

# Volleyball stars to coach, commentate

By Jeff Singer  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska volleyball stars Val Novak and Becky Bolli have returned to the Cornhuskers for another year, contributing from the bench rather than the court.

The two have chosen to work for Coach Terry Pettit as undergraduate assistants this season.

Novak, a senior PE-Health major from Oak Lawn, Ill., said this year's team has the potential to surpass the efforts of last season's Final Four squad.

"This year's team is more versatile and can play a lot more different

positions," Novak said. "They can match up with anybody, which is an asset to getting a national championship."

Bolli, a Burwell native, expects to graduate in December with a degree in exercise science, and agreed that Nebraska could be celebrating a volleyball national title about the time she graduates.

"They have the potential for the Final Four and the talent for a national championship," Bolli said. "But the leadership must be there in tough situations."

Bolli said many players on the team will provide leadership.

"Last year, Val and I were the ones

providing leadership for the team, but this year it can be found in a lot of places," Bolli said.

Both Novak and Bolli said Saturday's match at the Bob Devaney Sports Center between the 1991 team and some Nebraska volleyball alumnae, for whom Bolli and Novak played, proved that the Coliseum is the Huskers' preferred home.

"This place isn't as noisy, so the crowd won't have as big of an impact," the former All-American Novak said.

Bolli agreed. "You can't match the Coliseum's atmosphere," Bolli said. "The Coliseum is our house."



Michelle Paulman/Daily Nebraskan

Nikki Stricker sets the ball as Kim Tonniges looks on in Saturday's exhibition match against former Nebraska volleyball players.

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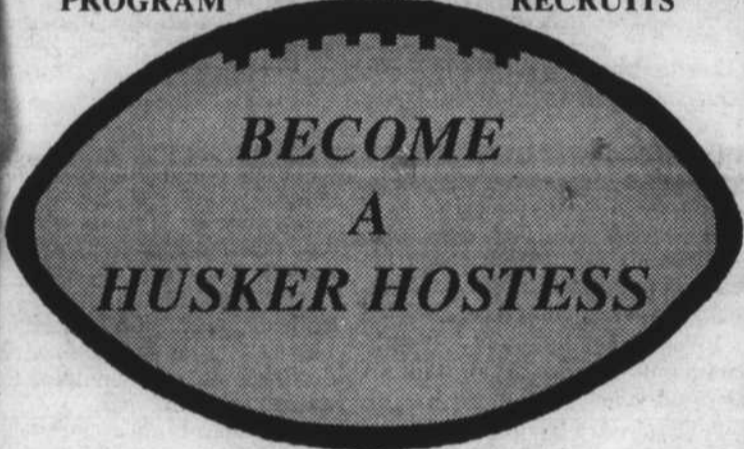
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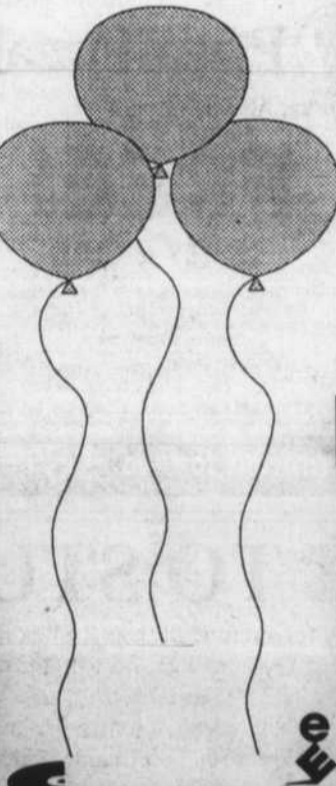
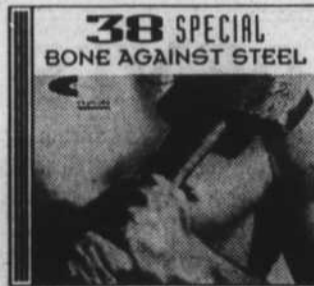
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