

Calvin resigns as NU women's tennis coach

By Steve Hill
Staff Reporter

Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney said last week's resignation of Cornhusker women's tennis coach Gregg Calvin was financially based.

Calvin's salary of \$16,500 wasn't enough, Devaney said.

NU softball player receives NCAA, Big Eight honors

Nebraska senior softball player Jill Rishel was the top vote-getter to be named to the GTE Academic All-America First-Team by the members of the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Rishel, a right fielder for the Cornhuskers, earned the award by posting a 3.63 cumulative grade-point average in broadcasting. She becomes the ninth Husker softball player to earn the honor in the last seven years.

She finished her career with a .268 batting average, the 10th best on the all-time Husker charts.

The North Platte native earned First-Team Lee Jeans/Big Eight All-Academic, Second-Team NCAA Midwest All-Region and honorable-mention All-Big Eight honors as well this season.

Calvin, who in his two years moved the Huskers from fifth to third in the Big Eight, but the money wasn't there.

"He thought that financially, he could do better for himself," Devaney said. "I tried to see if I could get him more money, but it wasn't enough."

Calvin, who led Nebraska to a 26-12 record in his two years, said he quit to go into business, but added that he would someday like to get back to tennis. Nebraska was 17-7 this season.

"I had no problem with the athletic department," Calvin said. "They were great to work with."

Devaney blamed the inability to increase the tennis team's budget on the loss of revenue from the Oklahoma and Oklahoma State football team's placement on NCAA probation. The penalties hurt the athletic budgets at each of the Big Eight schools, he said.

Calvin declined to take credit for the program's improvement, but said he has fond memories of the turnaround.

"I'll remember the team's change to a winning attitude more than anything," he said. "It was really hard for me to tell the team, especially now when the seniors are ready to

make a challenge for tops in the Big Eight."

Calvin said the future looks bright for the team and credits the turnaround to a better work ethic. Nebraska returns four seniors next year.

"They're a talented bunch that works hard and always keeps a good attitude," he said. "They'll continue to improve."

Husker senior Ildiko Guba, a No. 1 singles player from Budapest, Hungary, said she was shocked when she first heard of Calvin's resignation. But she said she respects Calvin's decision to do what he thought was best for him.

Oklahoma State has been the dominant team in the conference, but under Calvin Nebraska has closed the gap, she said.

"We know we can do it," she said. "We proved this year that we can compete."

No indication has been made on who Calvin's replacement might be.

"There's a lot of good applicants, and I know the university will be dedicated to finding a good replacement for me," Calvin said.

Guba tossed in her nominee, saying she feels the transition might be easier if assistant coach Scott Jacobson were to take over.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

FOR SALE	
2	Appliances
3	Bicycles
4	Books
5	Clothing
6	Computers
8	Furniture
9	Garage Sales
10	Misc. For Sale
12	Musical Instruments
14	Photo Equipment
16	Sporting Goods
18	Stereos/TVs
19	Ticket Exchange
20	Vehicles

NOTICES	
100	Rides
110	Announcements
120	Greek Affairs
130	Student Government
135	Meeting Others
140	Personals
145	Lost & Found
148	Wanted

SERVICES	
22	Adoption
25	Automotive
28	Beauty Aids
30	Bridal
32	Counseling
34	Floral
36	Health & Fitness
38	Insurance
40	Instruction
42	Job Placement
44	Legal
60	Misc. Services
62	Pregnancy

JOBS	
150	Child Care Needed
160	Help Wanted
162	Work Study Jobs
164	Summer Jobs

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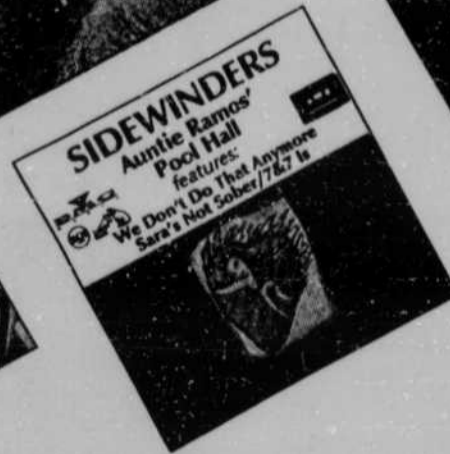
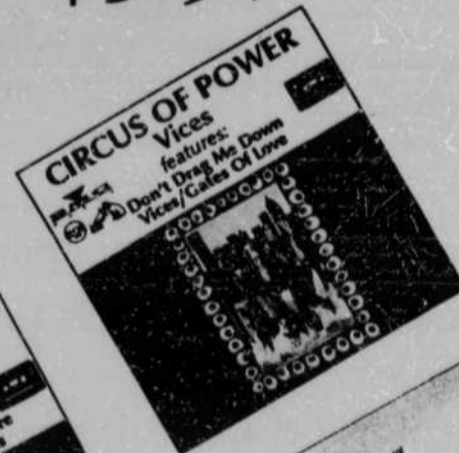
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