

# Pettit touts volleyball team's experience, talent

By David Moyer  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team has talent and depth at the outside hitter positions, Cornhusker coach Terry Pettit said.

"In past years we've had great players, but this year we are extremely deep and experienced," he said.

So experienced that returning starter Cris Hall may switch to middle blocker to fill vacancies left by Virginia Stahr

and Carla Baker, who completed their eligibility.

Hall, a 6-foot-2 junior from Chanute, Kan., began fall camp practicing in the middle. The amount of time she will spend there this season will depend on the opponent, Pettit said.

Hall said the move is not a risk considering the quality of players surrounding her as outside hitters.

There is junior Janet Kruse of Fort Calhoun, a first-team All-America

selection last year after finishing second on the team with 463 kills, putting her fifth on the Nebraska all-time list. She led the team with 298 digs.

There is senior outside hitter Linda Barsness of Rochester, Minn., who led Nebraska in 1988 with 465 kills, the fourth-best season total in school history. Her junior season ended when she went down with a season-ending knee injury in the second match of the season.

"Linda Barsness will add her skills plus senior leadership to the outside hitters," Pettit said.

Sophomore Eileen Shannon of Elmhurst, Ill., replaced Barsness and

led the Huskers in kills with 479, good for third on the all-time single-season list.

Though a sophomore, Pettit said, Shannon is not short of experience, especially with her performance in last year's NCAA Tournament final match against Long Beach State, which the Huskers lost in three straight games. Shannon was the only player from Nebraska picked to the Final Four All-Tournament Team.

"Last year's final gave Eileen so much experience," Pettit said. "Because of that experience, I consider her a veteran."

Though her first goal is to just

make the starting lineup, Shannon said, her experience should allow her to at least duplicate her freshman year.

"It helps to have good people around me," Shannon said. "It helps me reach my potential."

Nebraska also has experienced players in sophomore Debbie Brand from Adelaide, Australia, who played in 62 games in 1989. In one match, she reached double figures in kills with 12 and recorded a four-game season-high 21 digs.

"This group not only has good offense, but they also play good defense, and pass real well," Pettit said.

## NU volleyball earns No. 1 hitting honors

From Staff Reports

Nebraska's volleyball team led the nation in hitting percentages last season with a mark of .310 on 2,031 kills. The team finished No. 2 in the nation with a 29-4 record, losing to Long Beach State in the NCAA Final Four Tournament.

Nebraska returns all three of its 1989 outside hitters who helped to set that mark: junior first-team All-American Janet Kruse, who hit .330 with 463 kills; sophomore Eileen Shannon, .287 and 479 kills, and Cris Hall, .240 and 367 kills.

The setter who dished out the assists for those hits, senior first-team All-American Val Novak, also returns. Novak led the nation in set assists per game, averaging 13.74.

In addition, senior Linda Barsness, who played in three games in 1989 before suffering a season-ending knee injury, has returned.

As a sophomore, Barsness, also an outside hitter, had a team-high 465 kills, and a .238 hitting percentage.



## 1990 Schedule

1989 Record: 29-4  
National Runner-up

Home games are in bold.

<b>UNO</b>	<b>Sept. 1</b>
Wahine Invitational at Honolulu (UCLA, Hawaii, Ohio State, Nebraska)	Sept. 6-8
<b>Baden-Mizuno Invitational</b>	<b>Sept. 14-15</b>
(Wyoming, Purdue, Texas A&M, Nebraska)	
Illinois Invitational at Champagne (Illinois, Pacific, Florida, Nebraska)	Sept. 21-23
<b>FirsTier Invitational</b>	<b>Sept. 28-29</b>
(Wisconsin, North Carolina, BYU, Nebraska)	
Kansas	Oct. 3
<b>Missouri</b>	<b>Oct. 6</b>
Iowa State	Oct. 9
Stanford Invitational at Stanford (Stanford, St. Mary's, BYU, Nebraska)	Oct. 11-12
<b>Kansas State</b>	<b>Oct. 16</b>
Oklahoma	Oct. 20
Colorado	Oct. 27
<b>Kansas</b>	<b>Oct. 30</b>
<b>Runza Classic</b>	<b>Nov. 2-3</b>
(Texas, Illinois State, Minnesota, Nebraska)	
Iowa State	Nov. 6
Missouri	Nov. 9
Kansas State	Nov. 10
Colorado	Nov. 13
Oklahoma	Nov. 17
<b>Big Eight Tournament at Omaha</b>	<b>Nov. 23-24</b>
NCAA First Round	Nov. 29-Dec. 1
NCAA Regionals	Dec. 6-8
<b>NCAA Final Four at College Park, MD</b>	<b>Dec. 13-15</b>

Jana Pedersen/Daily Nebraskan

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