

NU volleyball team to play OU, Missouri

By Darran Fowler
Senior Reporter

Five down and one to go. The Nebraska volleyball team stands alone atop the Big Eight standings, having defeated every conference opponent this season except one -- Missouri. But Nebraska will get its first shot of the season at the Tigers when the two teams meet Sunday at 3 p.m. in the NU Coliseum. Including Missouri, third-ranked Nebraska, which is 16-1 and 6-0 in the Big Eight, still has one match

remaining against each conference opponent with the exception of Colorado, whom the Cornhuskers have beaten twice. Nebraska will get its last regular-season look at Oklahoma Saturday when the Huskers face the Sooners at 5:15 p.m. at the Coliseum. That match will follow the Nebraska-Iowa State football game at Memorial Stadium. University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who show their student IDs will be admitted for free to both matches. Nebraska coach Terry Pettit, who has led the Huskers to 12 of their 13 consecutive Big Eight regular-season championships, said he is more concerned about Oklahoma this weekend. Oklahoma beat Nebraska two out of three times last season, and knocked the Huskers out of the

NCAA tournament in Mideast regional play. "Missouri's struggling," he said. "It'll be more of a matter of us working on the things we need to work on. If Missouri plays well and we play well, Missouri won't match up with us." "I've got to think that we'll have another sellout." --Pettit "Oklahoma will be real interesting. They've been playing really well. Basically, as far as defending our conference championship is concerned, this is the match." Oklahoma, which is 15-9 and 6-1

in conference play, took a seven-match winning streak into Thursday night's match against Colorado. The Sooners' last defeat was a 15-6, 15-12, 7-15, 15-5 setback to Nebraska three weeks ago in Norman, Okla. Missouri, which takes a 4-17 and a 0-6 mark into Saturday's match against Kansas in Lawrence, Kan., has not won in its last 13 matches. The Nebraska-Oklahoma match last year at the Coliseum was sold out, and Pettit expects another good turnout Saturday. "I've got to think that we'll have another sellout," he said. Schedule conflicts forced Missouri and Nebraska to play Sunday. Pettit said he prefers not to play on that day, but "on the other hand it gives some people who haven't had the chance to see us play a good chance to see us."

Nebraska has compiled a .305 hitting percentage this season and is averaging 17.46 kills a game. Husker opponents are averaging 12.42 kills per game and are hitting .158. Janet Kruse leads Nebraska with 280 kills, while hitting .358. Eileen Shannon's kill total is 267 with a .291 hitting percentage. Carla Baker is hitting .307 with 129 kills, while Virginia Stahr has 125 kills and a .465 hitting percentage. Setter Val Novak has 885 assists while averaging 14.05 sets per game. She leads the team in service aces with 35. Shannon led Nebraska with 23 kills and a .553 hitting percentage in the Huskers' 15-12, 15-5, 10-15, 13-15, 15-3 victory against Iowa State Tuesday night in Ames, Iowa. Kruse contributed 17 kills, while Novak recorded 55 assists.

NU fans should cheer for their team

They didn't do the wave in Stillwater, Okla.

What they did do, through almost the entire game, was cheer for their team.

Chris Hopfensperger

They didn't throw marshmallows or cups, either.

The Oklahoma State fans were on their feet every time the Cowboys faced a third down during their 48-23 loss to Nebraska last Saturday. They cheered wildly every time Oklahoma State moved the ball, or prevented Nebraska from doing so. The near-majority of folks in red sat on their hands until Nebraska scored. In fact, the only section which

was more quiet than the large masses of Cornhusker fans were the empty seats that lined the stadium's outer edges. After 100 years of Nebraska football, you would think the team would have fans dedicated enough to cheer for them, not just drive more than seven hours to sit and watch them run up and down the field. After an NCAA-record 27 consecutive winning seasons and more than 50 consecutive weeks in the Associated Press top-10, you would think that Nebraska fans would be happy with a victory. They're not. Nebraska fans have been spoiled by success. Last year, as Nebraska struggled with the blitzing Missouri Tigers, the fans booed as the Huskers left the field at halftime. Instead of supporting the team, Nebraska's more-than-spoiled brats whined in disgust because the Big Red machine wasn't rolling over its opponents. Even Coach Tom Osborne is questioned every year, despite being the winningest active coach in the country.

than Osborne can. They can institute a passing game, and they can beat the Sooners. And most importantly, they have the secret to winning that elusive national championship. That's why they are at the games, making Saturday afternoons a living hell. Nebraska fans aren't even satisfied with their 20 straight bowl appearances. This year Kansas State fans tore down the goalposts after the Wildcats won their first game in nearly three years. Nebraska fans celebrate Big Eight championships by clobbering the hell out of each other with frozen oranges. Even Nebraska students are a part of this decaying support. The few of them who are there to enjoy the game can't because everyone else in the student section is using the football game as an excuse to get drunk Saturday afternoon instead of having to wait until Saturday night. If you're not going to cheer, Nebraska "fans," sit down and shut up -- or maybe you'd rather have to cheer for a team like Kansas State every year.

Every fall there are a few thousand overweight middle-aged guys who think they can coach better from their La-Z-Boy with a beer in their hand

Hopfensperger is a freshman news-editorial major and is a Daily Nebraskan sports reporter.

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in brief

SPORTS

Rugby team places third in tournament

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln men's rugby team placed third in a 16-team division of the Heart of America Tournament in Kansas City, Mo., last weekend. The Cornhuskers opened the tournament with a 16-8 victory against the Santa Fe Rugby Club of Kansas City, followed by a 7-4 triumph over Missouri. The Huskers then were defeated by the St. Louis Hornets, 10-9, but beat Kansas, 12-6, to finish third.

Women bowlers place first, men fourth

The Nebraska women's bowling team won the team title at the Brunswick Collegiate match games tournament last weekend, while the Cornhusker men finished fourth. Kim Berke won the women's tournament individual title with a 208 average. Joining Berke on the squad were Karen Kropp, Michelle Kelley, Jennifer Wilson, Andrea Fittje and Sonya Siebe. In the men's competition, Paul Fleming led Nebraska to its fourth-place finish by compiling a 207 average.

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NU baseball team selects captains

The Nebraska baseball team announced that it has chosen three captains for the upcoming season. Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders said Bobby Benjamin, Shawn Buchanan and Doug Tegtmeier will serve as captains. Benjamin and Buchanan will be team captains, while Tegtmeier was named the captain of the pitching staff. Last season, Benjamin hit .253 with a team-high nine home runs while playing left field. Buchanan, a right fielder and designated hitter, hit .273 with seven doubles and 31 runs batted in. Buchanan and Benjamin led their respective teams in the red-white world series, which was won by the reds in four straight games. Tegtmeier posted a 3-6 record and a 6.81 earned run average while striking out 37 in 78 innings.