

Volleyball team selected to host tournament game

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team, ranked second nationally, has been selected as a first-round host for the NCAA Tournament, which starts this weekend.

The Cornhuskers, who will host Miami of Ohio in the first round, will likely be named host of the Midwest Regional with a win over the Redskins Friday.

Dr. Barbara Hibner, assistant athletic director in charge of women's athletics, said winning a first-round home date and an apparent regional is a tribute to the volleyball team and its fans.

"This is something the players deserve after the season they've had," Hibner said. "It's the least the athletic department could do, not only for the team, but for the fans who have followed them all year."

The selection of Nebraska as regional would give the Huskers home-court advantage all the way to the Final Four, which will be held Dec.

13-15 in College Park, Md.

Nebraska hosted regionals in 1986 and 1989, and in both those years, the Huskers earned a Final Four berth. Hibner said this year, the NCAA looked at Nebraska's strong tradition and chose Lincoln as the site.

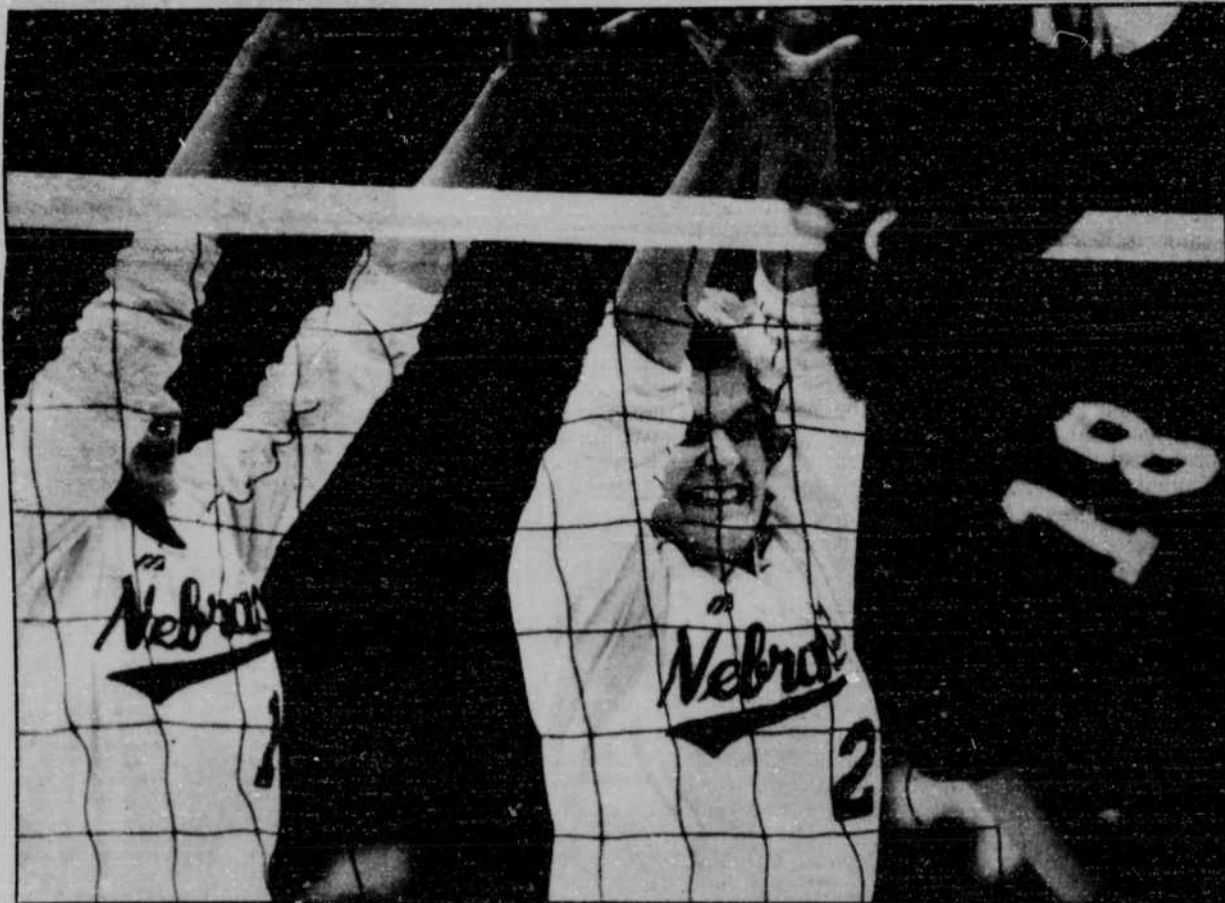
Also included in this year's Midwest Regional is Penn State, the nation's only undefeated team. By bringing the Nittany Lions to Lincoln, Hibner said the regional becomes even more exciting.

"They know we have a history of integrity and credibility here at Nebraska," Hibner said. "They are very well aware of what we have done in the past."

"With the inclusion of Penn State, that sets up a dynamic regional here in Lincoln," Hibner said. "In fact, it may be one of the best regionals in the country."

Also included in the Midwest Regional are four Big Ten teams: Wisconsin, Ohio State, Purdue and Illinois. Hibner said the selection of four teams from that conference indicates the Big Ten's strength.

1990 NCAA Volleyball Tournament



Kiley Timperley/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Val Novak (1) and Stephanie Thater attempt to block a spike by Colorado's Michele Kohler during the finals of the Big Eight Volleyball Tournament on Saturday at Omaha's Civic Auditorium.

CU efforts not enough to beat NU

By Chris Hopfensperger
Senior Reporter

OMAHA — Colorado volleyball coach Bruce Saindon said his team played well enough Saturday night to beat a lot of the nation's volleyball teams.

Unfortunately for the Lady Buffs, the only team they were playing was Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers, ranked No. 2 in the last regular season poll, beat up on Colorado 15-5, 15-13, 15-9 to win the Big Eight tournament and an automatic berth to the NCAA Tournament in front of 4,399 fans at the Omaha Civic Auditorium.

"We would have beat a lot of teams tonight, a lot of teams in the country," Saindon said. "Nebraska is just a good team."

Saturday night the Huskers were good enough to hold the Buffs to 38 kills and a .101 hitting percentage.

They were led by Stephanie Thater (14 kills, nine block assists) and tournament Most Valuable Player Janet Kruse, who finished with 14 kills and a .323 hitting percentage.

However, they weren't flawless, Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said.

"We still have a lot of things to do," he said. "We'll need to smooth some things out. We need to be fundamentally stronger in some areas."

Pettit said the team discussed the improvements they needed to make on defense after struggling to beat Kansas in the first round of the tournament. On Friday, the Jayhawks took the Huskers to five games before falling 15-7, 15-11, 18-20, 8-15, 15-4.

"I thought we made a real effort to play better volleyball tonight," Pettit said about the Colorado match. "I thought we moved better, communicated better, shared information better."

The Huskers also had better size.

"They're just big and physical," Saindon said. "They just wear on you after a while. It's like a football team. You play a bigger team and the cumulative effect is overwhelming."

Pettit said he also was happy with the depth the Huskers showed in the second game, when Sara Hesch and Debbie Lee Brand came off the bench to lead the Huskers back from a 12-4 deficit.

"From a certain point on," he said, "we played pretty much error free." Kruse led three other Huskers on the all-tournament team; senior Val Novak and sophomores Thater and Eileen Shannon.

Saindon said a key for the Huskers as they head into the postseason tournament is passing.

"If they can pass the ball, I think they have a good chance to win the national championship," he said. "When their passing the ball, they're as good as anybody I've seen."

Huskers impress scout despite poor showing

By Paul Domeier
Senior Reporter

NORMAN, Okla. — John Misciagna attended his first Big Eight football game Friday, watching the Nebraska-Oklahoma game with the eyes of an impartial observer and the heart of a Cornhusker fan.

He carefully analyzed Nebraska for strengths and weaknesses. He pulled for the Huskers because, as Georgia Tech's recruiting coordinator, he wanted as highly-ranked a Citrus Bowl opponent as possible.

Misciagna's visit to the Memorial Stadium was the start of Georgia Tech's scouting efforts to prepare for the Jan. 1 bowl game. Misciagna brought along the Yellow Jackets' game films to trade for Nebraska's films.

But as he set out his scouting supplies — a notepad, four pencils, micro-cassette recorder, two stopwatches and pack of Redman — he said he hadn't even seen Nebraska on television this year.

Even in a 45-10 loss, the Huskers impressed Misciagna with the team's speed.

"They are one of the quickest defensively we will face all year," he said.

The offensive skill players also are fast, Misciagna said, and especially dangerous when playing on the special teams. Tyrone Hughes showed the Georgia Tech assistant a 16-yard punt return and a 40-yard kickoff return that started five yards deep in the end zone.

Least impressive about the Huskers?

Murray State hands NU its first loss

From Staff Reports

A pair of free throws by Cedrick Gumm with 27 seconds remaining proved decisive Sunday night as Murray State outlasted Nebraska 81-79 to win the championship of the San Juan Shootout in Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

Gumm's free throws made the score 80-76. Gumm, a freshman who had not played at all in the game, was shooting for an injured John Jackson, who was fouled by Carl Hayes and was unable to shoot the free throws.

Clifford Scales made the score 80-

"Just the turnovers, mistakes, dropped passes here and there," Misciagna said.

That was epitomized by a second-half Nebraska sack that ended in a 15-yard facemask penalty. Misciagna just shook his head and said, "Mistakes."

Those mistakes, particularly seven turnovers, contributed to the loss disappointing to all Husker fans and to Misciagna.

Still, that doesn't mean Georgia Tech can rest easy against that speedy defense and potentially explosive offense.

"We haven't seen those two qualities together on a football team," Misciagna said.

Nebraska's defense is like Clemson's, he said, and Nebraska's offense is comparable to Virginia's.

Before he left midway through the second half to catch his 6:30 p.m. flight out of Oklahoma City, Misciagna said he got to see Nebraska run against a defense similar to Georgia Tech's. The Oklahoma offense, though, is completely different from the Yellow Jackets', he said, so the game didn't show much of what the Huskers will do on defense Jan. 1.

But after watching this game and analyzing the films, Misciagna said, the Georgia Tech staff should have a good idea of what the Huskers do. And he said Nebraska won't be able to sneak many things in once the teams get to Orlando, Fla., for the game.

"One of the things about a bowl trip, you live in the same city for 10 days," he said. "There aren't a lot of surprises."

79 with a 3-point basket at the 11-second mark. Greg Coble hit the first of two free throws for the Racers with six seconds left. Beau Reid rebounded the missed second shot and passed to Scales, but Scales could not get a shot off.

"In the close games you must execute and tonight we didn't do that," Nebraska coach Danny Nee said. "We need to develop a team cohesiveness offensively to find a way to win close ones."

The Cornhuskers had come back