

Coach takes succession, plans long career

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

Bob Hampton, the fourth women's tennis coach at Nebraska in five years, said he is here to give the program stability.

"This is a permanent job for me. I'll be here 38, 39 years at least," he said.

That may be a slight, joking exaggeration, but Hampton, 28, said he wanted this job.

Hampton said the women's athletic director, Barb Hibner, told him Nebraska had three strong candidates already, so he would have to pay for his flight to an interview. He did, and got the job in August.

Hampton's team will play host in the Husker Invitational today and Saturday. Play begins at 8 a.m. both days, at the Cather-Pound courts and the Lincoln Racquet Club today, and

at the Cather-Pound courts and Woods Park Saturday.

The six singles and three doubles positions will play in three-round tournaments. The eight-team invitational includes Big Eight opponents, Kansas State and Colorado.

Hampton said because he's from the west, he is still getting familiar with the Big Eight. A recent graduate from Brigham Young, Hampton played at BYU-Hawaii, making it to No. 8 in NIAA singles.

A California native, Hampton has ties with strong tennis areas. He said that should help him recruit, even in a comparatively icy and tennis-barren region as Lincoln.

"That's what they said about football and volleyball -- that it was too cold to play here -- and look what they've done," Hampton said.

Hampton didn't have to worry about filling any spots this year. Nebraska

returned all six players from last year's lineup, led by seniors Ildiko Guba, Nancy Tyggum and Meghan Quinn.

The only person not returning from last season is former coach, Gregg Calvin. Calvin resigned late-May when he had the chance to join a friend in a Lincoln business.

Calvin said that if he would have returned this year, he would have continued until next year so a new coach wouldn't have to worry about replacing the three seniors.

Calvin also arranged the schedule. The Huskers opened their fall season last weekend, losing 6-3 to Iowa and beating Drake 7-2 and Iowa State 7-2.

After the first month of his 38 or 39 years as coach, Hampton said he, his wife and his two children are happy to be in Nebraska.

"Out of all the places we've ever lived, this has got to be the friendliest," he said.

Tennis team adapts to coach

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team has another new coach, and for the three seniors on the squad that means, "Here we go again."

Bob Hampton is the third coach at Nebraska for Meghan Quinn, Ildiko Guba and Nancy Tyggum. Their freshman year, men's coach Kerry McDermott ran both teams. Gregg Calvin took over the next year, coached two seasons and resigned in July.

"(Calvin's resignation) was a big shock to me," Tyggum said. "I was worried about who'd come in and take his place because I knew our team would be kind of

tough." That tough team finished third in the Big Eight in the spring and has all six players returning. So far, Guba said, Hampton has instilled a determination to improve.

Tyggum's career has been rockier than the careers of Guba and Quinn, who were recruited by McDermott. Tyggum was an early recruit for McDermott's predecessor, Kathy Hawkins. Tyggum has played for three coaches, none of them the one who recruited her.

Quinn said she was disappointed having to adapt to a new coach for her senior season.

"With a new coach, you have to prove yourself all over again," Quinn said.

Badgers coach prepares for danger

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Wisconsin volleyball coach Steve Lowe has heard the horror stories about the NU Coliseum.

This weekend, Lowe and his team will not only have to deal with the coliseum but also its usual inhabitants, the 9-1, No. 1 ranked Cornhuskers in the FirstTier Invitational.

Lowe, whose 12-4 Badgers will be making their first trip to Nebraska in 10 years, said other coaches have told him how hard it is to play volleyball in the close confines of the coliseum.

"I'm real aware that it's one of the toughest places to play in the nation," Lowe said. "They've always got a real good crowd and Nebraska is very tough to beat when they play at home."

Lowe said Nebraska will be especially dangerous after losing last weekend to Pacific at the Illinois Invitational.

"Any time you lose a game like

that, you want to come home and show the home fans what you've got," Lowe said. "They'll be out for blood."

Wisconsin is on a 11-match winning streak, including wins last weekend over Michigan and Michigan State, and a victory Wednesday over Northwestern. Lowe said his team has been playing well lately.

"We've finally started to put it all together like we knew we could," Lowe said.

The Badgers have been led early by sophomore middle blocker Arlisa Hagan and junior setter Liz Tortorello. Hagan leads the Big Ten with a .401 hitting percentage, while Tortorello has recorded 510 set assists on the season.

"Arlisa is definitely an offensive player, and Liz has done a good job of keeping us together on the court," Lowe said.

Nebraska and Wisconsin have played one common opponent this season: UCLA. Nebraska beat the Bruins in five games, while Wisconsin

fell in four sets at home. Wisconsin is rated 17th in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll. This is the first season the Badgers have been ranked, and that has sparked interest on Wisconsin's campus.

"There's a lot of excitement for the sport up here," Lowe said. "Last week we drew 1,700 people, the most we've ever had for a match."

Although the Badgers are ranked, Lowe said they still haven't reached the level of top teams like Nebraska, UCLA and Pacific.

"We still have to show improvement to get to their level," he said. "We don't have the size of other teams, and that may hurt us in the long run."

Lowe said each one of Nebraska's starters are "potential All-Americans," and that the team's overall size is impressive. Lowe said he is impressed with outside hitter Cris Hall, whom he coached at the U.S. Olympic Festival two years ago.

Huskers

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we're playing somebody that we're favored to beat handily, and for the most part it works fairly well."

The competitive depth also makes it possible to replace injured starters with adequate players.

That was visible in last Saturday's 56-0 thrashing of Minnesota, when the No. 3 and No. 4 I-backs, Derek Brown and George Achola, replaced injured starter Leodis Flowers and No. 2 back Scott Baldwin.

"Our depth at I-back is really outstanding," Osborne said. "We have some other positions where we're struggling, where we're really concerned about one guy getting injured because we don't have another guy that can go in and really perform at the level we want to play at."

Those positions have been partially shored up by the walk-on program, Osborne said.



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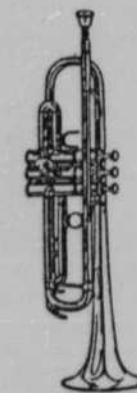
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