

Osborne may reach milestone Saturday

When a UCLA football team last defeated Nebraska, Richard Nixon was still in the White House, U.S. troops were in Vietnam, Elvis was alive and Mark Harmon played quarterback instead of a doctor on St. Elsewhere.

Iran and the United States were still buddies. Gas was cheap. Fast-food restaurants survived without drive-thru windows and salad bars.

That was 1972, when Efen Herrera booted a 30-yard field goal with 22 seconds left to give UCLA a 20-17 win against Nebraska at the Rose Bowl. Harmon played quarterback that year for the Bruins, who broke Nebraska's 23-game winning streak with the victory.

Mike
Reilley



UCLA fans didn't know it at the time, but that would be the last day a Bruin team could boast about a win over Nebraska.

The next 15 years would be frustrating ones for the Bruins. Nebraska would go on to win the next four games by a combined score of 166-59 and take a 4-3 series lead.

But 5th-ranked UCLA will have a chance to even the score on Saturday night, when the No. 2 Huskers visit the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. and the game will be televised by ABC (Lincoln's Channel 7).

After the loss in 1972, which was Bob Devaney's last year as the Huskers' coach, Nebraska rebounded the following season with a 40-13 win in Lincoln.

That game was a memorable one for Nebraska coach Tom Osborne. It was the first of 149 career wins for Osborne, who reflected on the game Tuesday at his weekly press conference in the South Stadium lounge.

"I remember it rained in the late afternoon and then started to clear up," he said. "They were favored by eight or 10 points coming in. I remember Tony Davis had a good game . . . that was quite an exciting game for me."

Ironically, Osborne also landed his 100th career win against the Bruins, a 42-3 victory at Pasadena in 1984. He could reach another milestone — win No. 150 — against the Bruins on Saturday night. UCLA coach Terry Donahue will shoot for win No. 100.

Just as he has done for 15 years, Osborne downplayed the milestones on Tuesday. Instead, he focused on the Bruins, particularly on quarterback Troy Aikman.

In a country where change takes place everyday, it's nice to know that some things never change. Osborne takes a low-key approach to the game and the wins against UCLA keep rolling in.

But you never know what will happen in Pasadena this weekend. Just think, in 15 years, a sports writer just might start a column like this:

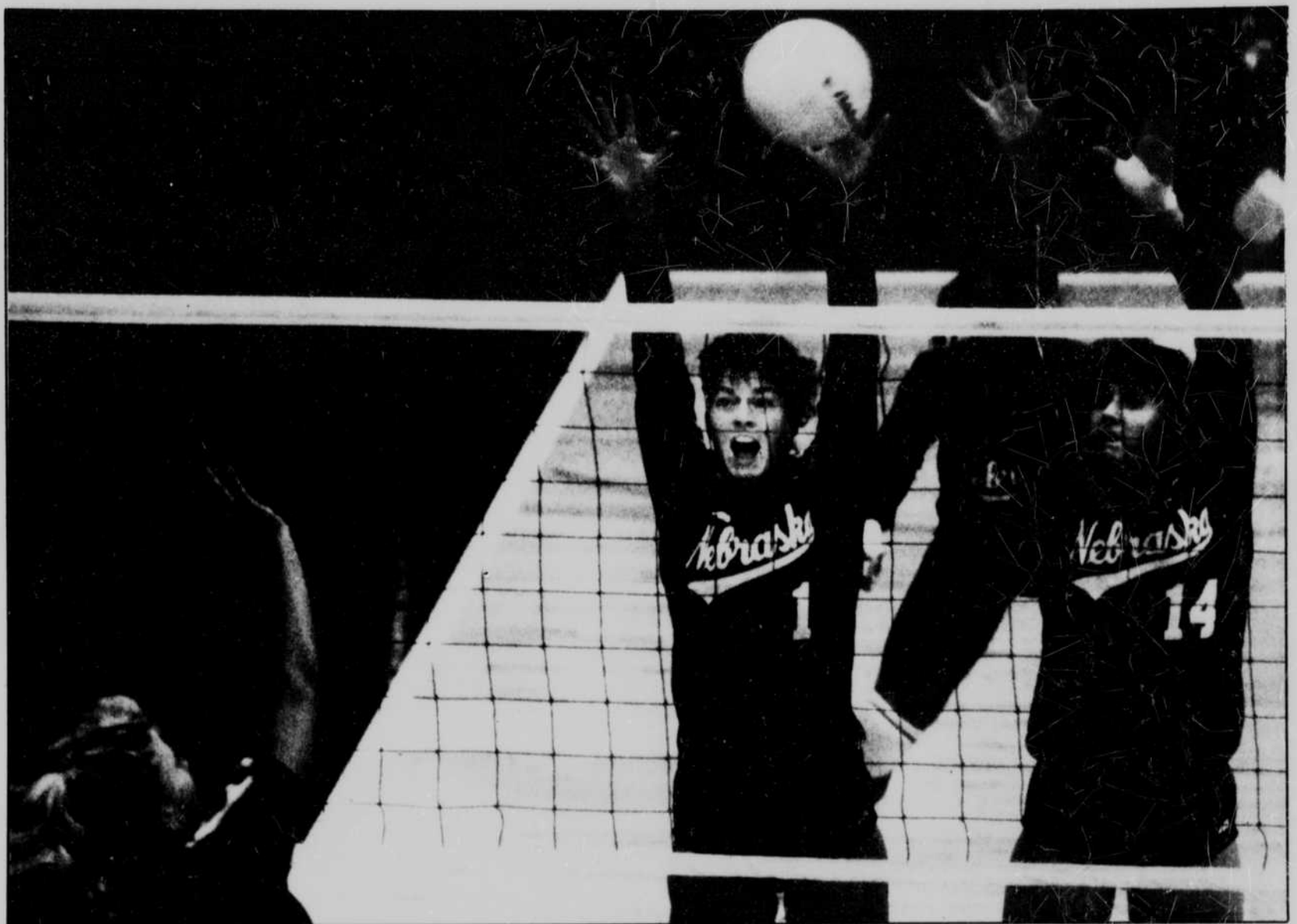
When a Nebraska football team last defeated UCLA, Ronald Reagan was still president, Guns and Roses rocked the top 40 charts and the microwave milkshake was America's favorite late-night snack . . .

News, notes and nonsense

Aikman says the pre-season media hype about his bid for the Heisman Trophy has made his job a little tougher.

"I've picked up a couple magazines and it's flattering that all that stuff's going on," Aikman said in a teleconference Monday from Los Angeles. "But it's a situation that I don't feel real comfortable with. I'm not used to all that attention."

Reilley is a senior news-editorial major and is the Daily Nebraskan editorial page and supplements editor.



Nebraska's Val Novak (1) and Virginia Stahr (14) block a spike attempt during the First Tier Invitational Saturday in the NU Coliseum. Doug Carroll/Daily Nebraskan

NU defense wins volleyball invite

By Jeff Apel
Senior Reporter

It didn't take Pacific coach John Dunning long to discover the difference between this year's Nebraska volleyball team and the Cornhusker squad that suffered a devastating loss to the Tigers in 1986.

Dunning said Nebraska avenged a straight-set loss to Pacific in the title match of the NCAA Final Four two years ago and won the First Tier Invitational by defeating the Tigers 16-14, 15-12, 15-11. He said the Huskers, who defeated Florida 15-4, 15-8, 15-9 and Purdue 15-12, 15-4, 15-8, are a much better defensive team than they were in 1986.

Dunning said Nebraska's defense was evident throughout the three-set match holding Pacific's powerful offense in check. He said the Huskers also used their defense to exploit the Tigers' early problems in the middle.

In the tournament's remaining matches, Pacific beat Purdue 13-15, 15-7, 15-8, 15-12 and Florida 15-6, 15-8, 15-11, and Purdue defeated Florida 15-9, 15-2, 9-15, 16-14.

"I hate to lose," Dunning said. "(But) that was a hell of a match. All three games were contested. That's very good volleyball for this time of the year."

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said he didn't use Nebraska's national championship loss to Pacific as a motivational tool entering the match. He said Nebraska's previous setback to the Tigers "never occurred to him or anyone else" on the Husker roster.

"This isn't the Final Four," Pettit said. "This is a regular-season match."

Nebraska middle blocker Virginia Stahr said the Huskers spent a majority of the off-season focusing on Pacific. She said it was the Tigers' talent, not the 1986 loss, which caused Nebraska to place Pacific in the spotlight.

"I think it was just Pacific. They're a great team," Stahr said. "I thought about (the loss), but these are two totally different teams. It's hard to even compare them."

Pettit said the key to Nebraska's

title run was the team's ability to improve during the tournament.

"Some of that's luck. Some of that's effort," Pettit said. "I wouldn't call that a wipeout. I wouldn't call it dominating either."

Nebraska raced out to a 4-2 lead in the first set against Pacific, then expanded its lead to 11-6 on a kill by sophomore outside hitter Sue Hesch.

Pacific then outscored Nebraska 8-1 to take a 14-12 lead, but the Huskers used a spike by Linda Barsness, a Tiger hitting error, a block by Carla Baker and a block by freshman Janet Kruse to post the victory.

Pettit said he was concerned entering the 2nd set because Stahr suffered an injury to her left knee. The injury was later diagnosed as a strain.

Pettit said he guarded against further injury by frequently substituting for Stahr in the 2nd and 3rd sets.

"She's so tough," Pettit said. "Virginia is the type of player that her knee could be hanging by cartilage and ligaments and she would still play."

Stahr said her injury isn't anything to be concerned about.

"It's just a dumb, little thing," Stahr said.

Pacific jumped out to a 6-2 lead in the second set, but Nebraska tied the score 9-9 on a kill by Barsness. The Huskers, 3-0, then scored four-straight points and used a tip by Stahr and a tip out by Pacific's Brooke Herrington to post the victory.

Dunning said he knew Pacific was in trouble when it dropped the first two sets to Nebraska.

"It's really hard to come back from 2-0," he said.

Nebraska wrapped up its straight-set victory and claimed the tournament's title by jumping out to a 14-10 lead in the 3rd set, using a kill by Barsness to post the victory.

Pettit said he thinks Nebraska will continue to improve this season.

"God, I hope so," Pettit said. "If not, we might as well just go buy Christmas presents."

Nebraska's next action is on Thursday, when the Huskers travel to Fullerton, Calif., to compete in the three-day Cal. State-Fullerton Titan Invitational.

Coach denies saying NU uses drugs

By Mark Derowitsch
Senior Reporter

UCLA football coach Terry Donahue denied Tuesday he was alleging that Nebraska players were using steroids during the 1983 and 1984 seasons.

Donahue said Monday during a teleconference that the Nebraska's 1983 team was not a "normal" team. He said the Huskers "were not typical college players" that season.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said during his weekly press luncheon that he spoke with Donahue early Tuesday morning and Donahue denied allegations that he was referring to steroid usage.

"He told me to tell (the media) that he simply meant that in '83 and '84, he didn't feel that his team was competitive with Nebraska and he felt it was now," Osborne said. "He felt that

last year and this year it was very competitive, and that they had a lot better athletes and a better team."

In 1983, Nebraska posted a 42-10 win over the Bruins, and the Huskers won 42-3 in Pasadena, Calif., in 1984. Last season, the Huskers defeated UCLA 42-33 in Lincoln.

'I'm not saying that nobody ever used them here, because I don't know.'

— Osborne

Osborne said he thought the media was concerned that Donahue's remarks were veiled accusations of steroid usage. But Donahue told

Osborne that he wasn't talking about steroids.

"He didn't say that and he indicated that all he wanted said was that he just didn't feel that his team wasn't competitive those years," Osborne said.

Osborne said Nebraska has tested its players for steroid use since 1984. Since the tests have started, only two players have tested positively. NCAA rules prohibit steroid use in college athletics.

"In 1984, we had no positive tests for steroids," Osborne said. "It was so expensive that we couldn't test all 130 players. I think we picked out the biggest, strongest that showed the most weight gain and we tested them. It was unannounced and we didn't have anybody who tested positive."

"I'm not saying that nobody ever used them here because I don't know. It's possible that somebody could

have taken them during the summer or sometime when (steroids were) not detected."

Osborne said the two players who tested positive since 1984 were not starters and didn't play against UCLA.

Nebraska players also have never tested positive for illegal drugs during an NCAA investigation, Osborne said. Since 1986, the NCAA has administered drug tests to each team invited to play in post-season bowl games.

"We were tested both years," Osborne said. "Some teams were never tested because the NCAA didn't get to them. I'd say we've tested for steroids on four or five occasions every year since 1984."

Osborne said Nebraska's drug tests are analyzed by one of the best