

sports
SHORTS

Weekly polls rank NU volleyball team

The Nebraska volleyball team is ranked seventh and ninth in this week's polls.

The Cornhuskers, 6-0, are ranked seventh by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. That poll is compiled by coaches.

Nebraska is ranked ninth in the NCAA poll.

Hawaii is first in both polls, and UCLA is second.

The remaining top-10 teams in the AVCA poll are Long Beach State, Pacific, Stanford, Illinois, Nebraska, California and Texas.

Pacific is ranked third in the NCAA poll, followed by Long Beach State, Stanford, Illinois, Texas, California, Nebraska and Arizona.

In addition to Nebraska, the only other Big Eight team ranked is Colorado. The Buffaloes, 8-4, are ranked 11th in the NCAA poll, but were left out of the AVCA selections.

Iowan leads the Big Eight in rushing

Iowa State running back Blaise Bryant continues to lead the conference in rushing.

Bryant, a junior, is averaging 155 yards per game. He has rushed for 311 yards on 56 carries while scoring four touchdowns this season.

Nebraska's Ken Clark is second in the conference, as the senior from Omaha has rushed for 298 yards and two touchdowns on 36 carries. Clark is averaging 149 yards per game.

Nebraska is leading the Big Eight in team rushing with an average of 443.5 yards per game.

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Al Schaben/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska linebacker Mike Petko flies over the Utah line.

PETKO from Page 15

ell is one heck of a passer," Petko said. "He caused us a lot of problems defensively."

Petko caused at least one problem for Mitchell. On first-and-10 at the Nebraska 40-yard line, Mitchell dropped back to pass and drilled the ball to Utah wide receiver Darrell Hicks. But Petko saw the play coming.

"I just stepped in front of the receiver and grabbed the ball," Petko said. "It was like slow-motion. It kind of made up for my earlier mistakes."

Petko returned the interception five yards to the Nebraska 31. Eleven plays later, fullback Bryan Carpenter bolted 29 yards for a touchdown, which, with Chris Drennan's extra point, extended Nebraska's lead to 35-16.

But Petko couldn't forget his mistakes earlier in the game.

"They were alignment and assignment mistakes," he said. "In the dime, there's just so much to know, and I didn't know it yet. There was a lot of pressure on me."

Before the season, Petko said, his goal was "to make the travel roster."

"Now, I just want to improve," he said. "I guess I don't really have any personal goals. I just want a national championship. And I think we have a good chance to do it."

"I just hope I have a part in our success."

EXITING from Page 15

"They've got a good team and you've got to consider them in the hunt for the national championship," Pettit said.

Stanford's Bev Oden was regarded as one of the top players out of high school last year, Pettit said, and "we have some freshmen we think can play."

Leading the Cardinal attack is Kristen Klein, who earned first-team All-America honors last season as a freshman.

In addition to Oden and Klein, the Cardinal's probable starting lineup includes seniors Lara Asper, Jennifer Chaffe and Laura Olesen, and sophomore Amy Cooper.

Freshmen Carrie Feldman, Kristi Paaso and Laurie Sawin also are expected to contribute.

Kentucky, which finished ninth nationally last season, is 10-0 this year. That mark is the best start the Wildcats have compiled since 1983, when they started out 9-0.

Kentucky leads the series with Nebraska 2-1.

"I'm sure that Kentucky has some good athletes, and they have an experienced setter," Pettit said.

Laura Linder, who was all-conference last season and also was named the most valuable player in both of Kentucky's tournaments, is the Wildcats' setter.

Pittsburgh is 8-2. The team's last loss was to Pacific by scores of 15-5, 15-13 and 18-16 in the Notre Dame Invitational.

Nebraska leads the series between the two teams 6-0.

The Panthers' top seven players include seniors Julie Sheils, Lori Silk and Kelly Matheis, juniors Michele Adamson and Jenelle Lantagne and sophomores Dee MacAulay and Sue Zonneville.

SPONSORS from Page 15

helped with the development and the increase in popularity of Nebraska volleyball in the last few years, Pettit said.

Between the second and third games of all Nebraska matches, a serving contest open to all spectators is held.

Sponsors of the serving contest include Arby's, Burger King, Schlotsky's, Dominoes and Valentinos, and contestants who serve the ball into a marked area receive a certificate from one of the sponsors.

Arby's also has given free meals to members of opposing teams who come to Lincoln.

The Misty's restaurant in the Havelock area has helped with the Huskers' increasing popularity by reserving wall space strictly for volleyball memorabilia. Misty's also has done the same for the Nebraska football team.

Pettit said that these sponsors are equally important to the success of the Husker program.



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