

Huskers to Iowa for Carousel Classic

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

Because the Nebraska volleyball team is young, coach Terry Pettit said he thinks the Cornhuskers will perform better on the road than at home.

That fact will be helpful Friday and Saturday when the Huskers travel to Iowa City, Iowa, to play in the Carousel Classic. Joining Nebraska in the tournament will be Iowa, Miami of Ohio and Oregon.

"Last year's team was more successful on the road than at home," Pettit said. "And I would suspect that we will perform well outside of Lincoln this year also. Usually, the younger you are, the better you play on the road."

Pettit said he feels confident about the Huskers' chances of winning the four-team tournament.

Nebraska will face Miami of Ohio at 6:30 p.m. Friday, and Iowa will play Oregon at 8:30 p.m. The consolation game will be at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, and finals are slated for 8:30 p.m.

"There's not a match that we will play this year where if we play hard we shouldn't be capable of winning," Pettit said. "We are a type of team that must work hard in order to be competitive with anyone. And I think we will be."

Pettit said the Huskers try to play in tournaments early in the season so they can compete in as many matches as possible. He said he was pleased with the quality of teams in the field.

"It should be really competitive," Pettit said. "Oregon is ranked ninth in one preseason poll, so for us to win the tournament, it would be a good accomplishment."

Miami assistant coach Jill Kohrs said the tournament should help the Redskins.

"By opening up with three good teams, it should help us get into the season and give us a lot of experience

going into conference games," Kohrs said.

The Redskins return two starters from last year's team that finished with a 27-8 record. Kohrs said Miami has come a long way since its first practice.

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— Stewart

"We are a relatively young team, but we are making progress and heading in the right direction," Kohrs said. "We will just go out and play good volleyball and hope we have a chance to win."

Iowa returns three starters from last year's 25-9 squad. Included on the Hawkeyes' roster is Ruth Spethman, a

Lincoln East graduate. Iowa coach Sandy Stewart said Spethman could play this weekend.

Stewart said she also was pleased with the tournament field.

"I'm so excited that Nebraska is coming, since they finished second in the nation last year," Stewart said. "It's going to be the best volleyball tournament the University of Iowa has ever had."

Stewart said she is glad the Hawkeyes can face teams like Nebraska and Oregon early in the year.

"Both Oregon and Nebraska will be real good tests," Stewart said. "It will tell us who are our competitors will be in pressure situations."

Despite having to face two teams that qualified for the NCAA volleyball tournament last year, Stewart said, she thinks the Hawkeyes can win the tournament.

"We always think that we can beat

anyone we play," Stewart said. "And if we can beat Nebraska, it would be a feather in our cap to win the tournament."

Stewart, who graduated from Nebraska in 1977, said she is glad to get to see Nebraska outside hitter Kathi DeBoer play. Stewart coached DeBoer when she attended Norris Junior High School.

"I was her coach when she was in

sixth, seventh and eighth grades," Stewart said. "I tried to recruit her, but she is a hometown gal and wanted to stay close to home."

Oregon returns all six starters from last year's 22-12 team. The Ducks finished fourth in the Pacific Ten Conference and 15th nationally.

Leading the Oregon attack will be right hitter Teri Kramer, who led the nation in kills last season with 703.



Pettit

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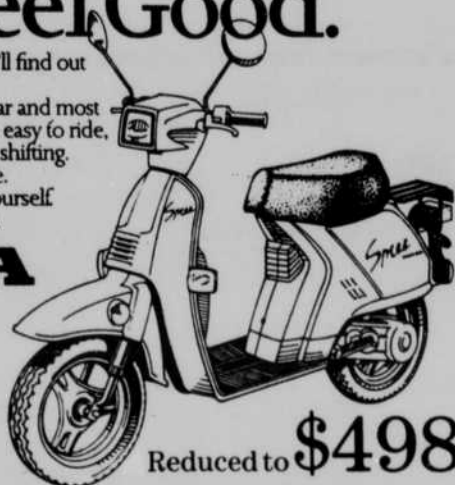
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