

Sports

Final Big 8 home game for three

By Rich Cooper
Staff Reporter

Nebraska volleyball fans have one last opportunity to catch seniors Tisha Delaney, Enid Schonewise and Karen Dahlgren in Big Eight conference action tonight against Iowa State at 7:30 p.m. at the Coliseum.

"If I were a Nebraska fan I would want to see these athletes play," Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said. "They are superior athletes. I would say that the three athletes compare favorably with some of Nebraska's greatest athletes, Jim Hartung, Phil Cahoy and Johnny Rodgers. It would really be a shame if Nebraska fans missed their last Big Eight game."

The Cornhuskers, ranked No. 9 in the NCAA coaches' rankings, are 20-4 for the season and 9-0 in the Big Eight. They lead the nation in hitting with a .367 average.

Against Iowa State the Huskers own a 23-0 series record. On Oct. 8 in Ames, the Huskers defeated the Cyclones in



Pettit

three games, 15-3, 15-7, 15-12. Dahlgren had 13 kills and Schonewise had 10 kills.

Pettit said he will want the team to

play with more intensity this time because of the upcoming post-season play.

"I think the team will play well. This is the last conference match for them, and for the seniors it will mean something special."

The Cyclones are coming off a five-game victory over Kansas to put them in position for the second seed in the Big Eight Tournament. They are led by junior middle blocker Linda Evan; she is averaging 3.27 kills per game and is second in the conference in service aces with a .575 percentage.

The Huskers will have to control the tempo if they are to have an easy time with the Cyclones, Pettit said. Against Big Eight opponents the Huskers are hitting .393 while allowing their opponents to hit only 1.20.

After Iowa State, Pettit said, the team will prepare for the most important part of its season, the Big Eight Conference Championships on Nov. 21 through 23 and the first round of the NCAA tournament on Dec. 5 through 6.

Houston dominates NBA Midwest

Analysis by Rob White
Staff Reporter

The Los Angeles Lakers were head and shoulders above the National Basketball Association's Western Conference for the first half of the 1980s. Now, the head-and-shoulders-above tag goes to the Midwest Division's Houston Rockets — literally.

Center Akeem Olajuwon, forward-center Ralph Sampson, and backup forward-center Jim Peterson form a tough inside game that the Rockets wide-open Western opponents can't handle. Olajuwon is clearly the best post man in the NBA, and Sampson probably would be the second best if he didn't enjoy playing on the corner so much. Now Dave Feitl has joined the Rockets' front line, and the 6-10 rookie from Texas-El Paso is expected to turn into another Peterson-type player.

Rodney McCray is one of the most versatile small forwards you can find, and he will be backed up by first-round draft choice Buck Johnson. Many expected the Rockets to grab a point guard like Scott Skiles, Mark Price or Steve Mitchell on draft day to fill what seemed like the team's only hole. Instead they took Johnson, who could really develop into a solid player.

The point-guard position is in the incapable hands of Allan Leavell, a guy who couldn't buy an open jump-shot to save his life and whose deficit ball-handling is incredible. He plays pretty decent defense, but he just gets out of control on the offensive end. The Rockets are blessed with a number of slashing, driving point guards that can, at times, be unreal. Robert Reid, Mitchell Wiggins, Lewis Lloyd and Steve Harris rotate in and out of Coach Bill Fitch's doghouse, and their playing time varies accordingly. Wiggins will

probably start, based on his offensive skills. Reid is the Rockets' only consistent outside shooter, Lloyd is too hot or cold for Fitch's liking, and Harris was brought along too slowly as a rookie last year. Long-range shooting rookie Conner Henry may stick with the club.

Dallas has seemed to be on the brink of challenging for the Midwest title for the past few years, but now, even though they have improved, they just aren't as close as they were a year ago — before Houston took the West by the throat.

If first-round draft choice Roy Tarpley develops at center, the Mavericks could really be on to something, but right now Tarpley is more suited to power forward. That leaves the post to veteran James Donaldson and second-year men Uwe Blab and Bill Wennington. Mark Aguirre and Sam Perkins are solid at the starting forward spots and depth is provided by Detlef Schrempf. Jay Vincent and Dale Ellis are gone from the Mavs' forward rotation, but it may be a case of addition by subtraction after the struggle for shots that took place among the small forward trio which included Aguirre.

Al Wood is the off guard who came over from Seattle in the Dale Ellis trade, and although he has never become the star he was expected to be, he does provide solid depth behind Rolando Blackman, the conference's best at his position. Derek Harper has taken over for Brad Davis at the point, and both are quality players.

Denver is the preseason choice for third, but if power forward Calvin Natt doesn't return from injury by January, the Nuggets could plummet all the way to the Midwest basement.

With Natt gone, rookie Mark Alarie moves into the starting lineup along-

side high-scoring Alex English as the Nuggets try to once again overachieve and stay afloat in the race. Centers Wayne Cooper and Danny Schayes just aren't that formidable, and second-year man Blair Rasmussen will probably see even more time at the forward spot now that Natt is out, so the middle could be a problem.

Rookie Maurice Martin gives them what T.R. Dunn has never been able to — an offensive game almost as good as his defense. Fat Lever is the point man, with ex-New York Knick Darrell Walker backing things up at either guard slot. Bill Hanzlik, at 6-7, can and probably will play all five positions.

Utah unloaded Adrian Dantley on the Detroit Pistons and actually wound end up with two players who can help them in exchange. Gunner Kelly Trippucka can score and veteran frontcourt player Kent Benson can contribute to this team. The guard corps is solid with Darrell Griffith, Rickey Green, John Stockton and rookie Dell Curry — they could be the best in the league. Karl Malone and Thurl Bailey are quality frontline men.

Sacramento should have a decent season, no doubt inspired by the raucous home crowd at the Arco Arena.

The Kings' frontline boasts the maturing Otis Thorpe, defensive ironman Terry Tyler and high-scoring Eddie Johnson. LaSalle Thompson and Joe Kleine are a better-than-average combination at center.

San Antonio is a team that, if it plays up to its potential, could be a surprise in the Midwest. Rookie Johnny Dawkins, Alvin Robertson and Johnny Moore form a guard trio that can play pressure defense the entire length of the floor and can make things happen offensively as well. Robertson may be the most underrated player in the league.

The frontcourt is where the Spurs run into trouble, however. David Greenwood and Mike Mitchell are guys who are world-beaters one night and no-shows the next. Mychal Thompson was acquired from Portland and can play both power forward and center. The aging Artis Gilmore still brings his immobile presence to the middle, but the Spurs would be better off with Thompson there. Hard-working forward Tyrone Corbin is the only man that can be relied upon for a full effort every night up front.

Women's swim team opens season with wins

Early-season speculations by Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert turned into reality recently after the Cornhuskers defeated both Utah and Brigham Young.

Huppert said before entering both meets that if Nebraska swam to its capabilities the Cornhuskers had the potential to register easy victories.

The Huskers, 2-0, managed to do just that, defeating Utah 166-83 on Friday night and Brigham Young 151-102 on Saturday.

"I wasn't happy with our times against Utah, but we showed improvement against BYU," Huppert said both Laura Pratt

and freshman Carole Johnson turned in impressive performances in the dual meets.

While Pratt captured a first-place finish in the 200 freestyle, Johnson won the backstroke in a time of 1:00.9. Huppert said that time is just four-tenths of a second off of Johnson's personal best time in the backstroke.

"I definitely saw improvement in the team in those two meets," Huppert said. "We swam strong in the water."

Nebraska's next meet is Saturday afternoon, when the Huskers face No. 8 LSU. The meet begins at 1 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center pool.

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The Sweet 16		
Rank	Team	Pts.
1.	Miami	95
2.	Oklahoma	90
3.	Arizona State	82
4.	Nebraska	75
5.	Michigan	69
6.	Auburn	66
7.	Penn State	65
8.	Texas A&M	56
9.	Florida State	42
10.	Arizona	41
11.	LSU	38
12.	Ohio State	28
13.	Washington	26
14.	Stanford	18
15.	Alabama	15
16.	UCLA	7

Army, Navy pulling off flags

Though the Army-Navy Football Classic won't be played until Dec. 6, football fans can enjoy a taste of the rivalry Thursday when flag-football teams from the Nebraska Army and Navy ROTC programs square off.

The game will be played at Whittier Field at 22nd and Vine streets and will start at 3:30 p.m. Admission is free.