

# Huskers looking to extend winning streak

By David Moyer  
Staff Reporter

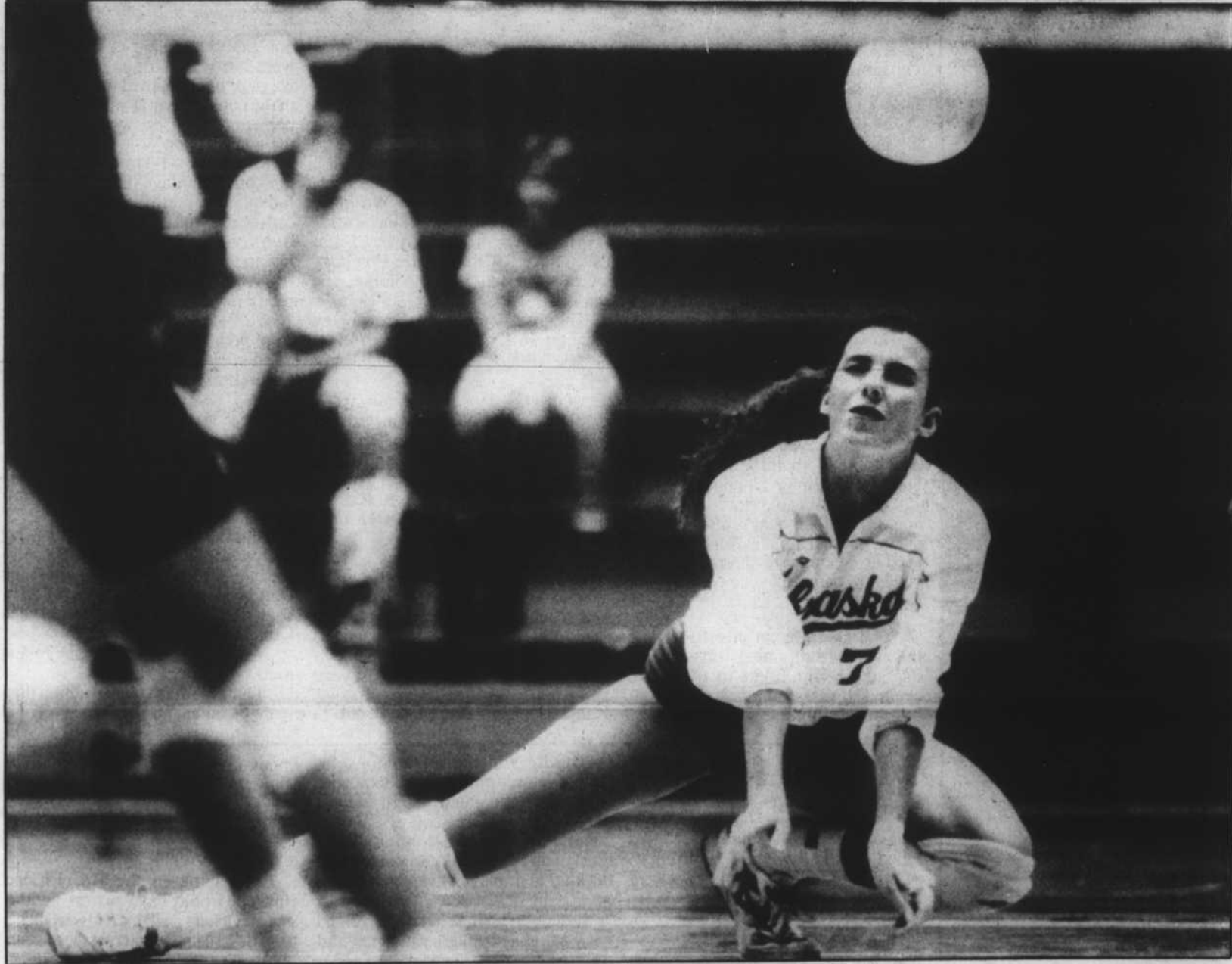
Cornhusker volleyball coach Terry Pettit enjoys win streaks. The longer, the better. His Nebraska volleyball team will go into tonight's match against the Kansas Jayhawks trying to extend its

winning streak to four matches. Pettit said the winning streak has helped his team get back on track after three losses. "The wins certainly help, but I feel better because we are playing better," Pettit said. "Mentally we are sharper, our players are taking charge and we are communicating better."

Nebraska, 10-3 overall and 3-0 in the Big Eight, will face a Jayhawk team that is 16-2. Kansas lost its only Big Eight match of the season last weekend to Oklahoma, a loss which snapped a 15-match winning streak. The streak had given the Jayhawks one of their best starts ever. "Kansas is a very good team,"

Pettit said. "They play very good defense, have a fast offense, and their confidence has to be good from their success." The Jayhawks are led by several seniors, including setter Julie Woodruff, Kansas's all-time leading setter. Last season, she compiled 1,063 set assists. Kansas also returns out-

side hitters Adrian Powell and Kris Kleinschmidt. These three veterans were on a team last year which took Nebraska to four and five games in matches before the Huskers were able to put them away. "Last year, Kansas came at us with a good game plan," Pettit said. "I think we'll be ready this year to take charge." Kansas coach Frankie Albitz said this year is no different for the nationally ranked Huskers, and does expect them to be ready for the Jayhawks. "Nebraska is always a really solid team," Albitz said. "They cover well,



Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska's Eileen Shannon goes for a dig during the Cornhuskers' match against Maryland last weekend. Nebraska will face Kansas tonight in Lawrence, Kan.

— "66"  
**Mentally, we are sharper, our players are taking charge and we are communicating better.**

— Terry Pettit  
NU volleyball coach

— "99"  
and they are real aggressive." Because of Nebraska's winning tradition, which includes 15 straight Big Eight championships, Albitz said she wants her players to concentrate and block out any distractions. But, she said, a bad week of practice has not helped matters. Still, Albitz said she thinks that if her team plays up to its potential, it has a chance to beat the Huskers. "Any time you play Nebraska, there can be an intimidation factor," she said. "I just want to get my team to play their own game." Albitz said that despite the success the Jayhawks had last year, she won't attempt to sell her team on the idea that they can win. "I'm not going to tell them they can compete because of last year's scores," she said. "I hope they already know that." The game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan.

## Athlete excels on, off court

By Jeff Singer  
Staff Reporter

Whether she's on the tennis court or in the classroom, Nebraska tennis player Rachel Collins is always looking for improvement.

And to win. Collins is half of Nebraska's No. 1 doubles squad with teammate Zarina Galvan, and she is the Cornhuskers No. 3 singles player. Her accomplishments off the court surpass those on it, as she has a 4.0 grade-point average as a psychology major.



Collins

Collins said these achievements seemed to have made her a leader to her teammates.

"I try to lead by example," she said. "I try to help out my teammates, especially the freshmen, as much as possible out there."

Collins, a senior from Thousand Oaks, Calif., was the most valuable player of the Marmonte league her final year in high school. She said Nebraska coach Scott Jacobson influenced her to come to

Nebraska after that season. "Scott was a big factor in getting me to Nebraska," Collins said. "The funny thing is that this is the first year I've had him as a coach." Jacobson was named the women's coach this season after 10 years splitting time as an assistant with both the Nebraska men's and women's programs.

Collins said Jacobson has continued to be her biggest influence over the past four years at Nebraska.

"Scott has always been there to help me out," she said.

Collins won the Husker Invitational in No. 3 singles and took third in No. 1 doubles last weekend. She said she plans on equaling these accomplishments throughout the season.

"My goal for this year is to win Big Eight's in singles and doubles," Collins said. "I also want the team to finish in either first or second place in the conference."

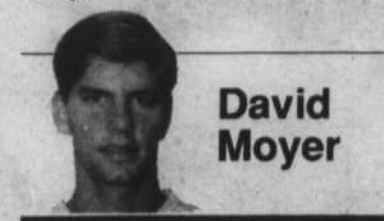
Collins said the Huskers will need to keep up their dedication on the court if they are to compete for the Big Eight title.

"Continued hard work is a must for us," Collins said. "As long as we focus on our goals, the results will follow."

## Big 10 dreaming Big 8 not up to snuff

I had a dream the other night. It was a dream about Nebraska football.

No, it wasn't the same dream Jed Barnickel from Colon has while he sleeps in his overalls and hugs his Herbie Husker doll tightly. You know, the one about the Cornhuskers winning the national championship, game by game, knocking off opponents by 63 points. And after the Orange Bowl victory, in which Nebraska passes for



David Moyer

450 yards, Tom Osborne exclaims, "We couldn't have done it without Jed telling me to pass more often!" No, it wasn't that dream.

It was a dream about conference realignment, and the Huskers were in the Big 10.

Think about it. Two divisions with the winner of each division playing each other to decide who goes to the Rose Bowl. Nebraska is in the West Division with Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Northwestern and Wisconsin. In the East Division, you have Indiana,

Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Penn State and Purdue.

There would be five conference games plus the championship game. The five non-conference games could consist of two powerhouses and three other teams who need money. What a schedule.

Several things would come out of this situation. First, it would alleviate a lot of pressure on Osborne.

One reason he takes so much heat now is because the Big Eight is not a strong football conference. Every year, the Huskers have at least eight guaranteed wins, depending on how the schedule is set up. This puts a load of pressure on the remaining games. The Huskers lose one, the fans start screaming. And, of course, Jed Barnickel doesn't sleep well.

If Nebraska had to play at least three big conference games a year, along with two tough non-conference games, the pressure wouldn't be so great and Nebraska could go back to just playing good old-fashioned college football.

Secondly, it may revive the old blood at the games and bring in some young blood. By playing in the Big 10, Nebraska's athletic department could add seats to Memorial Stadium to accommodate the renewed excitement. It also may wake up those fans

who have had their season tickets since the team was called the Bugeaters.

They wouldn't be able to sit back on their hands and watch Nebraska roll up the score week after week, and then spend the Oklahoma game yelling more at the people in front of them to sit down than they do rooting for the Huskers.

Nebraska young people, and even Osborne himself, have asked Nebraska's fans to mimic the fans at Southern schools. Those fans have reason to be excited when they are playing close game almost every week.

If Nebraska had several good teams on its schedule, the older fans would get tired of all those wild and crazy wiper-snappers bumping them, and they'd stay home, leaving more tickets for younger, more vocal people.

After all, with this new schedule, many of the games would be on television anyway.

I'm not saying Osborne sets up easy schedules by any means. With the conference the Huskers belong to, he is stuck playing several games he may not really want to play. Throw in the fact that non-conference games are played in succession at the begin-

See MOYER on 8