored Windsor 43-14 in the first 14 minutes of the second half.

Mike Martz's tip-in with 4:08 remaining brought the Huskers to the century mark, 100-41.

Hanson said he was impressed with the offensive onslaught.

"They run their offense well," Hanson said. "They should do well this season. We've played down in Oklahoma City and a few other places and we should have won all those games. We knew coming in here there was no chance."

The crowd also played a role in the win.

"This is an excellent crowd," Hanson said. "There's 20 points right there. They even affected

the officials. They were getting caught up in the running game."

With 1:40 remaining, a cry of "We want a runza," echoed throughout the Bob Devaney Sports Center from some hungry Husker fans in the crowd of 7,547.

They were referring to a promotional offer from the Runza Huts of Lincoln, which give away free runzas to ticket holders if the

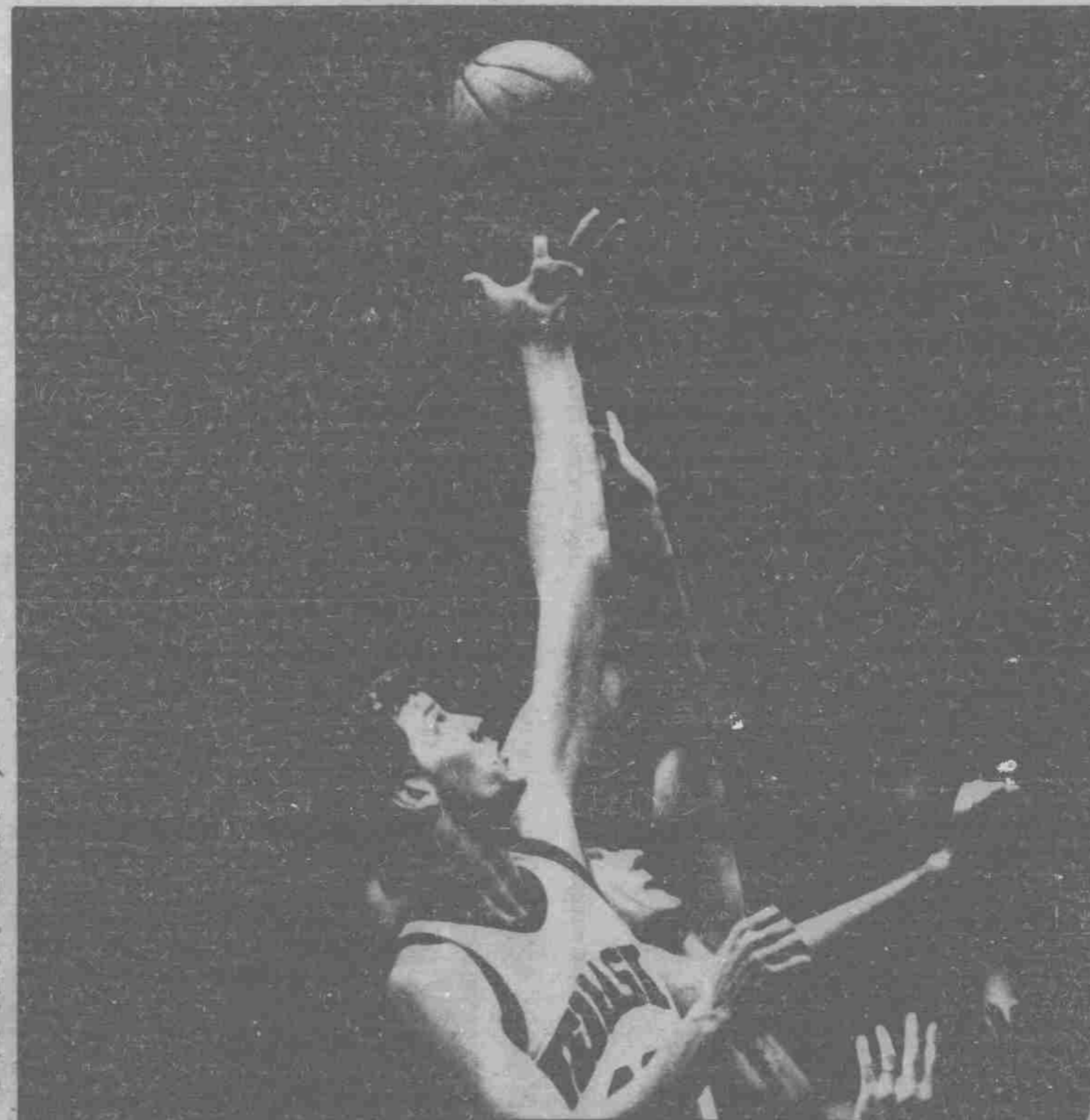
Huskers hold their opponent to under 60 points.

Windsor's Steve Hebold sank two free throws for his team's 48th and 49th points with 1:48 left.

Nebraska's defense blocked two shots and recovered three turnovers as the Huskers scored the game's final 10 points.

"I thought the crowd was hungry for points," said Nebraska forward Bill Jackman, who scored eight points in his Husker debut. The transfer from Duke missed his first five shots, then finished the night with a slam-dunk.

Jackman paused for a moment in the locker room, and said, "I guess they were hungry fans, weren't they?"



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska center Dave Hoppen and the rest of the Husker basketball team tipped off their 1984-85 season Monday night in the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Nebraska won handily against Windsor Basketball Club with a score of 117 to 49.

UNL squad wins tourney

The Gators will be in the Sugar Bowl after all.

Not the Florida species, but the women's champion flag football team from UNL. The Gators, captained by Mary Pritchard, shut out three teams on their way to the Midwest Regional Championship in Omaha over Thanksgiving vacation.

The tournament championship earned the Gators a trip to the national flag football championships in New Orleans, La., December 28-31. The winner of the tournament will play the runner-up in a exhibition at half time of the Sugar Bowl game between Nebraska and Auburn or Louisiana State.

Cathy Seybold was named most valuable player in the tournament for the second year. Seybold played with the Smith Ten Independent team last year, which also qualified for the New Orleans trip. Robin Scherer, Mary Pritchard, Mary Maloney and Linda Alderson also were named to the tournament team.

Tickets available for Sugar Bowl

Full-time students may buy Sugar Bowl tickets at the Athletic Ticket Office (117 South Stadium) on December 3, 4 and 5. The student allotment will be divided equally all three days, and will be sold from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day or until the day's allotment is exhausted.

Each qualified student may buy one ticket — two if married. Current, full-time ID's will be required of all students and marriage certificate (or certified copy) of married students. Groups will be limited to six seats. Students wishing to sit together as a group must all be present at time of purchase.

The price is \$25 per ticket. Each student's personal check should be made payable to the University of Nebraska and show a Lincoln address. Cash payment must be in proper amount.