

# Setbacks didn't stop NU volleyball team

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team's road to the Final Four has been filled with potholes and detours.



Before the season began, Cornhusker players and coaches said their ultimate goal this season was to get to the Final Four in Honolulu.

But, to reach that goal the team first had to overcome several obstacles, Husker coach Terry Pettit said.

"Look back at our season. We

began the season by graduating a player (Lori Endicott) who we thought was the best setter in the country," he said. "We thought Virginia (Stahr) was the best middle in the country and she had major shoulder surgery. In Linda Barsness, we lost a returning starter in our second match of the season."

But, the Huskers still made it, and they are now in Honolulu preparing for Friday's 12:30 a.m. (CST) match against UCLA. In the other match, Texas-Arlington plays Long Beach State.

The finals will be played Saturday at 1:30 a.m. (CST).

"We're tremendously talented," Pettit said. "There weren't many groups of people who said we could still do it."

The Huskers did it because of dedication and desire during the first three months of the season, Pettit said.

"(That's) when a group of people said we're going to commit ourselves to seeing this happen," he said. "I'm just really pleased for our players because there were times when they doubted themselves. There were times when there was fear and when there was anxiety."

"I'm really pleased they had the opportunity to confront something and work through it."

One of the players working through it was freshman outside hitter Eileen Shannon, who found herself in a starting role when Barsness went down with a knee injury.

Shannon, who plays the left, or strong side, leads Nebraska in kills with 457, an average of 4.27 a game. She is third on the team in digs with 266.

Pettit said the Huskers' overall balance works in Shannon's favor. He said other teams have to respect the threat of sophomore hitters Janet

Kruse and Cris Hall from the outside and that of Stahr, an All-America selection, in the middle.

"She's playing with a team that's taken a lot of pressure off her," he said.

Shannon said Stahr consistently has been effective in helping her remain controlled in big matches.

"The older players calm me down," she said. "Virginia's done a good job of keeping me calm."

"But, usually I just try not to think about being a freshman, being new."

Shannon said she never thought she would be playing in the Final Four.

"When I was in high school, I just never thought I would be playing in the Final Four," she said. "It's all new. I don't know what to expect but it's something you always dream about."

Now that the Huskers have fulfilled one dream, it is time for an-

other, Stahr said.

"It's time to reset our goal," she said. "Our goal was to get to the Final Four and we've attained that."

When asked what the team's goal is now, Stahr said, "We're not just going out there to get a suntan. My guess is we're going for the diamond and if we play like we played Saturday (against Illinois) we can do it."

"(Against Illinois) we proved we can be a national championship team."

So while the season had its difficult moments, Pettit said that is now in the past.

"Right now the players are playing for themselves, the state of Nebraska and the fans," he said, "and that's certainly not a burden."

**Note:**  
ESPN will televise the Final Four on a tape-delayed basis, with the semifinals Dec. 21 at 11 p.m. and the final Dec. 24 at 11:30 a.m.

## NU coach says practice not hurt by absent players

By Jeff Apel  
Senior Editor

An injury-riddled Nebraska football team continued preparing for its New Year's Day date by practicing Tuesday in the Cook Pavilion.

Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said nine players missed all or part of the two-hour workout, which was conducted in full pads. The workout was in preparation for the Cornhuskers' Fiesta Bowl matchup against Florida State.

The players missing included running backs Ken Clark and Terry Rodgers, defensive tackle Kent Wells, strong safety Reggie Cooper and free safety Marvin Sanders. Wingbacks Nate Turner, Brad Devall and Kelly Prater and punter Mike Stigge also were absent.

Osborne said Stigge did not punt because of a sore leg.

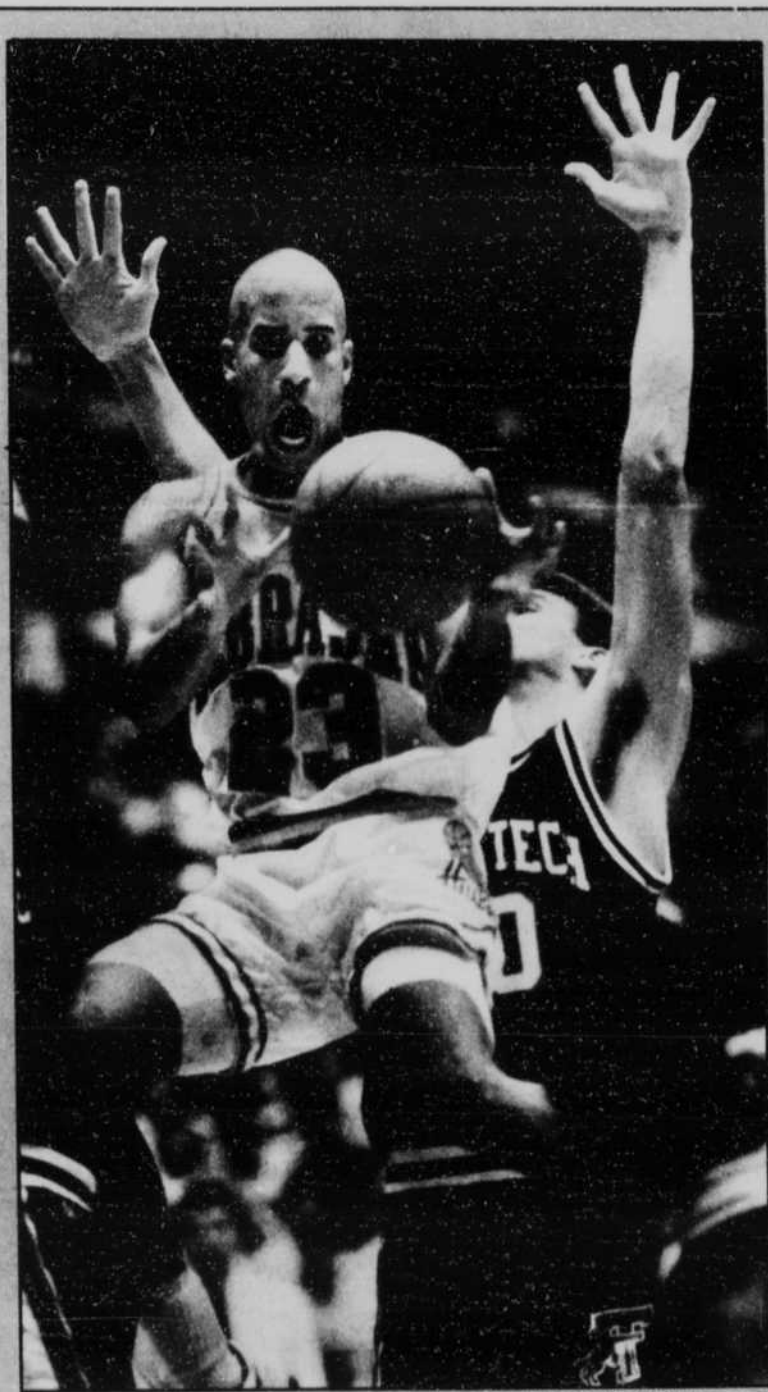
"I don't think it's anything serious," he said, "but he'll have to lay off for a while."

Osborne said Turner missed the practice because of sickness, while Sanders was finalizing a class he needs to graduate. He said Clark has a sore toe, while Cooper still is being slowed by a knee he had arthroscopic surgery on following Nebraska's 42-25 victory against Oklahoma.

Osborne said Rodgers aggravated his knee while working on a cybex machine, a device which allows individuals to re-strengthen leg muscles through lifting.

Osborne said the injuries did not hurt the effort in Tuesday's workout. "We did have a good practice," he said. "We had some contact."

Osborne said Nebraska probably will work out in sweat clothes Thursday, and will work out in pads Friday before scrimmaging Saturday. He said the scrimmage may be at Memorial Stadium if the weather cooperates.



Nebraska guard Clifford Scales dishes off an assist against Texas Tech.

## Team dissent caused by players' bad attitude

Nebraska forward Richard van Poelgeest showed a lot of courage following the Cornhuskers' 79-72 loss to Idaho on Monday.

Van Poelgeest said he and his teammates have a lot of problems. He said those problems center on internal squabbling, which erupted



when a slew of players began to question the reasoning of the coaching staff.

Van Poelgeest's comments were surprising, especially considering they were made in a subdued locker room in which all of his teammates could hear them. And they came on the heels of some squabbles by Tony Farmer, a transfer who has taken the role of team loudmouth.

Farmer greeted reporters by saying he "wouldn't even talk to the Daily Nebraskan."

"F-- them," he said in a loud tone of voice.

Teammate Clifford Scales quickly intervened and told Farmer to "hush up."

Apparently, two sports columns which appeared in Friday's DN rubbed Farmer the wrong way. He didn't appreciate the truth that was in them, including the implication that Nebraska is a bad road team.

Never mind the fact that the Huskers haven't won a road game since they posted an 86-85 win last season against Chaminade, a National Association of Intercolle-

giate Athletics team. And never mind that Nebraska has a dismal 15-35 road record during Coach Danny Nee's three-plus seasons with the Huskers. And ignore the glaring fact that the Huskers have not won on the road in 13 consecutive games.

If you ask Farmer, negative things should not be written. Truth hurts, hey, Tony?

The truth also has hurt for Nee, who criticized the DN for the same columns. Nee took exception to a statement which basically implied that Kelly Lively was a 6-foot-11 stiff.

Nee said Lively has played a critical role on this year's team, and had been unfairly maligned by the press. He went on to say that Nebraska basketball should not be scrutinized by the papers because the Huskers are not "the New York Knicks."

Excuse me, coach, but if you and certain members of your team cannot take criticism, you are just what the immortal Norm Stewart says -- bush league.

Bush league in the sense that you cannot take constructive criticism and, most of all, bush league in the methods to which you respond to such comments.

If Nee or any of his team members think they are going to intimidate the DN by angrily confronting staff members, yelling obscenities or any other bush-league tactics, they should think again.

The saddest aspect about this whole scenario is Nebraska does have talent. Center Rich King has Continental Basketball Association written all over him, and Dapreis Owens, Lewis Geter, Carl

See BOLD on 8

# Brothers support each others' olympic bids

By Julie Naughton  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska gymnasts Ted and Trent Dimas don't let their competitive natures get in the way of their brotherly friendship.

The Dimas' said they do not see gymnastics as a competition between themselves even though they hope to become the first brothers to compete on the U.S. Men's Olympic Gymnastics Team.

The Dimas brothers will continue on their long road toward the 1992 Olympics on Jan. 28, when Nebraska takes on Oklahoma and Iowa in a

triad meet. The meet will be the first time the brothers will compete together as Cornhusker gymnasts.

The only sons of Theodore and Bonnie Dimas, the pair began gymnastics at the same time -- Ted was eight and Trent was six.

The brothers trained at the same club, Gold Cup Gymnastics in Albuquerque, N.M., under the same coach, Ed Burch. They both competed on the U.S. Junior National Men's Gymnastics Team and on the U.S. Senior National Men's Gymnastics Team. Between the two, they have competed on every continent except Australia.

But through the years, the Dimas' have remained friends.

"I'm happy when he wins, and vice versa," said Ted, a junior. "There's no rivalry there. We're stronger competitors when we're together."

Trent agreed. "We have different event strengths also," he said.

The brothers said there are advantages to being at the same school.

"I feel much closer to Trent now that we're training together at Nebraska," Ted said. "We do well together."

Trent, an 18-year-old freshman,

was offered gymnastics scholarships by 42 different schools. Called the top men's gymnastics recruit of 1989 by International Gymnast Magazine, Trent said he chose Nebraska not only for its excellent gymnastics program, but also because his brother was going to school here.

"Ted was 70, 80 percent of my decision," Trent said. "We're very close, very family-oriented. He gives me a lot of support."

Both brothers say that if they make the 1992 Olympic team, they will hang up their handgrips soon after.

"As soon as I finish my last event in either the Olympics -- if I make the

team, or in the trials, -- that's it," Ted said. "I'm out of the gym."

Trent said his goal of making the '92 team is one of the only things keeping him in the gym.

"If I didn't have that hope -- that Ted and I would make the team -- I don't know if I would stay in gymnastics," Trent said.

There always is the possibility that only one brother will make the Olympic team. Ted said he wouldn't be bothered if Trent made the team and he didn't.

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