

## Pettit says volleyball team is prepared for Iowa match

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

If a volleyball team wants national recognition, Nebraska is one of the teams it needs to beat.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said his team has to be prepared for its match against Iowa on Saturday because the Hawkeyes will be looking for national recognition. He said Iowa would find that recognition if it defeats Nebraska.

The match begins at 4 p.m. at the NU Coliseum. All University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who present their student IDs will be admitted free.

Pettit said Iowa commands respect because it was ranked among the nation's top 25 teams most of last season. The Hawkeyes return five starters from a team that finished in a three-way tie for second place in the Big 10 conference last season with an 11-7 record. It finished 24-10 overall.

"Iowa is a very good team," Pettit said. "They're a team that's looking at this match as the opportunity to build some credibility for themselves for a NCAA bid. They have talent, experience, and I think it will be a very interesting match."

Pettit said he is confident that Nebraska will meet the challenge.

"If we prepare well, execute fundamentally and we're healthy, the Huskers are pretty tough to beat," he said.

Iowa volleyball coach Ruth Nelson said her players will approach the match with more vigor than herself, "but that would be something out of my control."

"But I will try to fire that part up a bit," she said.

Nelson said her players want to reach the NCAA tournament.

"They have been chomping at the bit for many years," Nelson said. "The ultimate goal is to be in the Final Four, but that's just going to take some time."

Nelson, who is also the volleyball director for Special Olympics Inter-

national, said her personal approach to the match will be like any other. She said the match is just another step in preparation for the conference race.

"We want a solid finish in the Big Ten," she said.

Nebraska is good, Nelson said.

"They have a winning tradition," she said. "They can pretty much select the players they want. They are always physically strong and Terry does an extremely good job of preparing his teams for competition."

Nelson said Nebraska's weakness will be at setter, where junior Val Novak is filling the vacancy left by All-America selection Lori Endicott. Endicott, who completed her eligibility last season, is now the starting setter for the U.S. National Team.

Novak is good, Nelson said, but it will be tough to replace Endicott.

"I expect they'll be in a state of transition from a very experienced setter to a less experienced setter," she said.

Nelson, a former coach at Louisiana State University who is in her first year at Iowa, said the Hawkeyes are also in a transition period. She said it will take time for the players to adjust to her coaching style.

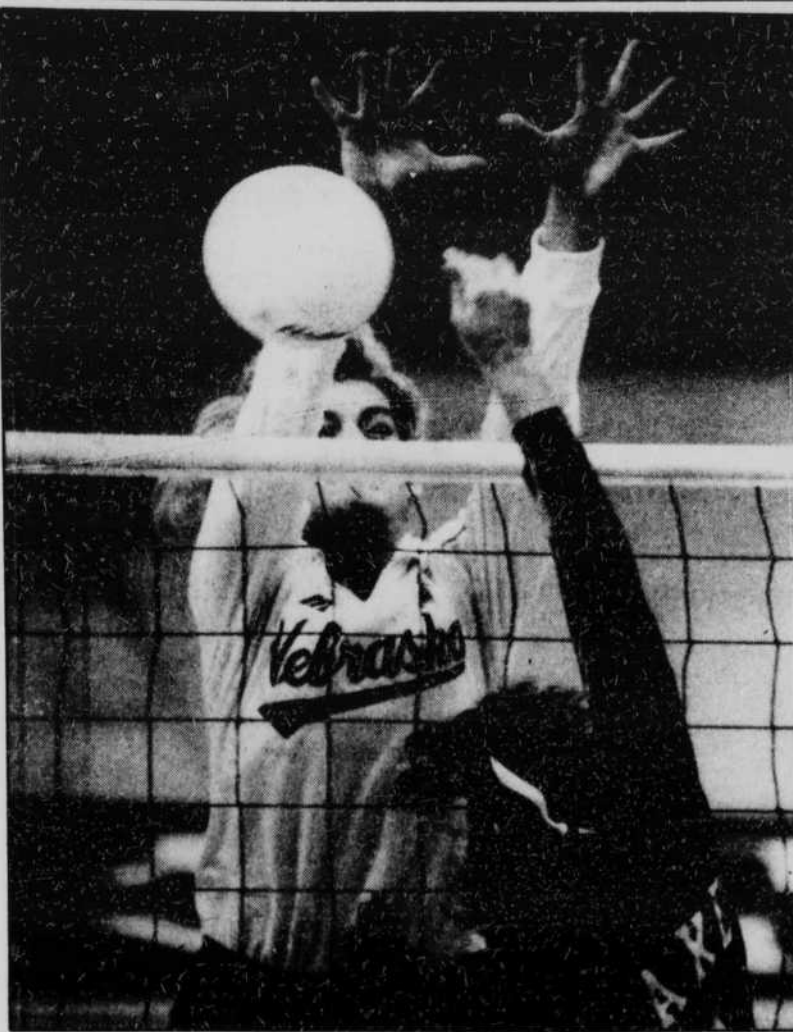
"It's just a matter of finding the right combinations," Nelson said. "Hopefully we'll find them by the middle of the season."

The starters who are returning for Iowa are outside hitter Kari Hamel, the Hawkeyes' only senior, junior middle blocker Barb Willis, junior setter Janet Moylan and junior outside hitter Jenny Rees.

In addition, junior outside hitters Jennifer Thompson and Ruth Spethman, a Lincoln East graduate, rotated as starters last year.

Nelson said Hamel, who set a school record with 565 kills last year, is the team's most experienced player.

"She is just a super hitter," Nelson said. "She is just now grasping on to her potential. She is a super athlete



Nebraska's Stephanie Thater blocks the spike of Drake's Michelle Engler in the third set, defeating the Bulldog's 15-8 at the Coliseum Thursday night.

Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

and she is just an extremely good player."

Willis was a member of the North team at the U.S. Olympic Festival, which was coached by Nebraska assistant coach John Cook earlier this summer. Willis broke her right hand during practice and did not compete in the games.

Pettit said Willis' injury was unfortunate because, "she was one of the best middle players at the festival."

Nelson said Willis missed much of the preseason, but that she will play against Nebraska.

"She feels really good," Nelson

said. "She healed very quickly. It will take her a little time to get back in shape just like it would anybody else."

She said Thompson, a former teammate of Nebraska junior outside hitter Linda Barsness at Marshall High School in Rochester, Minn., will not play until late September because of a knee injury.

Nelson said Spethman is a fighter and "everyone needs a fighter on the team."

"She's a great athlete," she said. "She's experienced a complete turnaround this year and I think she feels stronger."

## Cornhuskers beat Drake Bulldogs in season opener

Paul Robinson  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit boasted that the Cornhuskers are deep in talent this year and they proved it in the third set to the Drake Bulldogs Thursday night.

Nebraska defeated Drake in straight sets 15-4, 15-3, 15-8 in the Huskers season opener before a crowd of 1,039 at the NU Coliseum.

The Huskers played the third set without starters Virginia Stahr, Val Novak, Carla Baker and Linda Barsness and hardly missed a beat.

"There's not too many years we could put a whole new unit out there and stay organized," Pettit said. "They know how to play and that certainly helps."

Nebraska finished with 52 kills and a .381 hitting percentage compared to 22 kills and a .096 hitting percentage by Drake.

Freshmen Valerie Vermeulen and Debbie Lee Brand were effective in their first collegiate competition. Vermeulen had 17 assists and Brand eight kills for the Huskers.

"I thought it was a good opening match for us," Pettit said. "We did some things real well. I thought we could have been a little sharper defensively, but everyone played and everyone did some nice things."

Freshman outside hitter Eileen Shannon and sophomore outside hitter Janet Kruse were the only Husker starters to play the third set.

Kruse led Nebraska with 16 kills and posted a .538 hitting percentage. Shannon had 11 kills in her Husker debut.

"I thought Janet played really well all night," Pettit said. "Nobody stopped her."

Pettit also credited Novak, the Huskers' junior setter, with a strong performance. Novak finished with 26 assists. "Val did a nice job tonight," he said. "I saw only one set

See NEBRASKA on 11

# Coach plans to change KSU losing streak

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

A 27-game losing streak looms on the mind of new Kansas State football coach Bill Snyder.



Snyder, who spent 10 years as the offensive coordinator at Iowa prior to arriving at Kansas State this season, said the biggest weakness his Wildcats face is their 27-game losing streak. Kansas State has not won since it posted a 29-12 victory against Kansas on Oct. 5, 1986.

Snyder said the losing streak presents special challenges.

"When you haven't won a ballgame in 27, what wouldn't be a challenge?" Snyder asked. "The most overriding weakness is the lack of success these players have experienced. They need to acquire an understanding of what it takes to be successful."

Snyder said he spent the majority of spring practice working with the team's attitude. He said he attempted to teach the Wildcats how to avoid losing, attempted to show them that they can work and play as hard as anyone, and that their success or failure is predicated on never giving up.

"It was an attempt to teach the kids that they can expect more of themselves, have a higher expectation level," Snyder said. "We

wanted them to be able to make a conscious effort to improve every single day as an athlete, a student and a person. If we did that, we knew the other things would begin to fall into place."

Snyder said the Wildcats are beginning to grasp some of the personal expectations he has set. Along with the unity that is developing among the team, so are the team's strengths, he said.

Snyder said he cannot single out any positions of major concern because Kansas State has not cured many of its problems yet. He said the Wildcats, who are the losingest team in NCAA history with a 301-503-30 record, still have a long way to go before they turn their program around.

In its 93-year existence, the Kan-

sas State program has had only 25 winning seasons. The last time the Wildcats had back-to-back winning seasons was in 1954, when they followed up on a 6-3-1 mark by posting a 7-3 record.

"We're still very conscious of every aspect of the program," Snyder said. "In general, we're not at that stage yet where we've cured even 70 percent of our problems."

Snyder said Kansas State took a positive step toward turning its program around by signing 21 recruits. He said the recruiting class is solid considering he had only five weeks to recruit.

"We accomplished what we wanted to accomplish, considering the parameters," Snyder said. "We needed a lineman and we got a lineman. I feel comfortable that we have

players who want to be here.

Snyder said Kansas State will employ a balanced offensive attack. He said he wants the Wildcats to pass and run with equal effectiveness.

"I can't promise you it will be 50-50, but that will be our attempt," Snyder said. "If we're not a balanced team, that means someone is preventing us from being one or the other."

Snyder said he wants Kansas State's defense to be patterned after its offense. He said the Wildcats cannot afford to give up the big play, a move which he described as being Kansas State's demise in the past.

"We want to play aggressively enough to be an attacking defense -- to have the ability to make the big play," Snyder said. "We want to be

See WILDCATS on 11

## Coach says junior varsity team as good as last year's

By Chuck Green  
Senior Reporter

Shane Thorell doesn't mind comparing this year's Cornhusker junior varsity team to last season's.

Especially since he said he thinks it's just as good as 1988's undefeated edition.

Thorell, Nebraska's junior varsity coach, said he won't know for sure how good this year's team is until it takes the field against Snow's Junior College 1 p.m. Saturday.

Admission is free. "I won't really know how much talent we have until Saturday," he said. "But as far as working hard and being mentally prepared, I'd say we're at about the same place as we were this time last year."

Last season's team finished with a 5-0 rec-

ord. One problem Thorell said the junior varsity team will face -- as it does every season -- is losing players to the varsity. He said nine players from the junior varsity roster are practicing with the varsity.

The junior varsity team is comprised primarily of freshmen and redshirted freshmen or sophomores.

"I can't see any really major problems coming of that," Thorell said. "But it does hurt a little depth-wise."

Snow Junior College, of Ephriam, Utah, relies on a passing offense, Thorell said. It often will employ a one-back offense, and, on occasion, will use no running backs, he said.

Thorell said that formation will place pressure on Nebraska's defensive linemen, as well

as the Husker defensive backs.

"We've got to establish a good pass rush," he said. "If you give any quarterback a lot of time, he can hurt you."

Nebraska's secondary is full of players who are "smart and know what they're doing," which will be needed to cover Snow's receivers, he said.

Snow captured the junior college national championship in 1985, and has been rated among the best junior college teams throughout the 1980s.

Joe Cornwell will start as quarterback for the Huskers. Cornwell, a redshirted freshman from Carolton, Mo., spent much of last year recovering from a shoulder injury, Thorell said.

Marvin Callies, who was Cornwell's

backup at the start of fall drills, has been moved to 1-back.

"He's a player with great speed and a lot of talent," Thorell said. "I hated to see that kind of speed sitting on the bench."

Thorell said several walk-ons have earned starting positions and could be moved to varsity as the season progresses. Inside linebacker Matt Penland from Jacksonville, Fla., and wingback David Seizys are two such players, he said, as is free safety Zeke Cisco of Monroe, Mich.

Nebraska's game Saturday will answer a lot of questions, Thorell said.

"We haven't had a lot of time to prepare, but we've used our time well," he said. "They (the players) have got a good idea of what we're doing and what needs to be done."

"We're as ready as we can be."