

Sports

OU ends Husker volleyball streak at 61

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

SALINA, Kan. — Oklahoma handed Nebraska its second upset of the weekend Sunday when the Sooner volleyball team knocked off the Cornhuskers in four games in the finals of the Big Eight Championships.

In doing so, the Sooners earned their first volleyball championship in school history and ended Nebraska's 61-game winning streak in the conference. The Sooners defeated the Huskers 3-15, 15-13, 15-4, 15-6 at the Bicentennial Center to end Nebraska's streak of 11 straight conference crowns. The Sooners had not defeated Nebraska since Oct. 3, 1980.

Oklahoma coach Miles Pabst said he knew the Huskers' streak wouldn't continue.

"Their streak had to end sometime," Pabst said. "They couldn't continue to win and win. I knew we could play with them — this win will give the Big Eight a great deal more credibility."

The volleyball title was Oklahoma's second championship of the weekend. The Oklahoma football team upset top-ranked Nebraska 17-7 Saturday at Memorial Stadium to clinch its fourth straight conference title.

And Sooner fans didn't let the Nebraska volleyball team forget it.

They chanted "Just like yesterday" at the Huskers throughout the match.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he thought the Huskers lacked aggressiveness in the match.

"We played hard and aggressive the first game and part of the second, but we weren't real aggressive after that," Pettit said. "We were very tentative on our passing and setting."

Pettit said Nebraska already had a bid to the NCAA regionals and Oklahoma needed to win the Big Eight championship to get one. Oklahoma raised its overall record to 26-7 while Nebraska dropped to 27-4.

"We were already assured on an NCAA bid and Oklahoma, if they didn't win, (was) done for the year," Pettit said. "Sometimes that factor provides a motivational role."

"Oklahoma played real well," Pabst said he wanted to win and not leave the decision of going to the regional up to the selection committee.

"We knew we had to win," Pabst said. "We didn't want to leave the choice of going to the regionals to people voting out east who had never seen us play before. It would be great for the Big Eight if Nebraska and Oklahoma met for the regional championship."

Oklahoma senior Margaret Page had never beaten Nebraska. She said her first win against the Huskers didn't

feel any different than other victories. Page led the Sooners with 17 kills.

"We were just ready to play ball," Page said. "There was nothing to it. We just needed to play our game and Nebraska look rattled."

Nebraska senior Kathi DeBoer, who led the Huskers with 19 kills and was named the tournament's most valuable player, suffered her first loss to a Big Eight opponent.

"My first Big Eight loss had to come on my last Big Eight game," DeBoer said. "We didn't play well and we weren't organized. We didn't get in a rhythm all afternoon."

Nebraska setter Lori Endicott, named the Big Eight player of the year, contributed 46 set assists.

"Oklahoma just outplayed us," Endicott said. "We were sporadic at times and they played more consistent. We were running into people on the court, which shows disorganization."

In the first game, a block by middle blocker Carla Baker gave the Huskers a 4-0 lead. A kill by Trenell Carter and a Nebraska error made the score 4-2, but three kills by DeBoer gave the Huskers an 8-2 lead. The Huskers then outscored Oklahoma 7-1 to end the game.

In the second game, Oklahoma took a 1-0 lead on a missed set by Nebraska, but a kill by sophomore

Virginia Stahr tied the score. No team could build more than a three-point advantage after that. Two ace serves by Virginia Stahr gave Nebraska an 8-7 lead, but the Sooners used two kills by Page and two Husker errors to gain a 14-11 lead.

Nebraska cut the lead to 14-13, but an ace block by Debbie Carlson gave the Sooners a 15-13 win and tied the match at one game apiece.

"I thought we would win the second game," Pettit said. "I thought at some point in the game we would just come back and win it."

In the third game, Oklahoma built an 11-2 lead, but Nebraska used kills by Baker and Stahr to cut the lead to 11-4. Two blocks and a kill by the Sooners and a Nebraska net violation gave the Sooners a 15-4 win.

In the fourth game, the Sooners jumped out to a 5-0 lead, but Nebraska came back to cut the lead to 5-3. The Sooners increased their lead to 8-3, but two kills by Stahr and a block by Baker and DeBoer pulled the Huskers to 9-6. The Sooners scored the next six points — paced on three kills by Carlson and Page — for a 15-6 win.

Pabst said he was "numb" after the win.

"It was more satisfying to me to win this as a coach than as a player," Pabst said. "Page played one of her best matches, as well as Carlson and Susan

Jones.

"We had Nebraska running. We put pressure on them and they didn't know how to react. They seemed disorganized."

"We played great intensity-wise. The serving was a major let up in the match, and we passed well."

Page said Nebraska's streak of conference wins didn't matter.

"History doesn't account for much when you're playing," Page said. "There are only two teams on the court, and if we kept our concentration, we knew we would win."

"Nebraska is an excellent team, but we just played better."

Pettit said he thought his team's intensity slipped during the match.

"We are a very inexperienced team, and we've had to work hard all year," Pettit said. "When you've had to operate on all cylinders all year, it's very tough to keep that up."

"Tonight we were not operating on all cylinders, and they took advantage of it."

"We did nothing to control the tempo of the match," he said. "Oklahoma was a better team, but we should bounce back. Oklahoma did a nice job, and Miles has a good team."

DeBoer said Nebraska "got a little disorganized, and then the little things that usually don't show up starting showing up."

Husker named meet's 'outstanding wrestler'

By Steve Sipple
Staff Reporter

Nebraska junior Terry Cook won the 126-pound championship and six other Cornhuskers placed Saturday at the UNO Open in Omaha.

Team scoring wasn't kept at the

tournament, which attracted 420 wrestlers.

Nebraska wrestling coach Tim Neumann said he was pleased with the Huskers' performance.

"I really was," Neumann said. "I was pleased with the effort given. It was a tournament we didn't taper for

at all. We used this tournament strictly as a practice meet, and the kids did really well."

Cook, named the meet's outstanding wrestler, defeated Iowa State's Steve Knight 5-4 in the finals to raise his record to 12-1. Cook beat Oklahoma starter Perry Summit 12-6 in the

semifinals.

Neumann said Cook's championship victory over Knight was "a hell of a match."

"(Cook) took second last year in the tournament," Neumann said. "In the past he's done really well in the first semester and seems to slump in the second. We're working hard on making him a consistent wrestler."

"He wrestling better now than he ever has in college."

Two Huskers reached the finals but lost. Junior Jeff Colvet was defeated 6-5 by Northern Iowa's Chris Lembeck in the 158-pound division, and senior Mike Radnov lost 17-2 in the 220-pound competition to Mark Cody, who was wrestling "unattached" — not representing a college team.

Colvet, 10-1, pinned Oklahoma's Kenny Fisher in the semifinals. Fisher is rated eighth by Amateur Wrestling News.

Neumann said Colvet's match with Lembeck was difficult.

"It was a pretty damn close match,"

Neumann said. "Jeff got dropped on his head in the first period. He got in an upper-body tie-up and (Lembeck) dropped him on his head off the mat, and he was seeing stars after that."

Colvet won four of five matches Saturday to raise his record to 10-1.

Radnov defeated Iowa State's Eric Voelker in the semifinals and finished the tournament 3-1. Voelker won the 190-pound national championship last year. But he moved up to the 220-pound weight class for the UNO Open.

Neumann said Radnov and Voelker were tied 5-5 at the end of the match, but Radnov got the victory on a criteria decision because he scored two takedowns in the match to Voelker's one.

Junior Keenan Turner, ranked 11th in the nation, finished fourth after defaulting because of an injured ankle. He's now 12-1.

Sophomore Mark Passer, 126; redshirt freshman Dave Rowe, 134; and sophomore John Cory, 177; each finished sixth.

NU swimmers 'fight back' and win Husker Invite

By Jeff Apel
Senior Editor

Nebraska women's swimming coach Ray Huppert completed his final preparations for the Husker Invitational by defeating Brigham Young 136-132 Friday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Huppert said he was pleased with the dual meet's outcome because Nebraska trailed by 31 points after seven events. He said Brigham Young "ambushed" the Huskers by fractions of a second in every race.

"Everybody had their jaw to the ground," Huppert said. "We were flat."

But after a team meeting in the locker room, Huppert said, the Huskers recovered as divers Sherri Birmingham, Becki Clark and Stephanie Clennan swept both the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions to raise Nebraska's record to 3-0.

"It was the best come-from-behind win I've ever been associated with," Huppert said. "We were able to fight back, and we showed for a young team we were able to fight back."

Huppert said he isn't concerned about Nebraska's early troubles in the meet because the Huskers will spend the next two weeks tapering and working on technical things in preparation for the Husker Invitational. Tapering is a process in which swimmers rest and shave in an attempt to reduce their times.

The Husker Invitational, which includes such teams as Arizona State, Missouri, Kansas, North Dakota, Wyoming, Air Force and Colorado State, will be Dec. 4-6 at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Huppert said Nebraska is looking forward to the meet.

"This is what the athletes have been working for," Huppert said. "They're definitely looking forward to it."

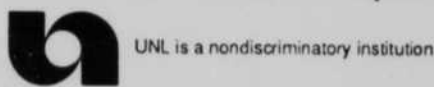
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