

Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Stephanie Thater smashes a kill in a match earlier this season. Thater broke two school blocking records this season.

'Veteran' sophomore still learning

By Vicki Burge
Staff Reporter

Middle blocker Stephanie Thater has been a starter most of the season on the Nebraska volleyball team, but she thought herself one of the newcomers.

Thater, a sophomore, said she reserves the term "veteran" for the team's juniors and seniors.

"I don't see myself as a veteran, not at all," Thater said, although she has played like one.

Her 336 kills and .387 hitting percentage in 34 matches and 114 games is evidence in her favor. She was named to the Big Eight All-Conference and All-Tournament teams, and

to the Midwest Region All-Tournament team. Nebraska won the Midwest Region All-Tournament to advance to the Final Four in College Park, Md. The Cornhuskers open with Pacific Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Thater came into the season to take over for departing 1989 senior middle blockers, All-American and Big Eight player of the year Virginia Stahr and All-Big Eight Carla Baker. Stahr and Baker were the only players to not return from last year's team that lost to Long Beach State in the finals of the NCAA Championships.

Defensively, all Thater has done this year is erase two of the school's season blocking records. Her records include 159 blocking assists and 189

total blocks. Her 30 solo blocks so far this season put her fifth on the charts.

Playing more helped increase her confidence as the season went along.

"I think I am a smarter player now," she said. "I am playing a lot quicker along the net."

Husker assistant coach Cathy Noth said Thater is a different player this year because of better concentration.

"It is all due to her commitment to be one of the best middle blockers in the country," Noth said.

Thater quickly became another player the Huskers could turn to in critical situations, Noth said.

"We can count on her to come in and put the ball down," she said.

Huskers

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8 for 8 from the field before 8,485 spectators at the Wisconsin Field House. The Badgers played without starting forward Willie Simms, who was held out for disciplinary reasons.

Nebraska will return to the Bob Devaney Sports Center to play Tennessee Tech at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the first-round of the Ameritas Classic. Bowling Green State will play Alabama State at 8:30 p.m. Friday, with the consolation and championship games at 6 and 8 p.m. Saturday.

Nebraska..... 31 44 — 75
At Wisconsin..... 31 32 — 63
Nebraska—Owens 3-6 0-0 6, Hayes 7-12 6-6 21, King 5-6 1-3 11, Reid 2-6 1-2 5, Scales 6-9 0-0 13, Farmer 4-4 4-9 13, Moody 0-0 0-0 0, Piatkowski 3-4 0-0 6, Chubick 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-47 12-20 75.

Wisconsin—McGee 5-12 1-4 11, Ellenson 0-1 1-1 1, Tompkins 8-8 3-6 19, Hisle 2-7 2-2 7, Locum 3-11 4-4 12, Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Weaver 0-1 0-0 0, Ely 3-4 0-1 6, Harrell 0-0 0-0 0, Peters 2-3 1-2 7, Good 0-1 0-0 0, Johnson 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 23-49 12-20 63.

3-point goals—Nebraska 3-7 (Hayes 1-2, Scales 1-1, Farmer 1-1, Reid 0-2, Piatkowski 0-1), Wisconsin 5-16 (Locum 2-7, Peters 2-3, Hisle 1-4, Ellenson 0-1, Johnson 0-1). **Rebounds**—Nebraska 25 (King 6), Wisconsin 27 (Tompkins 9). **Assists**—Nebraska 21 (Hayes 6), Wisconsin 13 (Peters, Hisle 3). **Turnovers**—Nebraska 16 (three with 3), Wisconsin 20 (Hisle 6). **Total Fouls**—Nebraska 20, Wisconsin 17. A—8,485.

Tech

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said. "We're more skilled than we are athletic. That means we have to play all-out."

Tech's biggest starter is 6-foot, 8-inch center John Best, who leads the team in scoring — 13.5 points a game.

Although Nebraska beat a small, quick Toledo team by 37 points, Harrell said he can't afford to slow down the Golden Eagles' offense to prevent another blow out.

"With all our youth, we're using all of the December games to improve for January and our conference

play," he said. "Running up and down the court is the only way we're going to have success in our conference."

Besides, that is how Tech, a member of Ohio Valley Conference, beat Southern Mississippi, he said.

"We got a lot of easy baskets early," Harrell said. "They might have overlooked us a little bit, and we took advantage of it."

Harrell said Southern Mississippi also made the mistake of using a full-court press.

"Absurd as it sounds, it seems to help us when they press us," he said. "We take our time and don't make the silly passes. We got some easy baskets off of their press."

Montana, nine Steelers lead anniversary Super Bowl team

NEW YORK (AP) - Quarterback Joe Montana and 12 Hall of Fame players — five of them from the Pittsburgh Steelers — were named to the silver anniversary Super Bowl team, elected in nationwide fan balloting and announced by the NFL.

Nine Steelers — all members of the team that won four Super Bowls in six years during the 1970s — dominated the squad. The Hall of Fame Steelers elected were defensive tackle Joe Greene, linebackers Jack Lambert and Jack Ham, cornerback Mel Blount and running back Franco Harris.

The other Steelers elected were wide receiver Lynn Swann, center Mike Webster, defensive end L.C. Greenwood and safety Donnie Shell. Another Pittsburgh Hall of Famer, Terry Bradshaw, finished a distant second at quarterback to Montana, one of four San Francisco players selected. Also picked from the 49ers were cornerback Ronnie Lott, wide receiver Jerry Rice and kick returner John Taylor.

The four 49ers and Webster, now with Kansas City, are the only mem-

bers of the team still active.

Besides the five Steelers, the Hall of Famers elected were Green Bay coach Vince Lombardi; running back Larry Csonka of Miami; tackles Art Shell of the Raiders and Forrest Gregg of Green Bay and Dallas; guard Gene Upshaw of the Raiders; linebacker Ted Hendricks of Baltimore and the Raiders; and safety Willie Wood of Green Bay.

Also elected to the offensive unit were tight end Dave Casper of the Raiders and guard Jerry Kramer of Green Bay. Dallas teammates Ed "Too Tall" Jones at end and Randy White at tackle and inside linebacker Mike Singletary of Chicago completed the defense.

Ray Guy of the Raiders was picked at the punter and Jan Stenerud of Kansas City was named the placekicker.

The team, selected from 105 players and coaches nominated by a committee of media and NFL officials who have seen all 24 Super Bowls, will be honored at the silver anniversary game in Tampa Jan. 27.

The difference Friday between Nebraska and Tech could be who beats who up-and-down the court, Harrell said.

"We both like to run and get beat the other teams on the break," he said. "I just hope we get the break going fast our way, and then slow coming back."

Tennessee Tech's probable starters are:

Van Usher	G (6-0, 13.3, 8.7)
Mitch Cupples	G (6-6, 12.8, 6)
John Best	C (6-8, 13.5, 3.8)
Jerome Rodgers	F (6-6, 6.2, 6.5)
Wade Wester	F (6-8, 4.6, 5.2)

Athlete steroid use attains new high in college study

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) - A study of five NCAA Division I-A schools indicates that more than a quarter of the nation's football players may have used steroids at least once.

A professor in Penn State's college of health and human development said his study sets an "upper limit" of actual anabolic steroid use among college athletes, whereas an NCAA study done last year set a lower limit.

"The mean overall projected rate of use of anabolic steroids across all sports surveyed was 14.7 percent for male athletes and 5.9 percent of females," Charles Yesalis said.

Yesalis, who worked with researchers from Penn State and five other schools, said the study shows that steroid use is more widespread than earlier thought. Last year's NCAA study, based on self-reporting, estimated steroid use at less than 5 percent.

"For years, a number of researchers have believed that with self-reporting there's an underreporting of use," Yesalis said. "This represents an upper bound, and for the first time there are boundaries and somewhere in between reality."

Athletes at five schools that agreed to participate in the study were asked

to estimate steroid use among their opponents. Even so, Yesalis said the athletes said a lot about their own programs.

Previous studies have shown that a significant amount of steroid use is tied to athletes' perception that their opponents are using them — in other words — "I only use them because he uses them."

The director of the NCAA's drug testing program said the self-reporting study probably did not detect all use and that college sports' largest governing body gave credence to the Yesalis report.

"Perceptions are very important in this area," said Frank Uryasz, the NCAA's director of sports sciences. "Athletes tell us (that) if they were sure the guy across the line wasn't using steroids, they wouldn't."

"They still believe they're competing against dirty athletes."

The more recent study was conducted at five institutions across the country. The schools were guaranteed anonymity. The researchers were from Michigan State, Ohio State, Penn State, UCLA, Vanderbilt and West Virginia.

The study projected steroid use at 29.3 percent for football teams and 20.6 percent among men's track and field teams.

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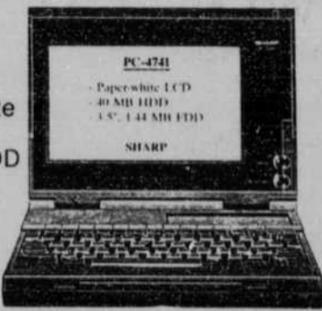
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