

Sports

Broncos out to quiet Huskers

By Mike George
Daily Nebraskan Staff Reporter

Note: This is the last of a three part series on Nebraska's volleyball opponents in the Mideast Regional.

Western Michigan volleyball coach Rod Buck knows a dangerous situation when he sees it.

The Broncos, 26-7, are hosting the Mideast Regional in Kalamazoo, Mich., this weekend, and that's an advantage. Not only does the favorite, Pacific, have to travel across the country to get there, the Broncos can count on at least 4,000 people to show up and cheer them on.

But then there's the bad news. Pacific murdered the California competition that defeated the Broncos this season. Another team, Penn State, whipped the Broncos in three straight at friendly Read Fieldhouse. Then the third team, Nebraska, the Broncos' Saturday opponent, are bigger and stronger and looking for revenge.

Western Michigan drew an NCAA record crowd of over 8,000 to its 1983 NCAA first-round victory over the Huskers. Nebraska didn't have a full week to prepare for that match like they did this year. They also didn't know exactly what to expect from their opponents. They do now. Plus, Buck's team is younger than last year and the seniors who hurt Nebraska so much last season are gone.

"We are young and still learning, but we won't have time to grow up before Satur-

day," Buck said. "But we'd better be ready to play because I know Nebraska will. This will be a dog fight until the end."

Buck's team didn't rest on its 1983 laurels. Buck toughened a previously all-Eastern schedule with a trip to the West Coast, an adventure that gave the Broncos three of their seven losses. It did help his nine-member squad mature.

"It's been a different season than last year," he said. "This year we have a very young team. It's almost like a whole new generation. We don't have a lot of maturity on this team, but we're developing it."

All-American Jacki Backus, the first national-caliber player at the school of 19,000, graduated. But Sarah Powers, a 6-1 middle blocker and Heather Sawyer, a 5-9 setter, both returned to anchor the Western Michigan squad.

Powers leads the team in hitting with a .341 percentage, while Sawyer has more than 1,100 assists.

"We're a fairly good team offensively," Buck said. "We're really strong at attacking, but we've had some problems with our serving. It's basically just a confidence problem."

The large crowds at Western Michigan tend to help that confidence, Buck said. That may be a factor in Saturday's match.

More than 1,500 \$5 tickets were sold the first day tickets were available in Kalamazoo.

If the crowd is taken out of the match, then Western will have to depend only on



Western Michigan Sports Information
Western Michigan's Heather Sawyer.

its ball handling and speed to win, Buck said. "Nebraska is bigger than us overall," he said.

The match will begin at 5 p.m. central time. The winner will meet the winner of the Penn State-Pacific match at 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Comparing NU and WMU:

Nebraska and Western Michigan had six common opponents this season, Loyola Marymount, Pepperdine, Purdue, Northwestern, Ohio State and Missouri.

Opponents	Nebraska	W. Mich.
Loyola Marymount	W-sweep	L-swept
Pepperdine	W-3/2	L-swept
Purdue	W-sweep	W-3/2 & L-2/3
Northwestern	W-sweep	W-3/1
Ohio State	W-sweep	W-sweep
Missouri	W-3/1, 3/1 & sweep	W-sweep

Record vs. NCAA Tourney Teams
7-3 4-5

Comparing the statistics on this season (per game averages):

Opponents	NU (106-games)	WMU (108-games)
Kills/game	14.74	14.21
Hitting Effic.	.320	.291
Service aces/game	2.45	2.04
Solo Blocks/game	1.17	0.81
Blocking Asts./game	3.93	3.45
Total Blocks/game	5.10	4.26
Digs/game	11.92	15.17

Cagers to compete for bragging rights

'Goliaths,' Moores to settle area feud

By Kevin Warneke
Daily Nebraskan Senior Editor

Creighton University Assistant coach George Morrow figures it's time. He says his players feel the same.

Nebraska coach Moe Iba isn't so sure.

Creighton's men's basketball team has not beaten the Huskers since 1980. Morrow said it's time for a win.

In Creighton's 1980 victory over the Huskers, Morrow was a member of the Bluejay squad.

"I'm the last to taste victory," he said.

Now, he said, he wants his players to be part of a Creighton victory over Nebraska Saturday in Omaha.

Practices have been going well, he said, and the players seem to want a victory.

"Vernon Moore (Creighton's guard) is a senior," he said, "and he wants to win."

But Iba said he isn't about to get caught up in the law of averages.

"If we're the better team, we'll win," he said.

The contest has been touted as a rematch between the big men: Nebraska's Dave Hoppen and Creighton's Benoit Benjamin. Both coaches said the game could be won by other factors.

In the battle of the "seven-foot Goliaths," Morrow said, "it's a great possibility" that they will neutralize each other. But one could get fired up and dominate the other."

Hoppen and Benjamin carry the bulk of their teams scoring load. Both average more than 20 points a game. In their three matchups, Hoppen has outscored his rival 61-44, including a 27-10 thrashing in Lincoln last year. Benjamin experienced early foul trouble in that game.

Both teams have a sidkick to their high-scoring centers. Creighton's Vernon Moore currently is matching Benjamin's scoring average, while Nebraska's Curtis Moore is tallying 17 points a game.

Morrow said he isn't sure who will guard Curtis Moore, but if he gets hot, Creighton could be in trouble.

Iba said guard Brian Carr will guard Vernon Moore first, but all Nebraska guards will get their turn.

Both coaches echoed the importance of a victory, which earns bragging rights for basketball supremacy in Nebraska.

"It's a very important game," Iba said.



David Cramer/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska Coach Kelly Hill makes a point.

Women's records may deceive fans

By Jim Rasmussen
Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

The Creighton women's basketball team has won six of seven games heading into Saturday's matchup with Nebraska, while the Cornhuskers have won only one of four.

Records would seem to indicate Creighton should win, but the opposing coaches say records may be deceiving in this case.

"We're not as good as our record indicates," said Lady Jay Coach Bruce Rasmussen. "We've played well when we needed to, and we've gotten away with playing poorly at times."

Rasmussen said Nebraska's tough schedule has a lot to do with the Huskers' 1-4 mark. Nebraska went 0-2 at the Dial Classic in Minneapolis last weekend, losing to Minnesota and nationally-ranked Tennessee.

"Actually, we match up pretty well with Creighton, Husker Coach Kelly Hill said. "They don't have a dominating center, and neither do we. I think we have more quickness and speed with our perimeter players."

Nebraska will try to take advantage of its speed, Hill said, applying lots of pressure on defense and running with the ball on offense.

Hill said Nebraska will have to stop Creighton star Connie Yori to be successful.

"She's a tremendous player," Hill said. "We're going to have to keep her under 20 points or we could be in for a long night."

Yori is averaging 18.6 points per game, but has been bothered by a foot injury. The 5-10 junior may see limited action against Nebraska Rasmussen said, depending on how the foot holds up.

"It's bothering her quite a bit," he said. "One day she can go on it, and the next day she can't. We're planning on playing her, but you just don't know."

Nebraska is having injury problems of its own. Freshman guard Maurice Ivy will likely miss the game with a pulled thigh muscle. Starting guard Stacy Imming will play, but may not be at full speed. Imming is suffering from a painful wisdom tooth that has prevented her from eating solid food this week.

"She's been drinking a lot of shakes," Hill said.

Despite the injuries, both coaches said they expect an intense basketball game.

Every game is important to us because we don't have a great tradition in women's basketball," Rasmussen said. "But because Nebraska is the other big in-state school, and we recruit the same area and get publicity in the same area, this is definitely a big game for us."

Rasmussen said he's been pleased with his team's start this season. The Lady Jays won their first six games before bowing to Kansas, 68-67, at Lawrence Tuesday night.

Continued on Page 10