

Huskers impressive in Colorado victory

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team could have been impressed with a ranked Colorado team and a large, hostile crowd Saturday, but the Cornhuskers weren't impressed at all.

Instead, they were just plain impressive.

In a showdown between the Big Eight's top two teams, No. 9 Nebraska swept past No. 18 Colorado 16-14, 15-12, 15-9 and claimed a two-game conference lead with four league matches left to play, all at home.

Nebraska Assistant Coach Cathy Noth said solid preparation and a good game plan by Nebraska were the keys to the Husker victory.

"We were just well prepared," Noth said. "We figured that if we could force them to go to their outside, we could have some success."

The Huskers came from being behind 14-10 in the first game to score the next six points and a 16-14 victory in front of a Colorado record crowd of 2,453 at the Coors Events Center.

"That kind of blew the wind right out of them," Noth said of the Huskers' six-point comeback. "It was real difficult for Colorado, but it really gave us some confidence."

Another thing that gave Nebraska confidence was the play of senior outside hitter Janet Kruse, who exploded for 19 kills and a .500 hitting

percentage in the match. It was Kruse's biggest performance since she sprained an ankle and missed eight matches earlier this season.

"Kruse's back to stay," said Noth. "It was the first time since the injury that she had played both consistent and aggressive. We were all waiting for that."

Nebraska also got a big night from middle blocker Stephanie Thater, who totaled 14 kills and a .435 hitting percentage. Setter Nikki Stricker also added 48 assists to the Husker attack.

Noth said anticipation in Boulder had been high for the Nebraska match, and added that during Friday's Colorado-Iowa State match "Help Colorado beat Nebraska" flyers were passed among the crowd.

"But that's exciting and that's what we like," Noth said. "(Colorado Coach) Brad Saindon has done a great job with that program."

With the win, Nebraska extended its winning streak to nine and its record to 16-3 overall, 8-0 in the Big Eight. The Huskers can clinch an outright 16th straight league title by winning three of their final four conference games.

Noth said that although the Colorado match was a critical match for her team in terms of the conference race, that fact was never discussed with the players.

"Nothing really has to be said about 16 straight or anything like that," Noth said. "The players realize the importance of every Big Eight match."



Staci McKee/DN

Nebraska's Cris Hall digs during action against Kansas State last week. Hall helped Nebraska to a straight-set win over Colorado in Boulder, Colo., Saturday night. Nebraska swept past No. 18 Colorado 16-14, 15-12, 15-9.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's swim team receives 1st loss

The Nebraska women's swimming and diving team lost its first dual of season Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center Pool to Iowa by a score of 154-145.

Nebraska junior Michelle Butcher led the Cornhuskers with firsts in the 1,000 freestyle (10 minutes 10.58 seconds), the 400

individual medley (4:31.97) and the 500 freestyle (4:58.37).

Junior Christine Frederick and sophomore Charlene Bowser both scored well with one first and two seconds. Frederick won the 50 freestyle (24.19) and scored seconds as a member of the 200 medley (1:50.15) and the 400 freestyle (3:39.01) relays.

Huskers secure entry in championships

Nebraska tennis player Karl Falkland advanced to the round of 16 at the ITCA Rolex Invitational in Wichita, Kan., this weekend, securing for the Cornhuskers the opportunity to compete in the Midwest's team championships next

month in Des Moines, Iowa.

Falkland advanced after defeating opponents from Southwest Missouri State and Oral Roberts University. He lost to the tourney's seventh-ranked player, Wichita State's Simon Cornish, 6-1, 6-4.

AP TOP 25

THROUGH 10/27/91	1991 RECORD	PTS.	PVS.	REC. vs TOP 25	OPP. REC.	EXTRA POINTS
1 Florida St.	8-0-0	1,492	1	3-0-0	29-19-0	10-1 over Louisville
2 Miami (3)	7-0-0	1,415	2	2-0-0	23-21-1	Allowed only 7.9 ppg.
3 Washington	7-0-0	1,412	3	2-0-0	28-13-1	No. 1 defense in nation
4 Michigan	6-1-0	1,312	4	2-1-0	29-14-1	8-2 last ten vs. Purdue
5 Notre Dame	7-1-0	1,247	5	1-1-0	32-18-1	1963 last loss to Navy
6 Florida	6-1-0	1,210	6	3-1-0	28-16-0	4-22-1 record at Auburn
7 Alabama	6-1-0	1,058	7	2-1-0	20-18-0	32-1 vs. MSU since 1958
8 Penn St.	7-2-0	1,046	8	1-1-0	34-25-0	RB Anderson 100 yds.
9 Nebraska	6-1-0	1,002	9	1-1-0	21-20-2	No. 1 NCAA rushing team
10 California	6-1-0	991	10	1-1-0	26-17-0	1-1-8 last ten vs. USC
11 Iowa	6-1-0	910	11	1-1-0	21-21-1	2-7-1 last ten vs. OSU
12 Texas A&M	5-1-0	822	13	1-0-0	18-19-1	Shutout Klingler-10 sacks
13 Ohio St.	6-1-0	743	14	0-1-0	16-27-0	21-2-1 vs. Iowa since '63
14 Tennessee	4-2-0	693	15	3-2-0	26-12-0	12-0 vs. Memphis State
15 Colorado	5-2-0	657	16	1-1-0	26-17-2	8-16-1 at home vs. Neb.
16 Clemson	4-1-1	570	19	2-0-0	22-11-0	Won 14 str. over Deacons
17 East Carolina	6-1-0	535	20	2-0-0	29-16-2	1st meeting with Tulane
18 Syracuse	6-2-0	486	18	2-1-0	33-20-0	Won 5 straight vs. Owls
19 N. Carolina St.	6-1-0	401	12	2-1-0	16-19-1	2-6 at S.C. since 1976
20 Oklahoma	5-2-0	378	21	0-1-0	17-18-1	Won 20 str. over Wildcats
21 Baylor	6-2-0	287	22	1-1-0	25-22-0	No. 1 offense in SWC
22 Georgia	6-2-0	251	24	2-0-0	24-25-1	Zeler 302 yds. most-1963
23 UCLA	5-2-0	156	-	1-2-0	25-18-0	WR LaChapelle has 11 TDs
24 Arkansas	5-2-0	140	25	0-1-0	21-21-1	24-11 at home vs. Baylor
25 Fresno St.	7-0-0	97	-	0-0-0	10-36-0	No. 1 offense in the nation

() = First-place votes