

# NU volleyball team to play No. 1 Hawaii

## Hawaii coach says team will come to games 'cold'

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

It was 88 degrees Monday in Honolulu.

After weather similar to that Sunday in Lincoln, the temperature dropped 40 degrees.

Hawaii volleyball coach Dave Shoji knows his team will come to Nebraska cold.



But he's not referring to the weather.

"We know a little bit about Nebraska, but basically we're coming in cold," Shoji said. "I recruited a few of their players like (freshman) Valerie Vermeulen.

"We know a little bit about some of their individuals, but not all of them," he said.

Hawaii, 16-0 and ranked No. 1, plays 14-0 and 4th-ranked Nebraska in a pair of single matches this weekend in the Baden Challenge. The two teams meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

Admission is free to University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who show their IDs.

Vermeulen, a 6-foot setter from Wantagh, N.Y., turned down recruiting trips to Hawaii and Colorado State after visiting Lincoln.

"After I came here I knew that this is where I wanted to go," Vermeulen said. "I didn't want to waste his (Shoji's) time going there. I didn't think there would be anything better than this."

She said she liked the atmosphere and spirit that was expressed at a Husker volleyball match she attended on her recruiting trip to Lincoln.

"Everyone was down to earth," Vermeulen said. "The team was nice

and made me feel welcome."

She said Husker coach Terry Pettit's reputation as a setting coach also was an attraction.

"He's known for his setting," she said. "(You) can't get a better setting coach. I just saw it as my best opportunity."

Pettit said Nebraska and Hawaii are matched evenly.

"Physically it's a team that's very similar to ours," he said. "Both teams have talent in all their positions. That makes it very interesting."

It also is interesting that both teams have played 53 games this year in compiling similar stats.

Nebraska comes into the match with a .317 hitting percentage and averages nearly 18 kills a game, while its opponents are averaging 12 kills a game and hitting .141.

Hawaii is hitting .321 and averaging nearly 18 kills a game, while limiting its opponents to .168 hitting and close to 13 kills a game.

Hawaii amassed its perfect record by posting wins over second-ranked and preseason No. 1 UCLA, third-ranked Pacific, fifth-ranked Long Beach State and 10th-ranked and defending national champion Texas.

"There's two ways to look at the competition," Shoji said. "Obviously it prepares us to compete at a top level. But, on the down side we've had to be up for matches just about every week."

"It takes an emotional toll on our players. I just hope we have something left for Nebraska. It's almost impossible to get up emotionally three or four weeks in a row."

He said he is pleased with the way the team has progressed and met each challenge.

"Being undefeated I guess is a sign we're having a good season and I'm happy with the way things have gone," he said. "But I didn't expect to be undefeated at this point."

Hawaii was 33-3 last year, but lost to Texas in the NCAA finals. The Rainbow Wahines won the Big West Conference with an 18-0 record, the first time a team has gone undefeated



William Lauer/Daily Nebraskan

### Nebraska's Cris Hall shows her serving form.

in that conference.

Shoji said this year's team is comparable to last year's.

But this one could be better, he said.

"I think we have some strengths this year that we didn't have last year," he said. "We lost three good players but I think we made up some ground. I think the potential of this team is better."

Hawaii is led by two-time All-America selection Tee Williams-Sanders, who has 253 kills and is hitting .313 in 45 games. Williams-Sanders, a senior outside hitter, also leads the team in service aces with 12.

Junior middle blocker Karrie Trieschman is the team's leading blocker with 44 assisted and 11 unassisted.

Trieschman averages three kills a game, hitting .331.

Sophomore middle blocker Main Fransson also averages three kills a game, hitting .374. She leads the team in digs with 144 and has 11 service aces.

Sophomore outside hitter Jami Long has 119 kills and is hitting .294. Sophomore setter Cheri Boyer has 643 assists in 46 games played.

Shoji said his team is experienced and balanced.

"We have three or four girls averaging three to four kills a game," he said. "We play a lot of people here, even when the matches are close. We have a lot of depth."

"Our bench has really responded and played well," he said.

Williams-Sanders said she learned some defensive strategies from Pettit during the national team's training camp in Colorado Springs.

"I thought he was a real good coach," she said. "He was really nice."

Pettit said Hawaii exploits the talents of its star player.

Williams-Sanders, a two-time NCAA All-America selection, comes into the match averaging nearly six kills a game. In 45 games, she has tallied 253 kills and compiled a .313 hitting percentage.

"She probably has a more significant role on their team offensively

than our players do on our offense," Pettit said. "She probably gets more attacks than any one player on their team."

Williams-Sanders, who was married during the summer, attended St. Joseph's High School in Lakewood, Calif. She said she has never been to Nebraska, but she is looking forward to the match.

Against Nebraska, Williams-Sanders could become Hawaii's career leader in kills. She is No. 2 on the all-time list with 1,501, and needs 53 to establish the record.

She also is second in career blocks

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# Cornhuskers ready for Hawaii star

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

Behind every good team, there is at least one great player.

For the Hawaii women's volleyball team, that player is senior outside hitter Tee Williams-Sanders.

Williams-Sanders will try to showcase her talents when No. 1-ranked Hawaii battles No. 4-ranked Nebraska this weekend at the NU Coliseum.

The two teams play Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday night at 8.

"She's a good person and she's a great player," Nebraska sophomore outside hitter Cris Hall said of Wil-

liams-Sanders. "She's going to be tough to stop. But like everyone else, she's human. I'm anxious to see what happens."

Hall and Williams-Sanders were teammates last summer while competing on the U.S. World University Games team which was coached by Nebraska coach Terry Pettit.

"Playing with her will help me play against her," Hall said. "I know where she hits the ball."

Williams-Sanders stands 5-foot-11, but "she plays big," Pettit said.

"She's a really nice player," he said. "She's explosive, but so are (Huskers) Janet Kruse and Virginia Stahr."

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# Player says NU must stop big plays

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

Illinois quarterback Jeff Kinney had some definite advice for Nebraska about its upcoming game against Colorado.

"Try and stop the big play," he said.

Kinney, the son of the former Nebraska quarterback by the same name, watched earlier this season as Colorado used big plays to defeat Illinois 38-7 at Champaign, Ill. The Buffaloes' arsenal of big plays included long passes to split end Jeff Campbell and a flea flicker.

Kinney said he was impressed by Colorado, which Nebraska will face Nov. 4 in Boulder, Colo. He said the Buffaloes possess a physical front line on defense, and have an abundance of team speed.

Kinney said he knows the Nebraska-Colorado game is going to be tough. He said he knows how tough the Buffaloes are because they left him battered and bruised after he faced them earlier this season.

"It's going to be a tough, physical game," he said. "Colorado is tough, and so is Nebraska. Both teams are physical."

Kinney said the Colorado game

has been the highlight of his season. He entered the game in the second half in place of an injured Jeff George, and proceeded to complete 3 of 5 passes for 21 yards.

The following week, after the Fighting Illini posted a 41-2 win against Utah State, Kinney was lost for the season when he was diagnosed as having a blood clot in his right shoulder.

Kinney said he was disappointed by the injury. The redshirt freshman from Wheaton, Ill., was the Fighting Illini's second-team quarterback before being hurt.

"I was just starting to get into the

offense," Kinney said. "It was tough to get the No. 2 job, and it's tough to watch. But I just have to take it stride by stride."

Kinney said he was not recruited by Nebraska. He said he chose Illinois over Iowa, Iowa State and Wyoming because he would fit into the Fighting Illini's pass-oriented offense.

Kinney said his father's accomplishments did not influence his decision.

Kinney said he never had any serious intentions of going to Nebraska.

"I knew I wouldn't fit in to their offense," he said.

## Volleyball team's rigorous schedule works out nicely

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit refuses to take credit for bringing in the top-ranked team in the country to play the Cornhuskers this weekend.

Sure, he invited Hawaii to the Baden Challenge.

But that was three years ago, and he had no way of knowing the Rainbow Wahines would come to Lincoln No. 1.

That's an example of how things are falling into place for Nebraska this year.



Pettit's 1989 schedule has worked out wonderfully for the No. 4 Huskers.

Three opponents have been ranked in the top 20 -- No. 8 Stanford, No. 11 Minnesota and No. 13 Colorado.

Another three -- Kentucky, Pittsburgh, and Iowa -- received votes in the collegiate polls this week.

Later this season, Nebraska will play No. 7 Illinois and No. 10 Texas. Pettit would like more.

"If we could play 30 teams in the top 20 we would," he said.

The schedule hasn't been as tough as it looks. Pettit either scheduled the tough matches at home or gave his players extra time to prepare.

Iowa visited the NU Coliseum. Kentucky, Pittsburgh and then-No. 2 Stanford came to Lincoln for the First Tier Invitational.

The Huskers next played at Colorado, but had a free week to prepare for the Lady Buffs' unusual inside-out offense.

Now, Nebraska has an open week to prepare for two-time All-America selection Tee Williams-Sanders and the other Rainbow Wahines.

While the schedule is demanding, the Huskers wouldn't have done as well if the hard matches would have been closer together.

Pettit said he would like to have a week off before all the tough matches. That usually is impossible when trying to meet the requirements of the Big Eight schedule.

Next year the team will spend more time on the road, returning the favor to teams who played in Lincoln this season.

But that's next season. This year, things are working out well.

In fact, things are working out better than anyone could have expected. Not that Nebraska's schedule is unusually tough. Hawaii played, and beat, No. 3 Pacific twice last weekend.

It's just that when a team takes on as tough a schedule as the Huskers do every year, the team is supposed to lose a few. But Nebraska is 14-0.

Pettit said he doesn't look at it that way.

"I don't say, 'Well, we can afford to lose 8 matches,' or whatever," he said.

But unlike the football team, the volleyball team doesn't have to go undefeated to win the national championship; the Huskers just have to put together five wins in the NCAA tournament.

Pettit said the Baden Challenge should help the team in Regionals. In postseason play, teams have to play top teams back-to-back. Nebraska won't have a tougher assignment than playing Hawaii two days in a row.

This series can give both teams

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