

Huskers matched with tough teams in court contest

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

The No. 1 Nebraska volleyball team enters this weekend's First Tier Invitational with the same message to opponents -- take your best shot.

The 9-1 Cornhuskers, who have played six top-10 opponents in the last three weeks, will host No. 12 Brigham Young, Wisconsin and North Carolina in the tournament, to be played today and Saturday at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he is happy with the way the Huskers have taken on the tough early season competition.

"It's a good start and we've developed really well," Pettit said. "I'm happy with the progress we've made." The tournament's feature match will be tonight's 7 p.m. Nebraska-Brigham Young contest. Pettit said Brigham Young, 8-2, is a team that relies heavily on solid blocking.

"They're as good a team as we've faced this year," Pettit said. "They put six top-notch players on the court and they block extremely well."

Wisconsin is 12-4 and on a 11-match winning streak. The Badgers lost a four-game match to No. 2 UCLA earlier this season, winning the first game 15-9, and then losing 15-12, 15-9 and 15-12.

Pettit said that Wisconsin is very similar to Nebraska.

"They match up with us very well," Pettit said. "They are a physical team and they play good defense."

Pettit said that North Carolina, 6-4, also has a good team.

"They won the ACC last year and they've won a few matches this year," Pettit said. "They're not as physical as the other two teams we'll see."

The Huskers will be healthy. Sophomore setter Valerie Vermeulen will play for the first time this season after sitting out with a viral infection,

First Tier Invitational

AT NU COLISEUM

TODAY
5:00 p.m. Wisconsin vs. North Carolina
7:30 p.m. #1 Nebraska vs. #12 BYU

SATURDAY
10:00 a.m. Nebraska vs. North Carolina
Noon BYU vs. Wisconsin
5:15 p.m. Nebraska vs. Wisconsin
7:30 p.m. BYU vs. North Carolina

*UNL students free with student ID.

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

and junior outside hitter Cris Hall, though still troubled with back pains, will play. She has been able to play through her pain and deliver at crucial times.

"She is a very competitive player," Pettit said. "She plays her best in the big matches."

Also drawing praise from Pettit is sophomore middle blocker Stephanie Thater, who earned All-Tournament honors at last weekend's Illinois Invitational. Thater also leads the Big Eight with a .376 hitting percentage.

"She has played consistently for us all season," Pettit said. "So far, she has gotten better each week."

Pettit said the keys to Nebraska's winning the tournament are ball handling and defense.

"If we're going to play as well as we can, we need to improve in both of those areas," Pettit said.

Pettit said that the Huskers have rebounded well from last weekend's four set loss to Pacific at the Illinois Invitational.

"I don't think the players think any less of themselves because they lost their first match," Pettit said.

University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who show their student ID's get in free to regular season home matches.

Struggling Oregon State team facing stiff odds against NU

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Last year, Oregon State "tied" Colorado.

Both the Beavers and the Buffaloes held Nebraska to 397 yards, its lowest offensive output until the Fiesta Bowl.

"We did not move the ball at all against Oregon State," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said.

In fact the Beavers were the best defensive team with the best schemes on last year's non-conference schedule despite losing to Nebraska 35-7, Osborne said.

This year, however, might be a different story.

So far, Oregon State is 0-4.

"They're obviously disappointed in how things have gone this far," Osborne said.

The Beavers probably are disappointed at the oddsmakers for listing them as 50-point underdogs to Nebraska.

Osborne said he can't remember a game where Nebraska has been favored by such an enormous margin, and he wants to forget it now.

"That's probably the most misleading thing to use and the only thing fans can look at," he said. "It does build up expectations."

"I don't believe anybody should be favored by that amount."

Several factors are overlooked when a point spread is the only consideration, Osborne said, crediting the second half play of Oregon State in its 37-3 loss at Stanford.

Turnovers also have been a problem for the Beavers, who have given away the ball 14 times.

"They had a tremendous number of turnovers against UNLV," Osborne said. "I think they had six straight turnovers and that led to their destruction."

Probable starters

Oregon St. (0-4-0)				Nebraska (3-0-0)					
O	F	F	E	N	S	E	E		
Kevin Strasser	SE	5-10	169	So.	Chris Garrett	TE	6-3	240	Jr.
Brad D'Ancona	LT	6-3	290	Sr.	Tom Punt	LT	6-8	285	Sr.
Christian Miller	LG	6-4	275	Fr.	Jim Wanek	LG	6-1	245	Sr.
Tom Nordquist	C	6-2	250	Jr.	David Edeal	C	6-2	260	Sr.
Fletcher Keister	RG	6-4	280	So.	Will Shields	RG	6-2	260	So.
Adam Albaugh	RT	6-5	274	Fr.	Brian Boerboom	RT	6-7	285	Jr.
George Breland	TE	6-4	219	Sr.	Jon Bostick	SE	6-2	185	Jr.
Maurice Wilson	FL	6-8	172	So.	Mike Grant	QB	6-2	210	Jr.
Matt Booher	QB	6-2	196	Sr.	Leodis Flowers	IB	5-11	200	Jr.
Reggie Pitchford	TB	5-10	202	Sr.	Omar Soto	FB	5-11	220	Jr.
James Jones	FB	6-2	244	So.	Tyrone Hughes	WB	5-9	175	So.
Doug Burke	PK	6-3	201	Jr.	Gregg Barrios	PK	5-8	170	Sr.

D	E	F	E	N	S	E			
Chad de Sully	LE	6-4	232	Fr.	Travis Hill	LB	6-2	225	So.
Esera Tualo	DT	6-3	262	Sr.	Joe Sims	LT	6-3	280	Sr.
Martin Billings	RE	6-4	240	Sr.	Pat Engelbert	MG	6-2	250	Jr.
Mark Price	OLB	6-2	205	So.	Kenny Walker	RT	6-4	240	Sr.
Tim Slone	ILB	6-3	228	Jr.	Mike Croel	LB	6-3	225	Sr.
Joe Kearney	ILB	6-1	229	Sr.	Mike Petko	LB	6-2	230	Jr.
Todd McKinney	OLB	6-3	216	Sr.	Pat Tyrance	LB	6-2	240	Sr.
Brian Beck	SC	5-8	166	Sr.	Bruce Pickens	CB	5-11	190	Sr.
Earl Zackery	FS	5-11	201	So.	Reggie Cooper	SS	6-3	210	Sr.
Dennis Edwards	SS	6-2	206	Fr.	Tyrone Byrd	FS	5-11	165	So.
Brent Huff	WC	5-10	167	Jr.	Tahaun Lewis	CB	5-11	170	Sr.
Tim Kollas	P	5-11	170	Fr.	Mike Stigge	P	6-1	185	So.

John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

"If the situation reverses and they have a plus three or four turnovers, then it could get tight."

Osborne said the Cornhuskers are not counting on the Beavers giving them the ball.

"You've always got to figure that when you play somebody, you may not have that factor," he said. "We're hoping that we'll take good care of the ball and we're prepared to play a team that doesn't turn it over."

Nebraska has had a small problem with turnovers, Osborne said. The Huskers have had eight this season.

"We have not done a bad job," he said. "We've got to get that turnover thing down to one or zero (per game)."

"We'd like to get into a rhythm where we're taking a little better care of the ball."

Being such a heavy favorite does not change the team's outlook on the game or allow the players to let up their intensity, Osborne said.

"Our approach is generally to play against ourselves," he said. "We want to play as well as we can. We usually have competition for positions, so a player knows if he goes out and doesn't play well there is somebody else who may be able to play better."

"We use that approach whether we are playing Oklahoma or whether

See HUSKERS on 8

OSU coach: Husker defense, depth will be obstacles for Saturday's game

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Oregon State Beavers could keep Saturday's game close, improve as a team heading into the rest of their Pac 10 schedule and maybe, just maybe, pull off an upset.

Or they could get mashed again. "We'll be able to tell after the game whether indeed we did get something out of the game," Oregon State Coach Dave Kragthorpe said.

The Beavers gained from last year's game against Nebraska, Kragthorpe said. The Cornhuskers beat the Beavers 35-7 on the way to a 4-7-1 record, but Oregon State had 228 yards compared to Nebraska's 397.

Now the Beavers are in a situation similar to 1989.

"At the stage that our team is right now, we just want to go out and play well," Kragthorpe said.

That, Kragthorpe said, is something the Beavers have not done yet. Oregon State is 0-4, having lost to Montana, Kansas, UNLV and Stanford by a combined score of 142-50.

Kragthorpe said Oregon State should be 2-2.

"As far as preseason predictions and prognosis, we're not doing very well," he said.

Injuries, particularly to wide receiver Jason Kent, cornerback Brent Huff and defensive tackle Esera Tualo, have contributed to the rough start, Kragthorpe said.

"When you're struggling like we are, you need to be at 100 percent to have a chance," he said.

On defense, the Beavers were going to rely on Lombardi Trophy candidate Tualo -- hard to pronounce, hard to block and hard to find for the

☆ **GAME NOTES** ☆

Nebraska (3-0-0) vs Oregon St. (0-4-0)

September 29, 1:30 p.m. Memorial Stadium
Nebraska leads: 8-2-0

Last meeting:	1989 records:
1989	Nebraska 10-2-0
Nebraska, 35-7	Oregon St. 4-7-1

SCORES	Nebraska 13	Baylor	0
	Nebraska 60	Northern Illinois	14
	Nebraska 56	Minnesota	0
	Oregon St. 15	Montana	22
	Oregon St. 12	Kansas	38
	Oregon St. 20	UNLV	45
	Oregon St. 3	Stanford	37

AROUND THE

Western Michigan at Iowa St.
New Mexico at Kansas St.
Washington at Colorado
Kansas at Oklahoma
Arizona St. at Missouri

BIG 8

first four games. Kragthorpe said Tualo, the leading tackler in last year's contest, has been kept out most of this season and will see limited action this weekend.

Kragthorpe said he has seen films of all of Nebraska's games.

"(The Huskers are) always tough, and this may be one of their better teams," he said. "It starts with their defense. It's just awesome. There's no other way to put it."

The development of a young Nebraska offense into a unit averaging 43 points a game is an example of the Huskers' depth, Kragthorpe said.

Nebraska leads the series 8-2,

having won the last three meetings. Oregon State's two victories came in 1947 and 1948.

At the end of the 1948 season, the Beavers played in the Pincapple Bowl. Oregon State's most recent bowl game was the 1965 Rose Bowl. The program had five winning seasons after that, and are now on a 19-year streak of losing records. The team's four wins in 1988 and 1989 were the most since 1971.

"The most important thing is that this program has been losing a long time," Kragthorpe said, "so our confidence level isn't where it is supposed to be."

Injuries strike NU runners; team to run minus top two

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

Because of injuries and illness, both the men's and women's cross country teams will be competing without key runners on Saturday.

Because of a bacterial infection, sophomore Katie Fletcher, the women's team captain, was held out of two tune-up meets -- the Woody Greeno-Nebraska and Doane Invitationals. Coach Jay Dirksen had planned for her to return for Saturday's Mountain West Invitational in Missoula, Mont.

Dirksen said unless she made a miraculous one-hour recovery, that he was 99-percent sure Fletcher would not make the trip because of a low hemoglobin count and a fever.

If Fletcher cannot make the trip, sophomore Angie Lippold, the team's No. 8 runner, will take her place in the Huskers' top seven.

Fletcher isn't the only runner to sit out this meet.

Junior Kelly O'Donnell is recovering from a hip injury and is not 100-percent healthy. For the men, freshman David Itteffa, who

finished second at Doane, is still being nagged by a groin injury.

Fran tenBensel, the women's No. 2 runner, will also be missing when the starter's gun sounds. Instead, tenBensel, who led the women's team in their first two meets by placing first, will be at her sister's wedding.

The result is a test for the women. "If we can do well without two of our top three runners, Fran and Katie," Dirksen said, "I'll know we have a good team."

"Whether or not we'll win... well, I doubt it."

The field in the 6,000 meters race is a good one, he said, but no rankings have been released for the NCAA women.

The young, 22nd-ranked men's team, trailing its captain, All-American Joe Kirby, will look to gain experience against the likes of No. 6 Oregon and No. 20 Weaver State, Dirksen said.

"I really don't know what we have on the men's side," he said.

"I think both teams are ready to run and could run fairly well. I hope we do."

Schwarzenegger to speak

From Staff Reports

The Office of Campus Recreation has distributed about 4,000 passes for today's speech by Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger will begin speaking at 3 p.m. in the NU Coliseum. Doors open at 2 p.m.

Schwarzenegger is visiting Ne-

braska today as chairman of the President's Council on Physical Fitness.

Nebraska is the last stop on a swing of six states. This is the first trip as he starts to fulfill his pledge to visit all 50 states and check out local fitness programs.

Before coming to campus Schwarzenegger will go to a luncheon with Gov. Kay Orr and will go to a public school in Lincoln.