

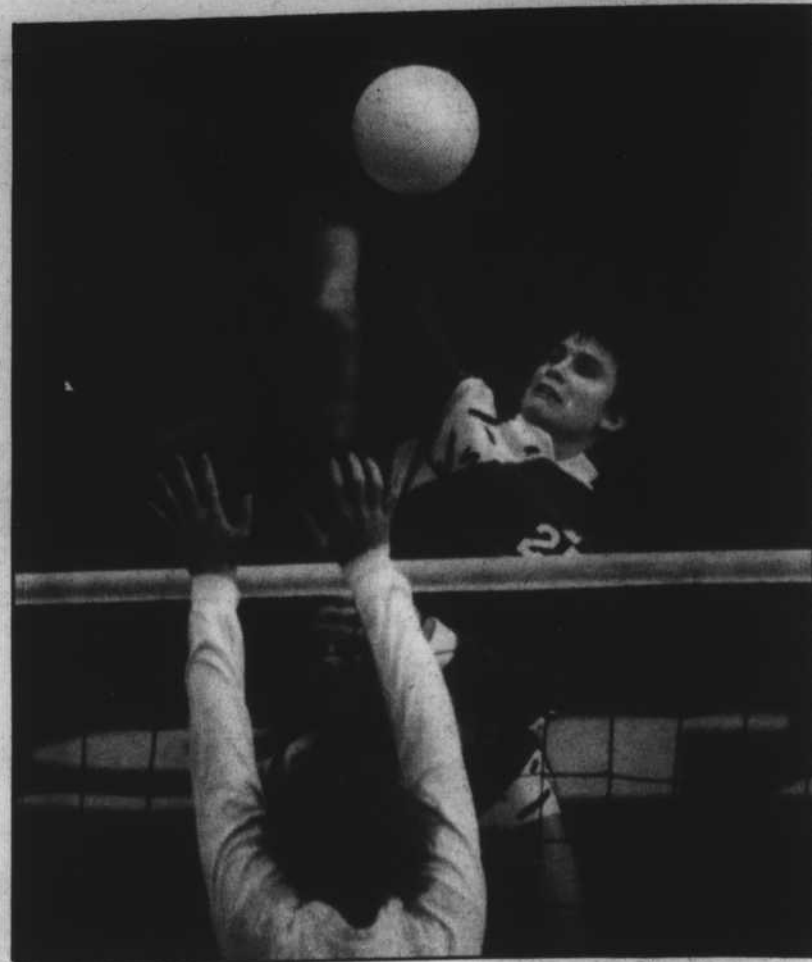


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Shaun Sartin/Daily Nebraskan

Nebraska's Cris Hall spikes over Kansas State Sunday. Nebraska has now won 43 straight matches against the Wildcats.

**Volleyball team defeats
Wildcats, loses player**

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The third-ranked Nebraska volleyball team saw its ranks grow thinner, but still cruised to a straight-game victory over Kansas State Sunday.

The Cornhuskers wasted little time in disposing of the Wildcats, winning 15-5, 15-2, 15-10 in front of approximately 250 fans at Ahearn Fieldhouse and improving their record to 5-0.

Nebraska did not escape unscathed, however, as the Huskers watched junior outside hitter Eileen Shannon get helped from the match midway through the third game. Shannon hurt her right ankle while attempting a block alongside teammate Kim Tonniges.

Shannon's injury came just a week after senior outside hitter Janet Kruse was sidelined indefinitely with a sprained ankle.

Although the extent of Shannon's injury was not known immediately after the match, Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said one of his main concerns is to get his team healthy heading into next weekend's showdown against top-ranked UCLA.

"We're more anxious to get healthy than to get home," Pettit said. "We'll be fine if we can get everybody playing."

Despite Shannon's injury, the Nebraska victory was never in doubt from the moment the Huskers sprinted out to a 10-4 edge in the first game. Cris Hall then served four straight points before Nikki Stricker ended game one with a dump into the Wildcat open court.

Nebraska continued to roll in the second, as the Huskers allowed points on only two of 12 Kansas State serves. Offensively, freshman Peggy Meyer

helped ignite the Huskers, stuffing a kill and registering a block during the middle of a 6-0 run.

Pettit said Meyer and Kim Tonniges, both freshmen middle blockers, are picking up their play.

"That position is getting stronger," Pettit said. "Both Kim and Peggy are improving with each match."

Kansas State registered a small rally in the third, taking a 7-4 lead. But Stephanie Thater then served two consecutive aces to bring Nebraska to within one, and Debbie Brand reeled off six consecutive points on serve to give the Huskers an insurmountable 14-8 lead.

Freshman Christy Johnson played the final game at setter, finishing for starter Nikki Stricker. Pettit said both of his setters played well.

"We were able to have Christy set, and she did a nice job of staying organized," he said.

Nine Huskers played in the game, and Pettit said the experience will be helpful for his youthful team down the road.

"We're continuing to be comfortable playing more and more people," Pettit said. "We want to develop 10 or 11 players that we can go with."

First year Kansas State coach Patti Hagemeyer, who was coaching her first Big Eight match of her career, said Nebraska was "as impressive as ever" in beating her team.

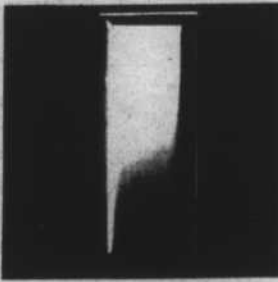
"(Pettit's) got a real talented team," Hagemeyer said. "They're big, tall and very offensively-oriented. But we knew what we'd be up against."

Kansas State has never beaten Nebraska in the history of the school, losing 43 straight matches. In addition, the Huskers' three-game sweep Sunday was the eighth straight Nebraska sweep in the series.

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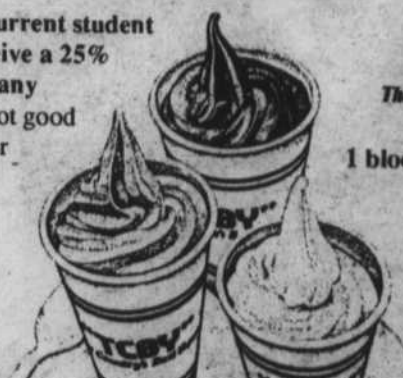


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