

Huskers win Nebraska Invitational

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter
and Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Illinois ended Nebraska's winning streak at 20 games, but couldn't stop the Cornhuskers from establishing their best start ever with a 13-0 match record.

Nebraska, ranked No. 6 in the latest American Volleyball Coaches Association Poll and No. 7 by the NCAA, defeated the Fighting Illini 15-10, 12-15, 16-14, 13-15, 15-8 to win the Gillette Dairy/Prairie Maid Nebraska Volleyball Invitational Saturday night before 667 fans at the Nebraska Coliseum.

The Huskers opened the tournament with a 15-13, 15-8, 15-3 victory over Loyola Marymount Friday night, then defeated Tennessee 15-3, 15-3, 15-1 Saturday morning.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said junior setter Lori Endicott, who was named the tournament's most valuable player, was one key reason the Huskers won.

"It's not the only reason we won, but Endicott, she just keeps you in there," Pettit said. "Even when our passing broke down, she made something out of it."

Endicott finished with 57 set assists and five ace serves against Illinois.

Nebraska players who joined Endicott on the all-tournament team were senior Kathi DeBoer, freshman Val Novak and junior Virginia Stahr.

Rounding out the team were Illinois' Nancy Brookhardt and Mary Eggers, and Loyola Marymount's Leslie Wohlford.

Novak, an outside hitter/setter from Oak Lawn, Ill., set personal bests against her home state's university with 15 kills, nine digs and a .556 hitting percentage.

Illinois coach Mike Hebert, who recruited Novak, said he was impressed with her tournament play.

"She's a super player and she had a great tournament," Hebert said.

Nebraska jumped out to a 7-2 lead in the first game against Illinois and never trailed on its way to the 15-10 victory.

In the second game, the Huskers again jumped out to an early lead, with an ace serve by Val Novak giving them a 6-0 lead.

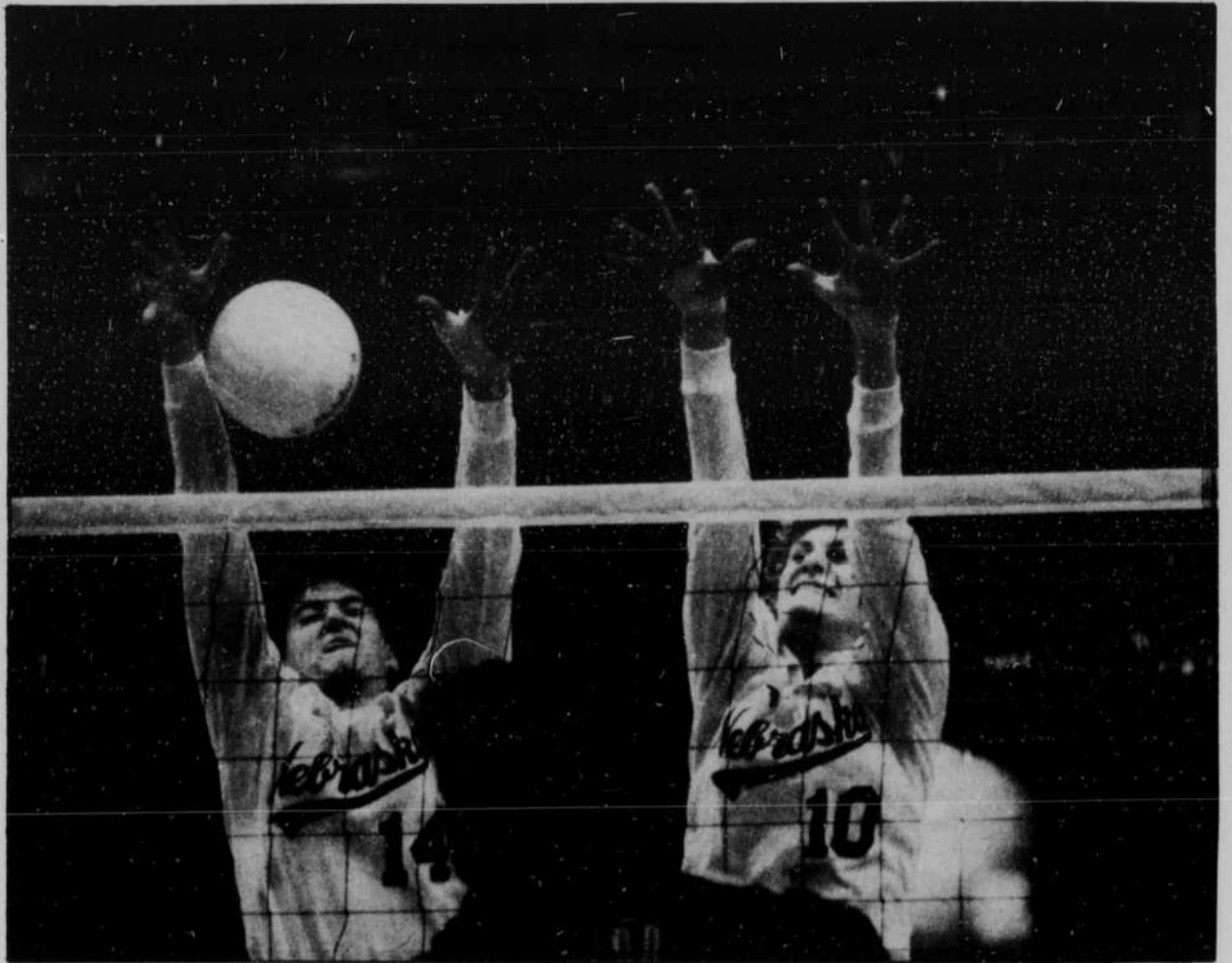
But Illinois, behind the serving of Brookhardt and Eggers, rallied to tie the game at 8-8 and 12-12, and then scored the game's last three points to win.

Illinois led 14-9 in the third game, but Nebraska reeled off seven unanswered points to win the game and take a 2-1 lead.

Pettit said sophomore DeLisa DeBolt made the "key block" in the third game when she stopped an Eggers spike attempt to give Nebraska a 15-14 lead.

In the decisive fifth game, the Huskers jumped out to a 10-2 lead and held on for the 15-8 victory.

"It was a very good victory for us," Pettit said. "We beat a very good team. We really stressed each other."



Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan

Virginia Stahr, left, and Kathi DeBoer block a spike during Saturday night's Gillette Dairy/Prairie Maid Nebraska Volleyball Invitational. Nebraska won the match 15-10, 12-15, 16-14, 13-15 and 15-8.

Volleyball coaches attribute success to different reasons

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

Two coaches went to work Saturday night, putting their talents on display before 667 fans at the Nebraska Coliseum.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit, the 1986 Collegiate Volleyball Coaches' Association Coach of the Year, and Illinois coach Mike Hebert, the 1985 CVCA Coach of the Year, have both received national coaching honors.

Pettit, who is now in his 11th season at Nebraska, has compiled a 336-89 record, including a team-best 13-0 start this season.

Hebert has compiled a 107-49 record during his five years of coaching at Illinois. His overall career record is 296-158.

Pettit said he attributes his success to his lengthy stay at Nebraska.

"There is a lot of stability and a lot of support people (at Nebraska), not just the athletic director, but other people, including the office secretary and custodial help," Pettit said. "You also establish a recruiting base. We have it now where if a Nebraskan is a good player, Nebraska is where she wants to play."

Pettit said he couldn't comment on the advantages some coaches create by changing coaching positions, because he has done so only once. Pettit coached at Louisburg Junior College in Louisburg, N.C., before coming to Nebraska in 1977.

"Some coaches travel to get a raise in salary or pay," Pettit said. "They also try to get things for their program, and if a school wants you bad enough, they will give it to you."

Hebert has coached at three schools in his 12-year career. The five years he has spent at Illinois represent the longest he has stayed at one college.


Hebert said he never planned to change coaching positions so frequently. He said he has no intentions of changing in the future.

"It takes a lot out of you to start from scratch," Hebert said. "I like our program now and our talent, which is our youth, for the next two to three years."

Besides being CVCA coaches of the year, Pettit and Hebert both have been or are active in the American Volleyball Coaches' Association. Pettit was a member of the AVCA Board of Directors from 1983 to 1986, and Hebert is now AVCA president.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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