

## Husker jumps from basketball to volleyball

By Nick Hytrek  
Staff Reporter

Serving and defensive specialist Becky Bolli knew she wanted to play for Nebraska, but her plan was to play basketball instead of volleyball.

The senior co-captain said that the night before she was to make the decision to play basketball, she received a call from Cornhusker volleyball coach Terry Pettit.

"He said he was interested in me and wanted me to come down and talk to him," Bolli recalled. "So I said 'what the hey?', and came down and visited and eventually came here to play volleyball."

Simple as that, and now Bolli is one of the leaders of the No. 2 team in the country that this weekend attempts to edge closer to a first-ever national title by capturing the NCAA Midwest Regional Finals and advancing to the Final Four. Playing basketball for Nebraska would have been a logical choice since her sister Stephanie had already paved the way.

"(But) I saw volleyball as a chance for me to make my own little niche," Bolli said.

And it was easy for Bolli to make her own niche because the Burwell native had a talent that no other Husker player before her ever had — the jump serve; a high-velocity, top spinning serve that intimidates opponents, often changing the tempo of a match.

"We'd never had a serving specialist like that here before," Pettit said.

Bolli self-taught the jump serve before her senior year in high school.

"I was at a camp and they encouraged me to use it," Bolli said. "So I worked on it all summer before the season started."

Her unique serving technique caught opponents off-guard all season and she helped lead Burwell to the Class C-1 State Championship that season.

Bolli rejected numerous scholarship offers to walk-on at Nebraska. She had to work harder than the scholarship players, though, there was less pressure, she said.

"As a walk-on, you have to work twice as hard to get noticed," she said. "(But) being a walk-on allowed me to focus on me and not worry about if I would be All-Conference or anything. There is a lot expected from scholarship players."

See BOLLI on 8



David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

The jump serve is Becky Bolli's trademark.

## Runnin' Rebels retain No. 1; Arizona places close second

The Associated Press

UNLV, which received the news it wanted last week when it learned it could defend its national championship, remained the No. 1 team in the college basketball poll released Monday morning.

The Runnin' Rebels, who opened their season Saturday night with a 109-68 victory over Alabama-Birmingham just two days after learning the NCAA shifted its probation from this year's tournament to next season, received 45 first-place votes and 1,579 points from the nationwide panel of sportswriters and broadcasters.

Arizona (6-0), the only other school to receive first-place votes, and Arkansas (5-1) held second and third, while Syracuse (4-0) and Duke (5-1) each jumped three places to be fourth and fifth, respectively.

Three teams joined the Top 25 this week: No. 21 South Carolina, No. 24 Temple and No. 25 Kentucky.

Arizona, which was No. 1 on 19 ballots, had 1,555 points, while Arkansas, which lost to the Wildcats in the preseason NIT championship game, had 1,435. Syracuse's had 1,312, 80 more than the Blue Devils, whose only loss was to Arkansas in the NIT semifinals.

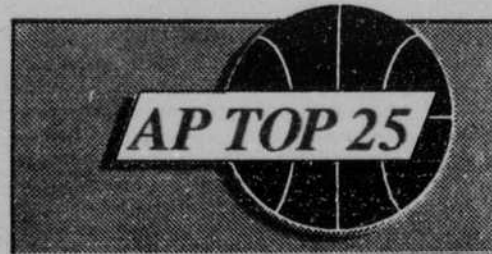
Georgetown (3-0) and Indiana (4-1) each jumped three places to sixth and seventh, respectively, while UCLA, Ohio State and North Carolina rounded out the Top 10.

The Hoyas, who have yet to beat a Division I team, had 1,164 points, 54 more than Indiana, which rebounded from last week's loss to Syracuse with wins over local rivals Notre Dame and Louisville.

UCLA (4-0), which has set the school's single-game scoring record twice this season, including Sunday night with a 149-98 win over Loyola Marymount, had 1,097 points. The Buckeyes, who have broken the 100-point mark in each of their victories this season, had 1,069 points, 71 more than North Carolina (3-1), which dropped from fourth to 10th after losing to South Carolina 76-74 in the semifinals of the Tournament of Champions in the first meeting of the border rivals in 18 years.

Pittsburgh led the second 10 with 957 points and was followed by Alabama, Georgia, Connecticut, Southern Mississippi, Oklahoma, St. John's, Louisiana State, Michigan State and Georgia Tech.

The final five in the balloting were South Carolina, Virginia, Texas, Temple and Kentucky.



Records through December 2

Rank	Record	School	Points
1	1-0	UNLV	1,579
2	6-0	Arizona	1,555
3	5-1	Arkansas	1,435
4	4-0	Syracuse	1,312
5	5-1	Duke	1,232
6	3-0	Georgetown	1,164
7	4-1	Indiana	1,110
8	4-0	UCLA	1,097
9	3-0	Ohio State	1,069
10	3-1	North Carolina	898
11	4-0	Pittsburgh	957
12	2-1	Alabama	873
13	4-0	Georgia	774
14	3-0	Connecticut	730
15	1-0	Southern Miss.	667
16	4-1	Oklahoma	605
17	3-0	St. John's	484
18	2-1	LSU	458
19	1-2	Michigan St.	379
20	2-1	Georgia Tech	316
21	4-1	South Carolina	148
22	3-2	Virginia	148
23	1-1	Texas	137
24	1-1	Temple	131
25	3-0	Kentucky	126

Others receiving votes (in descending order)

Kansas 114, Missouri 114, New Mexico 111, Rutgers 99, East Tennessee St. 92, New Mexico St. 76, Villanova 76, DePaul 75, Murray St. 55, Oklahoma St. 52, North Carolina St. 51, Bowling Green 49, Houston 41, Minnesota 35, Nebraska 31, Louisville 28, Ball St. 22, Wyoming 18, New Orleans 18, Clemson 14, South Alabama 14, Xavier, Ohio 13, Louisiana Tech 12, Memphis St. 12, Wake Forest 12, Richmond 10, Brigham Young 9, West Virginia 8, Iowa 7, Mississippi St. 7, Oregon 3, Purdue 3, Fordham 2, James Madison 2, San Diego 2, South Florida 2, Cincinnati 1, Colorado St. 1, Dayton 1, Michigan 1, Princeton 1, Southern Illinois 1, Texas-El Paso 1

## Kruse constant in NU volleyball

By Chris Hopfensperger  
Senior Reporter

The only thing more consistent than Nebraska's Big Eight volleyball titles is Cornhusker volleyball player Janet Kruse.

Kruse, the Huskers' outside hitter, has played in the last 229 straight games and hasn't missed a match since she started playing volleyball at Nebraska in 1988.

Even more impressive are her statistics on the court.

Kruse has slammed down 950 career kills faster than any other Nebraska player with a .309 hitting percentage.

This season Kruse leads the Huskers with 357 kills, including 96 in the last six matches. In the conference, her .340 hitting percentage is second only to teammate Stephanie Thater's .382 average.

Kruse's play has not gone unnoticed.

A 1989 All-American, a two-time first-team All-Big Eight member and a two-time Big Eight player of the week, Kruse's 39-kill performance in this year's Big Eight Tournament earned her another accolade — the Most Valuable Player honors.

Kruse said she was excited about being given the award, but the impor-

tance of individual rewards diminishes in light of team goals at this time of the season.

"As a team we want to win the national championship," she said. "I just try to play hard and what comes my way comes."

The Huskers are peaking at the right time of the season, Kruse said. The Huskers know what it takes to win against Top 20 teams, owning victories over top-ranked UCLA, No. 4 Hawaii, No. 15 Ohio State and No. 10 Wisconsin early in the season.

"We haven't really played prime

See KRUSE on 8

## Nebraska exceeds goal, breaks record

By Benji Greenberg  
Staff Reporter

The goal for the Cornhusker women's 200-meter freestyle swimming relay team was just to qualify for the national meet, but there are no complaints about what also happened at this weekend's Husker Invitational. The team broke the school record of 1:33.76 set in 1985 by six-hundredths of a second. Chris Gmeiner, Lynne Braddock, Mindy Matheny and Chris Frederick teamed to qualify and set the record.

"We did great in accomplishing that record and the best part was that we bettered our time by a second over Friday's time," Gmeiner said.

Coach Ray Huppert said this year's relay team is the best he has seen at

Nebraska, and that all of four sprinters do an exceptional job at working together.

"Chris and the rest of her relay team is an outstanding group of girls and provide good leadership skills," Huppert said.

It helps that three of the four share living quarters.

"Another positive key is me, Mindy and Lynne live together and that has helped all of us become comfortable with each other," Gmeiner said.

This is the first time in Gmeiner's four-year Husker career that she has qualified for nationals.

"It's taken Chris three years to develop as a swimmer on the college level and I feel as a senior, she's swimming very well and her experi-

ence and work ethic have rubbed off on most of the younger kids," Huppert said.

Gmeiner said she thinks that what the relay team accomplished this weekend could rub off on the entire squad.

"I feel the only way our team can be successful is to win as a team," she said. "If our freshmen can come around like the have, we should do well at Big Eights and nationals."

She said this year's Husker team is better than last year, which won the Big Eight title.

"This year's team has better strengths in the water and everyone on the team realizes what the ultimate goal is, win the Big Eight title and place well at nationals," Gmeiner said.

## Cornhuskers tame Panthers with 30-point road victory

From Staff Reports

Nebraska's front line was too big and too much for Eastern Illinois as the Cornhuskers crushed the Panthers 94-64 Monday in men's basketball at Charleston, Ill.

Nebraska's centers and forwards combined for 75 points to lead Nebraska to the 30-point victory, Nebraska's biggest road win since 1919-20. With the inside power game, Nebraska shot 65 percent from the field.

Carl Hayes led Nebraska with 20 points, 14 in the first half. Dapreis Owens tied his career-high mark with 18 points, including the first eight Nebraska points of the second period.

Eastern Illinois led 12-10 after a 7-point run early in the game. But Nebraska's Tony Farmer, who had 12 points, scored on a free throw and a field goal, and the Huskers never trailed again.

Rich King, at 7 feet, 2 inches, and 260 pounds — five inches taller and 40 pounds heavier than any Panther who played — led Nebraska to a 39-28 halftime advantage. King scored 13 points.

Eastern Illinois kept the lead down at the start of the second half, but a pair of eight point runs by Nebraska blew the game open. The first put the Huskers up 56-38; after the second, Nebraska led 68-44.

Starting shooting guard Beau

Reid didn't score until less than nine minutes were left in the game. Reid, though, contributed with six assists and four rebounds.

Eric Piatkowski provided most of the Nebraska's late damage with 11 second-half points. Piatkowski scored on a dunk at the buzzer for the final margin.

The Huskers, at 4-1 off to their best start since 1985-86, will play host to Creighton on Thursday at 8:08 p.m. Eastern Illinois fell to 1-2.

Nebraska . . . . . 39 55 — 94

At Eastern Illinois . . . . . 28 36 — 64

Nebraska — Owens 9-11 0-0 18, Hayes 8-12 4-5 20, King 4-7 5-5 13, Reid 0-1 2-2 2, Scales 2-7 0-5, Farmer 5-7-4 12, Moody 4-5 0-1 8, Piatkowski 5-7-0 11, Chubick 0-0 0-0 0, Cresswell 1-2-0 3, Lively 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 39-60 13-17 94.

Eastern Illinois — Olson 3-8 0-0 8, Johnson 4-12 0-0 9, Kelley 1-5 0-0 2, Rowe 5-11 0-0 15, Jones 5-12 0-0 11, McKinnis 2-4 3-4 7, West 2-4 0-0 4, Andrews 1-5 2-4, Martin 2-4 0-0 4, Leib 0-4 0-10, Nicholson 0-1 0-0 0, Nichols 0-0 2-0, Collier 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-70 5-10 64.

3-point goals — Nebraska 3-6 (Piatkowski 1-2, Cresswell 1-2, Scales 1-1, Reid 0-1), Eastern Illinois 9-21 (Rowe 5-8, Olson 2-6, Jones 1-4, Johnson 1-2, Martin 0-1). Rebounds — Nebraska 40 (Hayes 7), Eastern Illinois 32 (Rowe 6). Assists — Nebraska 23 (Reid 6), Eastern Illinois 9 (Martin 3). Turnovers — Nebraska 22 (Moody, Hayes 5), Eastern Illinois 25 (Jones 7). Total fouls — Nebraska 18, Eastern Illinois 16. A — 4, 213.