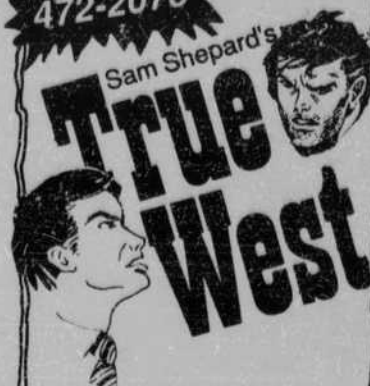


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Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan  
Sara Hesch goes for the kill from Valerie Vermuelen's set during the Nebraska volleyball team's first day of practice Monday.

## Volleyball schedule sees many high-ranking teams

By Darran Fowler  
Senior Editor

The Nebraska volleyball team will play in national championship-like conditions often during its 29-match regular season.

This year's schedule includes a bevy of nationally ranked teams, according to Volleyball Monthly magazine's pre-season rankings, which has Nebraska ranked No. 2. The NCAA and Coaches polls have not been released.

On tap for Nebraska are seven of the top 10 teams, and three others in the top 20.

At a tournament in Hawaii the first week of the season, the Cornhuskers will play No. 1 UCLA, which Nebraska beat in the Final Four semifinals last season before losing the NCAA title to Long Beach State. The team also will play No. 3 Hawaii and No. 7 Ohio State at the tournament.

Nebraska will play No. 4 Texas and No. 20 Wisconsin at the NU Coliseum, and No. 5 Pacific, No. 6 Stanford, No. 8 Illinois and No. 13 Brigham Young on the road. In addition, the Huskers play No. 18 Colorado, in both home and away Big Eight matches.

And there's more. Nebraska will see Minnesota, North Carolina, Wyoming and Illinois State, all teams who made the 32-team field of the 1989 NCAA tournament.

"Our schedule is as tough as anybody's," Husker coach Terry Pettit said at Sunday's team photo day at the Coliseum. "There's nobody that can win the national championship that we don't play."

Nebraska, which finished 29-4 in 1989, began two-a-day practices Monday in preparation for a Sept. 1, home opener with the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Four starters return, including two-senior setter Val Novak and junior outside hitter Janet Kruse—who were named first-team All-Americans. Also back are outside hitters Cris Hall, a junior, and sophomore Eileen Shannon.

Counting senior outside hitter Linda Barsness, the Huskers, in essence, have five starters back. Barsness, who

led the team in kills as a sophomore, suffered a season-ending knee injury the second match of the season last year.

Spots that need to be filled are the two middle blocker positions left vacant by Carla Baker and Virginia Stahr, who used up their collegiate eligibility.

Pettit has several players ready to step in. He said sophomore Stephanie Thater played "exceptional" at this summer's Olympic Festival, and junior Sara Hesch played "terrific" during the team's spring workouts. Hall also will spend time at middle blocker, he said.

Senior serving specialist Becky Bolli, sophomore outside hitter Debbie Brand and sophomore setter Valerie Vermuelen also return.

"We have talent at every position," Pettit said.

There are four new arrivals in scholarship players Laura Luther and Nikki Stricker, and walk-ons Kim Kinnan and Jessica Walter.

With four starters back from a team that was a match away from the national title, a lot of teams could be gunning for Nebraska.

"There always is, but there may be a little more this year," Pettit said. "There have been few times in the last five, six years that we hadn't play anybody where we weren't as important a match as they had on their schedule. I don't think it's anything new."

Looking at the Big Eight, he said, Kansas could be the surprise team of the league. Pettit, who has led Nebraska to 13 of its 14-straight conference championships, said Kansas played Nebraska tough during the spring.

Karen Dahlgren-Schonewise, a two-time Husker All-American who helped lead Nebraska to a national runner-up finish in 1986, is an assistant coach at Kansas, where Pettit said she has a lot of input.

"She's had a major impact on turning that program around," he said.

He added that he doesn't think Colorado will fade after emerging onto the national scene last year, and that Iowa State has experience and talent. He said Oklahoma is young but talented and probably is the league team that best matches Nebraska physically.

## Nebraska ranks lower than usual during preseason

By Todd Cooper  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska is finding itself ranked lower than usual in some of the preseason football rankings, and Coach Tom Osborne said that's because of the Cornhuskers' status at quarterback.

Nebraska is ranked anywhere from fourth to 16th, and at Friday's team photo day press conference, Osborne said preseason rankings are often based on the experience of quarterbacks. Nebraska began two-a-day practices Saturday.

"I remember back in 1976 when

See OSBORNE on 7.

## New coach chosen

From Staff Reports

Nebraska athletic director Bob Devaney announced Monday that Robert E. Hampton was selected for the women's tennis coaching position, pending approval by the Nebraska Board of Regents.

Hampton comes from Brigham Young University in Hawaii where he played collegiate tennis and was named the team's most valuable player in 1987 and 1988. He was the NAIA's eighth-ranked singles player.

Hampton, who stayed at Brigham Young to earn his master's degree last year, replaces Gregg Calvin who resigned earlier this summer.



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