

Sports

Frosh Novak leads Huskers past Purdue

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Before the start of Thursday's game, Purdue volleyball coach Carol Dewey said she felt the Boilmakers had improved since suffering a three-set loss to Nebraska in September.

But during the first round of the Midwest Regional Semifinal at the University of Illinois' Kenny Gymnasium, nothing changed as Nebraska defeated the Boilmakers 15-8, 15-12, 15-3 before 2,300 fans.

The win advances No. 9-ranked Nebraska to an 8 p.m. match against No. 10 Illinois on Friday. The Fighting Illini defeated Western Michigan 15-11, 9-15, 15-7, 12-15, 15-10.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said the Huskers' victory over Purdue wasn't as easy as the score indicated. He said Nebraska had to play tough during the match's difficult points.

"The difference in the two teams wasn't as decisive as the points," Pettit said. "The match wasn't easy. We worked very hard."

Nebraska freshman Val Novak, from Oaklawn, Ill., who led the Huskers with a game-high 16 kills, said the victory was important because she wanted to play good in front of her family and friends.

"I had a lot of friends, family and coaches who attended tonight's game," Novak said. "With them here it had no effect on my play but I did want to show them that I have done something so far."

Nebraska middle blocker Virginia Stahr said she wasn't surprised by Novak's play.

"I think it was obvious that Val was going to come down here and play great," Stahr said. "Val is a good pressure player. She was under pressure to folks here and she was here to prove something. I think you could see what she proved tonight in her

play."
Pettit said the key to the Huskers' victory was the play of the Nebraska defense.

Dewey agreed.
"Nebraska just played scrappy defense," Dewey said. "They were all over the floor. Nebraska played very well."

In the first game, Purdue took a 7-4 lead on a kill by freshman Jill Whiteman. But Nebraska was able to outscore the Boilmakers 9-1 to post the 15-8 victory.

The nine-point run was aided by four Purdue errors and kills by Novak, Stahr and Angie Millikin. Nebraska won the match on a block by Stahr and Lori Endicott.

Dewey said the Huskers, 30-4, were able to change the tempo in the first game.

"Nebraska raised (its) level of play which we haven't been able to do all year," Dewey said. "Our team hasn't been very good at changing or upping

the tempo for the game."
Pettit disagreed with Dewey. He said they played hard rather than change the tempo of the game.

"I don't know about all the voodoo," Pettit said. "We played real hard but I don't think our players said all of the sudden, 'Let's play harder.' I think they just continued to play hard throughout the match."

Pettit said the the Huskers continued to play hard in the second game as they took a 1-0 led on a block by Endicott. But two ace serves by Purdue's Becky Kanitz and a block by Amber Douglass gave the Boilmakers a 4-2 lead.

Nebraska came back to take a 6-4 lead on a Purdue error, but the Boilmakers rallied to take a 10-8 lead on blocks by Douglass and Linda Reichl. The Huskers then reeled off four straight points with the help of two kills by Novak, and Purdue was not able to get closer than 13-12 as Nebraska posted the 15-12 victory on

kills by Millikin and Novak.

Dewey said the serving of both teams was the key to the second match. Purdue committed eight service errors in the second match, compared to Nebraska's six total service errors.

In the third match Nebraska capitalized on four service errors by Purdue to take a 3-0 lead on a service ace by Barbie Young. A block by Reichl pulled the Boilmakers within 4-1, but a Purdue error and a kill and service ace by Stahr gave the Huskers a 7-2 lead.

The Boilmakers then capitalized on a Stahr error to bring the score to 7-3, but Nebraska scored the final eight points for the 15-3 victory.

Pettit said he is anxious to face Illinois because the Fighting Illini stressed Nebraska earlier this season. The Huskers defeated Illinois in a five-set match to win the championship of the Nebraska Invitational on Sept. 26.

Husker women will adjust play Wednesday night

By Tim Hartmann
Senior Reporter

Probable Starters

Nebraska (6-0)

Heather Smith	F
Maurtice Ivy	F
Stephanie Bolli	C
Pam Fiene	G
Amy Stephens	G

Iowa (5-0)

Franthea Price	F
Jolynn Schneider	F
Shanda Berry	C
Michelle Edwards	G
Jollette Law	G

Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck said Wednesday that the Cornhuskers' game against No. 5-ranked Iowa tonight at 7:30 in Iowa City will force her to make some changes.

"When you play the No. 5-ranked team in the country you have got to make some adjustments," Beck said. "Defensively, we'll send our one and two guards flying back after we shoot our shot and hope to stop their transition game."

Beck said Iowa tends to release Michelle Edwards, a guard who averages 23 points per game, following an opponent's shot to set up fast-break opportunities.

Edwards, whom Beck describes as a definite All-America candidate, has scored uncontested layups all season because opposing teams haven't stopped her, Beck said.

Nebraska has averaged 91 points per game this season, and Iowa has averaged 81.4 points.

Iowa coach Vivian Stringer said she expects a high-scoring game against the Huskers.

"If we have a break, we're going to go," Stringer said. "We can't afford to slow down. You'll probably see a lot of excitement."

Beck said she also plans to stick with the running game.

"I don't know how else to do it," Beck said.

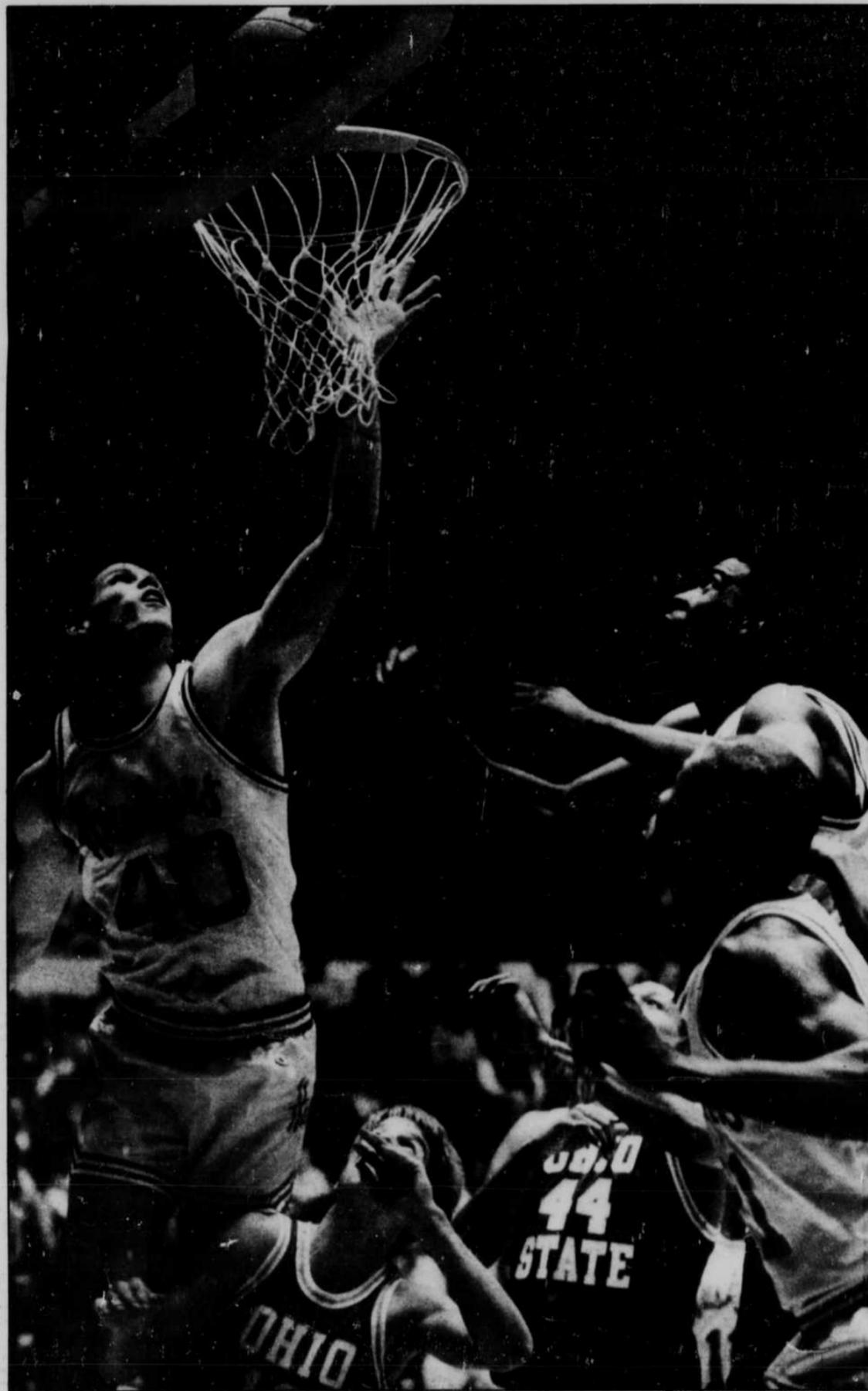
Nebraska defeated Iowa 85-74 last season in Lincoln. Beck said the fact that Iowa has not played a game since it defeated Northern Illinois 81-73 on Dec. 6 makes her think the Hawkeyes are pointing to this game.

"I think they're trying to prepare for us," Beck said. "I think they're going to come out and pressure us and use their bench to try and wear us down like we have done to other teams."

Beck said Nebraska would like to play a pressure-style defense.

"I'd like to see a little more solid defense," Beck said. "We need to get

See BECK on 8



Eric Gregory/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska forward Beau Reid shoots over Ohio State's Jay Burson and Jerry Francis.

Huskers hope to shoot down the lame Ducks

By Nick Hodge
Staff Reporter

Probable Starters

Nebraska (4-4)

Jeff Rekeeweg	F
Derrick Vick	F
Pete Manning	C
Eric Johnson	G
Henry T. Buchanan	G

Oregon (2-2)

Randy Grant	F
Rick Osborn	F
Brett Coffey	C
Mike Helms	G
Frankie Johnson	G

Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee will travel to Oregon Saturday to face a team that has been hampered by injuries.

Nee, however, still labels the Ducks as "dangerous."

The Cornhuskers will face Oregon at 9:35 p.m. CST Saturday at McArthur Court in Eugene, Ore.

Nee said the Huskers must have the attitude that they will find a way to win. He said Nebraska is coming off an emotional 88-73 loss to Creighton Wednesday night in Omaha.

"We need to make better choices," Nee said. "We have to have less turnovers, a better shot selection, and we must execute our offense."

Oregon's only two returning starters from last season's 16-14 team have both been sidelined with injuries this year.

Guard Anthony Taylor, an All-America candidate and member of the U.S. World University Games squad this summer, broke a toe on his right foot. Forward Keith Balderston did not play in Oregon's 75-53 defeat at Lamar Tuesday because of a sprained ankle.

Taylor, a 6-foot-4 senior, scored 24 points in the Ducks' season-opening 81-70 victory over Portland. Taylor had broken his toe before Oregon's opening contest, but played anyway. He is not expected to be ready to play against Nebraska on Saturday.

Balderston, a 6-foot-7 senior, averaged 11.7 points and 5.3 rebounds in the Ducks' first three games before suffering a sprained ankle. He is questionable for Saturday's game.

Nee said Taylor is "darn good" and will probably be a high draft pick by the National Basketball Association.

Oregon coach Don Monson said he is frustrated by the situation his team has been placed in because of the injuries.

"This season has been very confus-

See DUCKS on 9