

# Sports

## NU overcomes sloppiness, Creighton

By Mike Kluck  
and  
Kyle Schurman  
Staff Reporters

After a sloppy first half, the Nebraska women's basketball team cleaned up its act and rallied to defeat Creighton 75-62 Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Center.

The Cornhuskers, now 6-0, com-

mitted 15 turnovers and shot 37.5 percent from the field in the first half.

However, the Lady Jays could not take advantage of the Husker mistakes. Creighton, 2-4, committed 14 turnovers and shot 39.3 percent in the first half.

"It was very, very sloppy," Nebraska coach Angela Beck said. "I was kind of embarrassed about it. I

thought it wasn't a very well-played basketball game for the fans."

Creighton coach Bruce Rasmussen agreed with Beck.

"It wasn't a super first half," Rasmussen said. "The way both teams played the first half might have set basketball back a ways."

The Huskers broke the game open in the second half with a 16-0 run in a

four-minute span. Nebraska turned a 37-36 deficit into a 52-37 lead.

Beck said Husker forward Heather Smith was one key to the Nebraska run. Smith tied for game-high scoring honors with Creighton forward Pan Gradoville with 21 points.

Beck said the other keys for Nebraska were its patience and its transition game in the second half.

"I think what we finally did was we were a little bit more patient," Beck said. "We couldn't get past one pass or two passes without trying to shoot it. We just were overanxious. We weren't fluid. We just didn't have a cohesive half-court game."

"In the second half when we

See HUSKERS on 7

## Volleyball regionals to be balanced, not rivalrous

By Mike Kluck  
Staff Reporter

When the NCAA Midwest Regional Volleyball Tournament begins Thursday in Champaign, Ill., it will be the most balanced tournament in recent years, according to participating coaches.

Nebraska will face Purdue in the tournament's first round at 6 p.m. Thursday, followed by Illinois against Western Michigan at 8 p.m. The winners of those matches will play Friday at 8 p.m., with the winner earning a birth in the NCAA Final Four in Indianapolis Dec. 17-20.

Illinois coach Mike Hebert said the regional is the most balanced tournament he has seen in his five years with the Fighting Illini.

"I would say that it is the most even Regional Championship that I've ever seen," Hebert said. "On paper it should be Illinois and Nebraska in the final. But if Purdue plays as well as they did when they beat us, they will give Nebraska a lot of trouble, and Western Michigan is a very tough team."

Illinois lost to Purdue on Nov. 25 in five sets, but defeated the Boilermakers on Sept. 23.

Hebert, Purdue coach Carol Dewey and Western Michigan coach Rob Buck said they have to eliminate the mistakes their teams made during losses to Nebraska earlier this year. The Cornhuskers defeated Illinois in five sets on Sept. 26. Purdue lost to Nebraska in three sets on Sept. 18, and the Huskers defeated Western Michigan in five sets on Oct. 24.

Dewey said Nebraska will see a different Purdue team than the Huskers saw in September.

"We are a pretty different team since early September," Dewey said. "I'm happy we get to play Nebraska again, because we didn't perform well the first time. Nebraska did a better job of executing their game plan than we did."

Purdue features two All-Big Ten performers: Linda Reichl and Debbie McDonald. Reichl leads the Boilermakers in kills with 504, and McDonald is the team leader in hitting with a .330 percentage.

Dewey said setter Darcy Orin has also played a key role in Purdue's 24-13 season this year.

"Our setter has made a big difference," Dewey said. "She has become more mature in her court composure, and her skill of setting the ball has been better."

Dewey said the Boilermakers have to face Nebraska without middle blocker Barb Meeker, who injured her knee earlier this year. Meeker, who was leading the Big Ten in blocks with 103 before her injury, will be replaced by freshman Amber Douglas.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers will need to play well to defeat Purdue.

"We need to serve tough and play good defense," Pettit said.

Buck said Western Michigan will face a difficult task if it has to face Nebraska in the championship game.

"The only thing I'm concerned about is Nebraska has to play Purdue," Buck said. "Purdue is a good team. They're not a great team, but they're a good team. Nebraska is going to have some pressure put on them."

Buck said his Broncos will also have a tough time defeating Illinois.

"I think Illinois is a patient team, and I think they are an experienced team," Buck said. "I think Coach Hebert has done an outstanding job of putting the players in tactical movements. He does a real nice job."

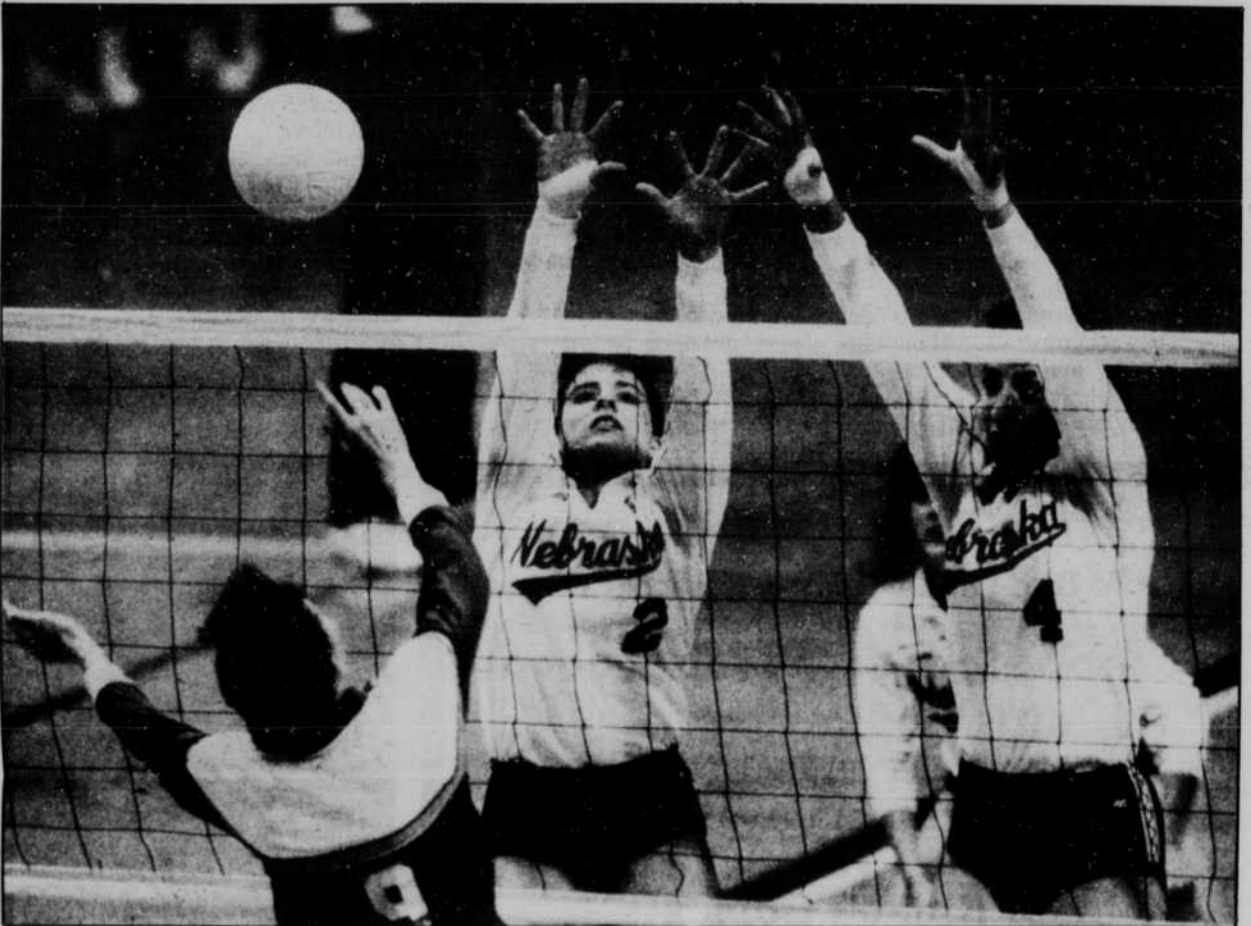
Buck said Western Michigan's team also has changed since it played the Huskers in October.

"When we played at Nebraska we had no variance in our offensive system," Buck said. "It was predictable, but since that time we've changed some starters and we've added some offensive variations to our selections. It has given a little more confidence to our kids."

Western Michigan is led by Lise Martin, who was this season's Mid America Conference player of the year. Martin has broken Bronco records in kills with 510 and digs with 386.

Setter Andrea Pedrick and middle blocker Gail Church also earned all-conference honors this season. Pedrick needs five assists to break the school career record of 1,245, and Church is the Broncos' leading blocker with 118.

Buck said he feels good about his team because Western Michigan has



Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Lori Endicott and Carla Baker attempt a block against Northern Iowa.

reeled off 14 straight wins since suffering back-to-back losses to Illinois and Nebraska.

"We've won the last 14 matches since we lost in a little city called Lincoln," Buck said. "We're playing very well right now, but playing in Illinois is a very good environment."

Buck said Illinois is the team to beat in the tournament.

But Hebert said the environment of the Champaign-based campus may favor the opposing team.

"We have traditionally had a good following by our fans, and they have been loud and supported," Hebert said. "The environment really fires our team up, but sometimes it fires both teams up."

Buck said although the home-court advantage should help the Fighting Illini, it may also work to Western Michigan's advantage.

"Illinois's home-court advantage

will play a key role," Buck said. "I think it gives them a little different perspective. On the other side of it, it might tick Nebraska off."

Pettit said the home-court advantage won't be much of a factor.

"I think since we play Purdue on that court Thursday night the home court won't be much of a factor," Pettit said.

Hebert, who is 0-3 against Nebraska, said he looks forward to the opportunity.

Illinois will be led by middle blockers Mary Eggers and Nancy Brookhart. Eggers, the leading hitter in the nation, is hitting .447, and Brookhart is hitting .390.

"I feel Mary Eggers and Nancy Brookhart are the strongest middle attack combination in the country," Hebert said. "Mary won the hitting percentage across the nation, and Nancy has to be fifth or sixth in the

nation. She has gained maturity beyond her years as a college player."

Hebert said the Fighting Illini will have to eliminate the errors they committed against Nebraska earlier this year succeed against the Huskers this time.

"We will have to eliminate the high number of errors we committed in our first match against Nebraska," Hebert said.

Hebert said Illinois will not be playing with a revenge motive against Nebraska. He said he doesn't feel the Nebraska-Illinois matchup is a rivalry.

"We have a healthy respect for Terry and his team," Hebert said. "For our matches to be a rivalry, I think we need to win a match. If we won a match and our series became one where you didn't know who would win the game, then it could be considered a rivalry."

## Women's basketball team chooses new ways to recruit

By Kyle Schurman  
Staff Reporter

New recruiting techniques instituted by second-year coach Angela Beck helped the Nebraska women's basketball team gain 12 players.

Nebraska's current team has seven new players, and Beck has signed five recruits during this year's early signing period.

Nebraska junior Amy Stephens said the main difference between former Cornhusker women's basketball coach Kelly Hill and Beck is the time, effort and emphasis Beck puts into recruiting.



Harris

"The coaching staff now puts in more time, and the quality of athletes we get is much better," Stephens said. "It's a top priority now, and she definitely has done a great job."

Beck said she uses many different people when signing a recruit. She said she used a similar system when she coached at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., from 1983-86.

"Where I've been before I've used staff, players and faculty in recruiting," Beck said. "It takes a lot of people to seal up a recruit."

Beck said assistant coach Steve High sets up meetings for top recruits with major administrators. She said athletic director Bob Devaney and University of Nebraska-Lincoln chancellor Martin Massengale have helped recruit players.

She said Massengale wrote a letter to one recruit, which persuaded her to

come to Nebraska.

"I think he has helped us with our recruiting tremendously," Beck said.

Beck said she also likes to use a "bump-and-run-system" with recruits. In the bump-and-run, the coaching staff finds out a recruit's itinerary when she visits.

While a recruit meets with an academic adviser, Husker team members wait outside the building and "bump" into the recruit after her meeting.

"With this technique the campus doesn't seem like it's so big after all," Beck said. "The recruits get to meet players on campus in a situation that's not so formal."

Stephens said Beck does a good job of motivating each team member to recruit. Stephens said recruiting is the responsibility of each player.

"It's a role that each team member

has to take on when a recruit comes to campus," Stephens said.

Beck gave Stephens and junior Kim Harris awards at the end of last year for being Nebraska's top recruiters.

Harris said getting the award was great, but she had a lot of help from her teammates.

"Recruiting is challenging and it takes up a lot of your time," Harris said. "It makes you feel good when the player signs, though."

Beck said recruiting is time-consuming and stressful for players, but it has to be done.

"It's part of your job of being a Husker basketball player," Beck said. "Everybody had a hand in recruiting somehow, somehow, this year."

Stephens said it is important for the entire team to recruit together because recruits need to meet every-

body to feel at ease.

Freshman Kelly Hubert agreed that meeting everyone is important. She said recruiting is also a lot of fun.

"You can tell people what you like about the school," Hubert said. "You can help them with questions because you've already been through what they're going through."

Beck said she tries to keep younger players with the recruits because they can relate to each other better.

"The freshmen are easier to relate to for recruits," Beck said. "They're closer in age, and they've also just made the transition."

Beck said she wants to change the attitude Nebraska women's basketball has about recruiting.

"We want to take Nebraska from a school which hasn't recruited very well to one that does," Beck said.