



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

The national and local news media found its way to the south stadium Tuesday to hear Tom Osborne's comments on Saturday's Colorado game.

Osborne says Husker injuries could be worse

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

The Cornhuskers won't play the Buffaloes until Saturday, but Nebraska coach Tom Osborne already has won part of Colorado's respect.

He may run into a small conflict of interest when he steps onto the field Saturday as both the Huskers' coach and honorary mayor for the day of Wray, Colo.

His temporary office was announced Tuesday.

Osborne, however, stressed situations closer to home.

Injuries have plagued the Husker football team since Nate Turner broke

his collar bone during the second day of fall camp, but at his weekly press conference Tuesday Osborne said the team's health right now is "par for the course."

"We're possibly getting a little bit better than we were last week," he said.

Several players are questionable for Saturday's game against Colorado, but, Osborne said, that is a blessing.

"There's a lot of 'ifs' there," he said. "But the good news is that they're 'ifs,' they're not 'can't plays.'"

Fullback Omar Soto, who missed

See OSBORNE on 8

NCAA Volleyball Top 20

1 UCLA	21-1	1
2 Nebraska	20-2	3
3 Pacific	20-2	2
4 Texas	24-0	4
5 Stanford	16-3	5
6 Hawaii	19-2	6
7 UC-Santa Barbara	22-4	7
8 Penn St.	31-0	8
9 San Jose St.	16-4	9
tie Wisconsin	21-6	10
11 New Mexico	14-4	11
12 Texas Tech.	21-2	12
13 Ohio State	17-5	13
tie Long Beach State	17-7	16
15 BYU	17-6	14
16 Pepperdine	18-5	15
17 Louisiana St.	21-5	17
18 Pittsburg	22-4	18
19 Wyoming	16-5	20
20 Duke	18-5	-

Record Previous

Jayhawks almost kill Husker win

By Cory Golden
Staff Reporter

Nebraska's volleyball team probably will try to forget last night's 15-9, 10-15, 16-14, 15-9 win over Kansas in the NU Coliseum.

The No. 2-ranked Cornhuskers, 20-2, had to overcome 36 hitting errors and 21 service errors to beat the unranked Jayhawks, 14-11, before a crowd of 1,636.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he didn't know exactly what caused the team to sputter and struggle through the match until .425 hitting in the fourth game snubbed the upset-minded Jayhawks.

"I think it's easier to say what went right when you play well than to try to identify all the things that went wrong when you didn't," Pettit said.

Credit was due partially, he said, to Kansas players who played step-for-step with the Huskers, preventing any extended runs by the home team.

The Jayhawks' second-game win marked the first Big Eight Conference team to take a game from top-ranked Nebraska.

"Kansas played really well. They competed well," Pettit said. "I suppose we didn't think they could compete, that we were waiting to shift gears, and we never did move to a higher level."

"I think there were a few people taking them pretty light."

Pettit said Kansas, fourth place in the conference entering Tuesday's match, was obviously up after wins against Oklahoma and Tulsa.

"I don't want to say anything that would detract from their effort," he

said. "But that's precisely it — they gave more effort than we did."

Kris Kleinschmidt led Kansas with 12 kills. Teammate Adrian Powell finished with 10, as the Jayhawks hit .130 for the match.

Pettit complimented the Jayhawk defense and said the Nebraska errors shouldn't overshadow the effort.

Still, with just seven team blocks that left 29 hitting errors where the ball hit the net or ground out of bounds on long hits or shanked spikes to either side.

Nebraska tied a school record for attacks in a four-game match with 200, while hitting .240 — 55 points under the team's season average.

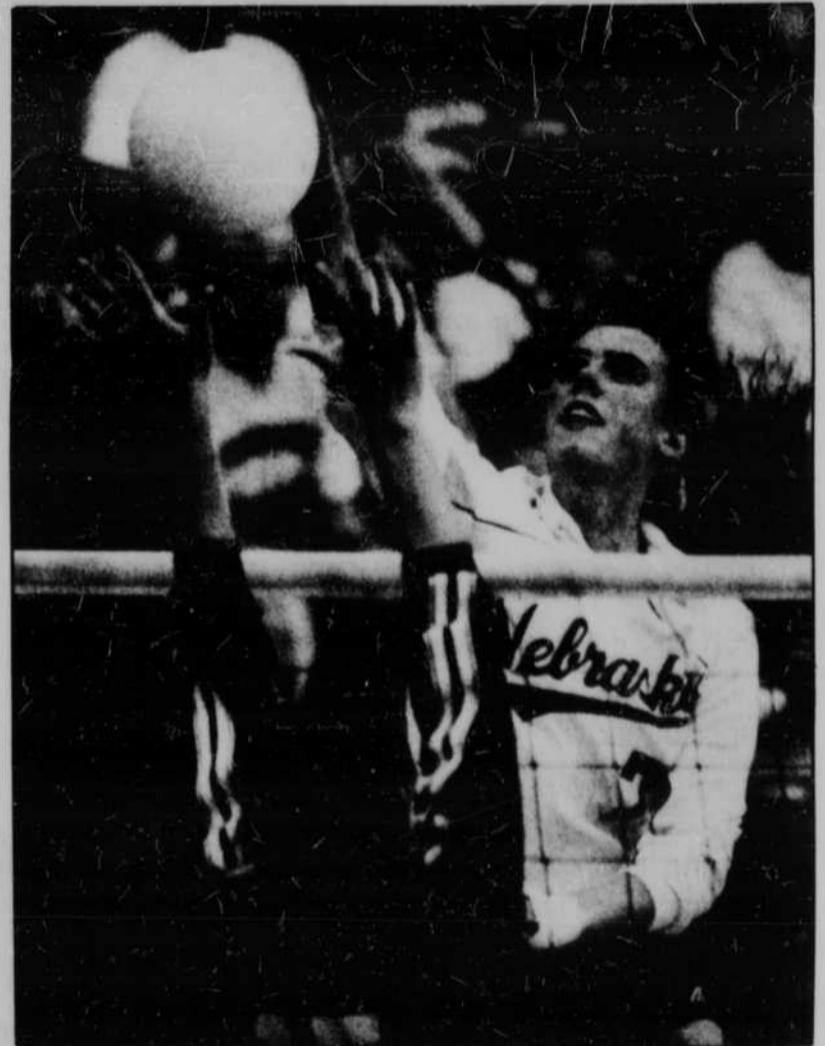
Five Huskers finished with double digits in the kill column. Eileen Shannon and Cris Hall finished with 13 apiece. Stephanie Thater totaled 15 kills, Janet Kruse, 18, and Linda Barsness, 14. Kruse, Barsness and Nikki Stricker (nine kills) had season highs.

Some Huskers did play well, but Pettit refused to name names.

"There were individuals that did good things," he said, "but I'd rather not comment on them because it's not as important as how the team plays — ultimately that's what you have to look at."

Entering this weekend's Runza Invitational, the Huskers will have to put the disappointing performance behind them, Pettit said.

"We'll have to go on. We won't dwell on it very much," he said. "We have two practices left and we'll still just be focusing on our side of the net."



Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Eileen Shannon puts one by Kansas' Adrian Powell at the NU Coliseum Thursday. The Cornhuskers won 15-9, 10-15, 16-14, 15-9.

Basketball player improves skills, learns to get tough

By Erik Unger
Staff Reporter

After playing some of Europe's best this summer, Nebraska basketball player Karen Jennings learned just how nasty she needs to get.

Jennings, who started as a freshman a year ago for the Cornhuskers, said she was surprised at how physical European-style basketball was after playing on a Big Eight All-Star team in Czechoslovakia.

She was able to compare that experience with playing in the Olympic Festival, which she has done the past two summers.

Jennings said the tournament in Czechoslovakia was much more physical than that of the Olympic Festival, which selects some of the nation's top players and divides them into four teams.

"I realize how physical I have to be," Jennings said.

Jennings was one of 10 Big Eight players selected to compete against the European national and junior national teams. Husker coach Angela Beck guided the Big Eight team.

Jennings should be more physical this season with Beck saying Jennings has had the "most remarkable change in physical make-up of any

See JENNINGS on 8

Buff tears will trickle if prayer is answered

Lord, it's time you and I had another talk.

This Saturday, the Cornhuskers are putting a national championship on the line when they play Colorado.



David Moyer

Now, I know you have given the team good fortune for many years, and that is greatly appreciated. But I want more than good fortune.

Maybe I'm being greedy, but for too many years now I've seen losses to Oklahoma teams and bowl teams tarnish otherwise great seasons. Now it's time you give the team and fans what we all want again — the Na-

tional Championship!

And it all starts with a win against the Buffaloes. So please, I'm begging, let the Huskers win, I'm a nervous wreck.

I know I've made deals with you before, and haven't really stuck to them.

Like when I said I would never drink again if you would just let me survive my hangover. Or when I said I would study more if you would just let me pass that astronomy final.

This time, though, I'm just asking for a favor, not a deal. I mean seriously, this year we could have our best team since 1983, but no one will give us credit.

CBS analyst Mike Francesca says we don't deserve to be ranked high because we haven't played any good teams, even though the ones we have defeated keep beating those ranked in the Top 25.

OK, so the teams we beat weren't

powerhouses, but they also weren't horrible. We just crushed them. Plain and simple.

Francesca says we have spent too much time crying about the polls this year, and we should stop. At the same time he says Colorado still has a chance to win the national championship. Right, Mike.

So make this the second part of the favor: Make Mike Francesca sweat, make his chair real uncomfortable when the score becomes final and make him admit he made a mistake. I don't want to listen to him say, "I told you so." It would ruin my day.

This is my last year at Nebraska, and I'm sure there are many other seniors who want to be able to tell their kids and grandkids we won a national championship while we were in college.

If you could just grant me these favors, it would make my coping with this year a little easier.

So, to show I'm being earnest, for the rest of this week before I go to bed I'll kneel down and say this little prayer:

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Let 'em beat the Buffs and make them weep.

And from McCartney's mouth not a peep,
About a slick field or fifth-down leap.

Every weekend I'll go far and fast,
To morning church and evening mass.

If you make Leodis run and Mickey pass,

Like they've never done in the past.

But most of all, Lord, let the Huskers kick some "butt".

Moyer is a senior speech communications major and a Daily Nebraskan sports reporter and columnist.