

NU volleyball player suffers another injury

By Scott Stempson

Staff Reporter

Cris Hall is injured again. No, it's not her back. Nor her wrist. This time it's the Nebraska volleyball player's knee.

"It was kind of quirk that it happened, but now it's swelled up," Hall said.

Oh well, no big deal. The 6-foot, 2-inch junior has been playing injured almost her entire career at Nebraska.

While she admits there is pain in the knee, it's not enough to keep her off the floor for this weekend's Mid-east Regionals at the NU Coliseum. Nebraska plays Pittsburgh Friday at 7:30 p.m., after the Wisconsin and Penn State match at 5:30 p.m. The regional finals between the two winners are Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"I'd like to say I am in perfect health," Hall said, "but I'm not. It really hurts to play right now."

While it sounds like the Chanute, Kan, native is a constant walking injury, this year really has not been as bad as last year, she said.

"Last year I was in and out," she said. "This year I've become a more stable force."

Though injured and sitting out a lot last year, Hall made the Big Eight's All-Tournament team as well as the Mid-east Regional team. The Cornhuskers won both of those tournaments.

As far as repeating as regional champs it is going to take some steady defense, Hall said. Nebraska has the big hitters, she said, but the other teams have more team speed.

"Pittsburgh and Penn State are two of the quickest teams in the nation," she said. "They're going to dig out everything."

Advancing to the Final Four this year could be more challenging than it was a year ago, Hall said.

"I think this will probably be the toughest regional in the country, and we've got to be ready for it," she said. "(But) I think we're a little more focused this year on what's ahead of us."



An injury-plagued Cris Hall prepares for a dig in last Saturday's win over Miami (Ohio). Hall, who has played with a sore back and wrist this season, now has a hurt knee. David Fahleson/Daily Nebraskan

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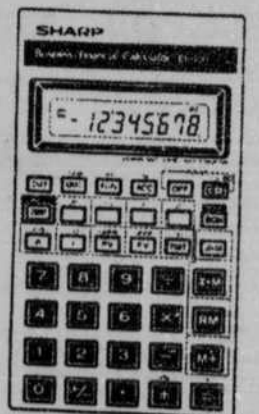
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