



Joe Heinze/Daily Nebraskan

No. 1 Nebraska is home Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Here Cris Hall goes high for a kill in the Wisconsin match.

Coach: Team rallies at match crunch time

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team is 13-1, and experience has gotten it there.

The Cornhuskers, which open their home conference schedule at 7:30 p.m. Saturday against Missouri at the NU Coliseum, have dominated close matches this season.

In Nebraska's first conference match Wednesday at Kansas, Nebraska came from behind to win the first two games 15-12 and 15-13 before routing the Jayhawks 15-5 in the third. For the season, Nebraska has a 13-4 record in games decided by three points or less.

"We seem to raise our level of play near the end of close games," said Husker coach Terry Pettit. "And I think that can be attributed to our experience."

Pettit said he doesn't like having to watch his team rally, but added he doesn't expect Nebraska to dominate every match from the start.

"We're dealing with human beings here," he said. "You can't just expect a team to perform like a printout says they should perform."

Pettit also credited senior co-captains Val Novak and Becky Bolli for rallying the team at crunch time.

"It's not a matter of them getting the team motivated," Pettit said. "It's just that they raise their level of play and play error-free volleyball."

The team tries to focus on being intense rather than being emotional, Pettit said.

"We're not a perfect volleyball

team," Pettit said. "Over a long period of time, it's hard to maintain a high emotional level."

At Kansas, Pettit said that the Huskers' setting and defense were "sub-par." He credited Bolli and outside hitter Janet Kruse for playing well.

"Janet handled the ball about as well as she has all year, and as usual, Bolli came up with the big serve when we needed it," he said.

Missouri was 4-8 and 0-1 in the Big Eight going into Thursday's match at Oklahoma. The Tigers' conference loss was to Iowa State. Pettit said he is familiar with the talents of Tiger outside hitter Yvette Buhlig, who ranks third in the Big Eight with a .297 hitting percentage.

"She's an exceptional player for them," Pettit said. "She played in the Olympic Festival, so we know she can play."

He said he hadn't seen Missouri play, but added that Tiger coach Craig Sherman had "an exceptional recruiting year" in 1990. Nebraska has won the last 18 matches against Missouri, including two straight-game victories last season. Pettit said the Huskers will not be focusing on the Tigers as much as on their own level of play.

"We won't necessarily prepare for them as much as we'll work on getting ourselves ready, especially in the technical aspects," Pettit said.

Winning the match is not his only concern, Pettit said.

"I believe we'll control the match," Pettit said. "But we're just looking for improvement every game."

Kansas State's big start leads to NU upset hopes

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

Kansas State is supposed to lose. The Wildcats are supposed to come on the field, play a few downs, roll over, and die. That is the historic role of a team that has two winning seasons in the last 20 years.

Apparently no one told Coach Bill Snyder and this year's team. The Wildcats, 3-1 this season, are off to their best start since 1982. This year they already have scored more points than all of last year and won as many games as the past four seasons combined.

Even more unusual than Kansas State actually winning, Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said, the Wildcats now think they can win.

"I think it's a little different situation than we've faced from them in a long time," Osborne said. "I think that for the first time that we've played them in several years they might have a genuine feeling that they're capable of

beating us if they play well."

So far this season some of the Wildcats have played well. Running back Pat Jackson is fifth in the Big Eight in rushing, averaging 94.3 yards a game. Quarterback Carl Straw leads the Big Eight and is sixth in the nation in passing efficiency, completing 62.5 percent of his passes.

"Their main thing is to confuse you," Osborne said. "They run a lot of sets. Just about every formation known to man, they run."

"They've tried to work at a running game and they run it fairly well. That makes them a little bit harder to defend."

Straw, hobbling from an ankle injury from last weekend's game with New Mexico, has delayed the announcement of a definite starter at quarterback. His replacement, Paul Watson, is a good player, Osborne said.

"They're a little like Minne-

See WILDCATS on 8

Missouri coach says frustration may continue for young team

By Sara Bauder Schott
Senior Reporter

A frustrating couple of weeks may be extended for the Missouri volleyball team, said Coach Craig Sherman.

Frustrating, Sherman said, because for the Tigers' wins have been few and the team faces No. 1 Nebraska on its home floor at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. Going into Thursday night's match against Oklahoma, Missouri was 4-8

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Sherman
Missouri volleyball coach

overall and 0-1 in the Big Eight. Nebraska is 13-1 and 1-0 after sweeping Kansas Wednesday.

"The last couple of weeks, we've been looking so hard for the wins that it is hard to see the positive steps we've made," Sherman said. "We have improved, but the W's aren't there."

The Tigers are a young team with only two seniors and three juniors, and Sherman said the big problem is little experience. Against Nebraska, Sherman wants his young group to be in position to win a couple games.

Sherman said Missouri is looking forward to playing Nebraska for one reason. He said the Tigers are anxious to play in front of the NU Coliseum's large crowd -- a luxury the Tigers don't have.

The Cornhuskers lead the nation in attendance, averaging 2,624 a match. Missouri's average is 147.

Finishing fourth in the Big Eight is Sherman's goal for the season. The

★ Nebraska volleyball ★

#1 Nebraska (13-1) vs. Missouri (4-8)*

Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at NU Coliseum
Nebraska leads series 30-2-1

Probable starters

Nebraska				
Name	Position	Height	Year	Hometown
Becky Bolli	DS	5-8	Sr.	Burwell
Cris Hall	OH	6-2	Jr.	Chanute, Kan.
Janet Kruse	OH	6-1	Jr.	Fort Calhoun
Val Novak	S	5-10	Sr.	Oak Lawn, Ill.
Eileen Shannon	OH	6-0	So.	Eimhurst, Ill.
Stephanie Thater	MB	6-2	So.	Union, Mo.

Missouri				
Name	Position	Height	Year	Hometown
Cindy Attenberry	S	5-5	Fr.	Eldon, Mo.
Shannon Brown	MB	6-0	So.	Belleville, Ill.
Yvette Buhlig	OH	5-11	Jr.	Alma, Mo.
Sherri Gentry	MB	5-11	Sr.	Osage Beach, Mo.
Shelly Lowery	MB	5-11	Fr.	Independence, Mo.
Jodi Lucas	OH	5-8	Jr.	Festus, Mo.

UNL students free with student ID.
*Does not include Thursday night's game. John Bruce/Daily Nebraskan

Coach says Cats could win if football gods wear purple

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

More wins haven't meant more fans for the 3-1 Kansas State Wildcats, Nebraska's football opponent Saturday at 1:10 p.m.

After three home games, Kansas State has drawn 67,444 spectators. That's total, not average. The average has been 22,481 a game at the 42,000-seat KSU Stadium in Manhattan, the site of Saturday's contest.

"People have been very positive and supportive, with the exception of attendance," said Kansas State coach Bill Snyder.

In 1989, Snyder's first season as coach, the team averaged 26,726

spectators per home game.

"Part of our program was that we would campaign heavily to get people in the stands, with the hope that the players would respond to that kind of support," he said.

So far, without support, the players have responded. Kansas State has defeated Western Illinois 27-6, New Mexico State 52-7 and New Mexico 38-6 at home. The Wildcats lost 42-37 at Northern Illinois.

Three wins for Kansas State is the most since 1982. To add a fourth this weekend, though, Snyder said just about everything would have to go Kansas State's way: Nebraska must

See SNYDER on 8

Tigers finished seventh last year. He said Nebraska and Colorado probably have the top two spots sewn up, but there could be a "neat little dog fight" for the remaining teams.

Husker middle blocker Stephanie Thater is from Union, Mo. Sherman's hopes of nabbing Thater were short-lived.

"She had a good high school career and was being recruited by all the top-10 schools," he said. "We were out of it pretty early."

Coming into this week, Thater led the Big Eight in hitting percentage with a .372 average. She was followed by teammate Cris Hall (.313) and Missouri's Yvette Buhlig (.297).