

Big Ten rivals to compete at NU Friday

By Darran Fowler
Senior Reporter

Those planning to arrive late at the NU Coliseum for Friday's first semifinal volleyball match in Midwest regional play might want to reconsider.

Ohio State, the region's No. 2 seed, will attempt to defeat No. 3 seed and Big Ten Conference rival Illinois for the third time this season at 5:30 p.m.

The two teams went the distance in their two previous meetings with the Buckeyes upending Illinois 16-14, 11-15, 15-12, 3-15, 15-5 Sept. 30, and 9-15, 15-7, 16-14, 11-15, 15-13 Oct. 27.

Nebraska, the region's No. 1 seed with a 26-3 record and a fourth-place ranking nationally, and No. 5 seed Minnesota will square off at 7:30 p.m.

Friday's winners will meet Saturday at 7:30 p.m. with a Final Four

berth at stake.

Ohio State coach Jim Stone and his 27-6 Buckeyes are looking for any edge they can get.

"Hopefully a lot of people will show up early and cheer for Ohio State," he said.

And, as the scores indicate, any edge would be helpful as the two teams are evenly matched.

"When you win 15-13 in the fifth game obviously there's not a heck of a lot of difference between the two

teams," Stone said. "As far as any major difference, I'm not sure there is one."

He said another five-game match is probable, but at this time of the season that's hard to predict.

"Both previous matches were so close, but you just never know in a match like this," he said. "It's tough to beat a team as good as Illinois for the third time in a row. I feel we're good enough to do it."

"This was the first time we've

beaten Illinois in several years. We had some good matches against them this year so it's going to be very interesting. I'm sure they'll be up for us, but they'll be up for any team this time of year and not just Ohio State."

One of the Buckeyes' strengths is serving, Stone said. Ohio State has totaled 242 service aces this season, including a team-high 67 by Erika Schlitz.

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Bufs not all-time greats... even if mascot dies

As everybody in the world knows by now, Colorado's football team beat Nebraska 27-21 about a month ago.



Chuck Green

But what everybody didn't know is that the Buffaloes are now among the elite in college football history. According to one Denver columnist,

this year's Colorado team is -- drumroll, please -- ONE OF THE GREATEST COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAMS OF ALL TIME.

Excuse me while I make an editorial comment: Ha ha ha haaa-a-a-a-a!!

Give me a break! The Bufs? One of the greatest teams ever to play football? Hmmm. There's something to ponder over an episode of the Flintstones.

Granted, coaches and players at Colorado have done a fantastic job this season, and the 1989 edition probably is the best team Colorado has ever had. The Bufs have a swarming, irresistible defense and a

deadly, unpredictable offense.

They have an incredible emotional edge this season, with the inspiration milked from the death of former quarterback Sal Aunese, who died in September after a long bout with stomach and lung cancer.

They even have a neat buffalo -- actually, a bison -- that runs out on the field with the team and endangers the lives of opponents, cheerleaders, coaches, photographers and anyone else who happens to be on the Folsom Field AstroTurf at the time.

But one thing Colorado doesn't have is one of history's finest college football teams. Good, but not great.

Is the average football fan on the

street really supposed to believe the '89 Bufs could take on and beat -- or even compete with -- the 1971 Cornhuskers, Army of 1945 or Daryl Royal's '69 Texas Longhorns? Could Kanavis McGhee and the boys tangle with the '76 Pittsburgh Panthers, led by Tony Dorsett, or the '83 Nebraska team? Nope.

Or how about the Oklahoma steamrollers of the '70s? Or any of Miami's teams of just about any year of the '80s? Could they beat any of those high-powered teams? No, no, no.

One of the best teams in history? Colorado isn't even one of the nation's five best teams this season.

The Bufs played a tough schedule this year, beating Texas, Illinois, Washington, Nebraska and Oklahoma. They deserve all the credit in the world for that. But could Colorado beat Miami this season? How about Michigan? Florida State?

Would they beat Nebraska if they played tomorrow? Will they beat Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl? Hell, no.

Those are a lot of questions with no real answer. No one ever will know how Colorado would do against some of the great teams of years gone by. Nor will we find out

See **GREEN** on 8

Women's team to play tonight

By Paul Domeier
Staff Reporter

After an up-and-down weekend, the Nebraska women's basketball team will try to get its own game plan right tonight when it faces Oral Roberts University at 7 p.m. at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

"We're not overlooking Oral Roberts," Nebraska women's basketball coach Angela Beck said. "We're concentrating on us."

The 2-3 Huskers lost 66-50 to Central Michigan Friday at the Dial Classic in Minneapolis, then came back to defeat Northwestern, 70-56, in the consolation game Saturday.

Beck said she started shifting focus in the Northwestern game. Her players were beating themselves, she said, so her coaches put away the headsets and sat among the players during the game.

She said scouting reports are secondary to the team's execution.

"It's morale, unity and telling them what to do that matters," she said.

Beck said the Huskers lacked intensity in Friday's contest, which was the team's first game away from the Sports Center, and that she was disappointed with the first-round loss.

"Just wearing the letters of Nebraska, there is a certain point of pride you have to have," she said. "We were frustrated and frustrated with each other."

After a team meeting, Nebraska responded by outscoring Northeastern by 15 points in the second half.

"A young team needs to have an attack frame of mind -- something we didn't have in the Central Michigan game, but got back in the Northeastern game," she said.

Beck said she had no idea her team would bounce back with that extra maturity. She did say two individuals came around during the two games.

"LeeAnna Hiestand and Kelly Hubert both became major forces on the team," she said.

Hiestand scored 16 points and recorded five steals in the two games, while Hubert scored 22 and grabbed 20 rebounds.

Tonight the Huskers will start Hiestand (5.4 points per game, 3.2 rebounds), Hubert (7.0, 8.0), Kim Yancey (8.0, 1.8), Kristi Dahn (5.2, 2.4) and Karen Jennings (16.2, 5.4). Jennings scored 37 points over the weekend and was named to the all-tournament team.

Jennings and Hiestand are freshmen, Yancey is a sophomore and Hubert and Dahn are juniors. That lineup has produced mixed results this season, as the Huskers followed up on an exhibition victory against Auckland, New Zealand, by losing in the finals of the Wimmer's Invitational to No. 4 Georgia.

See **LEADERSHIP** on 8



David Hansen/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska guard Chris Cresswell presses Brisbane's Derek Rucker.

Coach Nee opposed to shorter season

By Nick Hytrec
Staff Reporter

A proposal by the NCAA Presidents Commission that would shorten the basketball season was met with stiff opposition by Nebraska coach Danny Nee.

Nee said he is "totally against" the proposal. The proposal would move the starting date of basketball practice from Oct. 15 to Nov. 15, and teams could not play their first game until Dec. 20, instead of mid-November.

The proposal also would cut the number of games a team could play from 28 to 25. If passed, the proposal will go into effect during the 1992-93 season.

Supporters say the proposal would move

emphasis from the athletes' performance on the basketball court to their performance in the classroom.

Nee said he doesn't believe a shorter season will increase his players' grade point averages.

"I can document that our players' grades are higher during the season," Nee said. "We have mandatory study halls during the season, and the players budget their time better when they don't have as much free time."

He said that with a shorter season, players would have more free time and would be more likely to do other things instead of studying.

People tend to overestimate the amount of time a player spends on basketball, he said. Nee said Nebraska players practice three hours a day four days of the week, so they have a day

off during the school week.

Nee said traveling to games doesn't cause players to miss more than one day of class if the game is on a weekday because the team travels on a private plane.

"We leave on the day of the game and, in most cases, we're back in Lincoln two hours after the game is over," Nee said.

The shortened season would be worse for players than it is now, he said.

"You can't physically get 25 games in from Dec. 20 to March 1 like they're proposing," Nee said. "That would even out to three games a week, which is physically impossible for any player."

See **OPPOSE** on 8

Northern Illinois hopes to run, gun to win against NU

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

The Northern Illinois Huskies will try to make a monkey out of the Nebraska basketball team when the two squads meet tonight at DeKalb, Ill.

Northern Illinois coach Jim Molinari said he hopes the combination of a run-and-gun offense and the famous gorilla mascot that regularly appears at Phoenix Sun's games will produce a victory. The Huskies will have a chance to avenge their 71-56 loss to Nebraska last season at 7:05 p.m. at Chick Evans Field House.

Molinari, who spent 11 seasons at DePaul prior to arriving in DeKalb this season, said he has instituted the Blue Demons' offense at Northern Illinois. That fast-paced offense was highly successful during Molinari's tenure at DePaul, as it produced nine 20-win seasons and 10 NCAA tournament appearances.

"My philosophy has been offensively -- because of my background -- to be an up-tempo team," Molinari said. "We want to take advantage of our athletic ability."

Molinari said he has incorporated a motion-type offense that tries to get as many baskets out of transition as possible. He said Northern Illinois is using a man-to-man defense.

That strategy has produced a 2-2 record for the Huskies this season. Northern Illinois, which finished last season with an 11-17 mark, has beaten Illinois Wesleyan and Montana State and lost to Iona College and Southern Illinois.

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said he is impressed by Northern Illinois.

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