



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska's Janet Kruse digs the ball during action against Kansas State earlier this season. The senior from Fort Calhoun has come back from an ankle injury to help the Cornhuskers to their current 12-match winning streak.

Kruse dominates after recovery

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

Janet Kruse couldn't have asked for a worse start to her senior volleyball season at Nebraska.

But now, things couldn't be going better for her.

The Cornhusker outside hitter from Fort Calhoun has rebounded from an ankle injury in Nebraska's first match of the season. Kruse has been a catalyst in the team's current 12-match winning streak and drive toward a third-consecutive NCAA Final Four.

Kruse exhibited her resurgent play Saturday in Nebraska's three-game sweep of eighth-ranked Texas. Kruse finished with a season-high 23 kills and a .462 hitting percentage in the victory.

This just may be vintage Janet Kruse.

"I hope so," she said. "I've always been motivated to play well against Texas since I know a lot of players on their team."

Kruse, a two time All-American and Husker co-captain, said the Texas match was one of the best she's seen Nebraska play in her four years as a Husker.

"It was definitely one of the best matches that I can remember us playing," she said. "We stayed controlled, and we didn't get excited when Texas did something well or the crowd started to get into it."

Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said as much as anything, Kruse's improved play can be attributed to better ball-handling and setting by her teammates.

"Her success is in a large part due to our improved passing and setting," Pettit said. "Our setter (sophomore Nikki Stricker) has been getting her the ball in great position."

Without Kruse in the Nebraska lineup, Nebraska lost matches to UCLA and Brigham Young. Her return, in a Husker loss to New Mexico on Sept. 28, was the last time Nebraska lost.

Coming back from the sprained ankle suffered in Nebraska's opener against Wisconsin was slow for Kruse. During a four-match stretch in the middle of the season, she totaled just 23 kills in 64 attacks.

Then Kruse exploded in a match in Boulder, Colo., against the Buffaloes, recording 19 kills in the Huskers' three-game sweep. In the Huskers' three matches since, Kruse has led the team in kills.

Kruse said she could still improve aspects of her game.

"Serving is something I've always had trouble with," Kruse said. "I've served all right the last couple games, but I still need to keep improving."

Pettit said that as much as anything, Kruse and fellow senior Cris Hall have added leadership to the young Husker team.

"We've gotten good leadership from both Hall and Kruse," Pettit said. "Their play and their intensity in practice has been important for us."

Now, Kruse and the Huskers must turn toward three final Big Eight matches, the conference tournament, and the NCAA Tournament.

"There are still some things that we did in Texas that can be improved," Kruse said. "That's what we need to work on."

And, Kruse said, if those things are improved, maybe the Huskers can make another trip to the Final Four.

Is that a goal?
"The goal is to play every match like we did down in Texas, and then coming home with a national championship trophy in my lap," she said. "That would be the ultimate."

Tennis team to close fall with toughest competition

By Jeff Singer
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's tennis team is hoping the moving of the region's tennis championships closer to home will help bring wins closer to home as well.

The ITCA Midwest Regional Championships have been moved from their previous home in Salt Lake City to Omaha, but the Cornhuskers will need more than a geographical change to help them beat some of the region's top players, Nebraska Coach Scott Jacobson said.

"This is the best competition we will see all year," Jacobson said. "We're going to need to play well to help our confidence for the rest of the year."

Junior Ann Flannery agreed. "The tournament is very important for the rest of the year, and is a great way to end the fall season," Flannery said. "We'll be playing against some great competition, and our play should help determine the lineup for the rest of the year."

The competition includes nationally-ranked Brigham Young and

defending Big Eight champion Oklahoma State.

Jacobson said he wants to see his team improve mentally in preparation for conference play in the spring.

"We've been playing well physically, but not mentally," he said. "We need to improve mentally."

“We're going to need to play well to help our confidence for the rest of the year.”

Jacobson
women's tennis coach

Along with Flannery, Zarina Galvan and Frauke Hachtmann will be playing singles in the individual-based tourney. Galvan will team with senior Rachel Collins to play on the only doubles squad the Huskers will be sending to the River City. The tournament, the last competition for Nebraska this fall, will continue through Saturday.

Irish hoopla pathetic, pointless

Pay-per view game too much

As if Bill Walsh wasn't enough to make somebody hate Notre Dame's football program.

Now Irish officials are breaking new ground and offering their school's Nov. 16 game against Penn State on pay-per-view television to 50 percent of the country.

You don't pay, you don't see Rick Mirer play. It's that simple.

Maybe I'll fork over a few bucks to watch the two most overrated teams in the country battle it out.

Or maybe I can find something better to do.

Like lining up my Q-tips for my weekly ear-cleaning.

Nonetheless, the announcement of pay-per-view for Notre Dame-Penn State is the latest in the sorry saga that has transformed the Irish from one of the country's most respected football teams into representatives of the greediest athletic department in the nation.

By now, almost everybody has watched Notre Dame Saturday on NBC with Dick Enberg and his sidekick "He's good, but he's no Joe Montana" Walsh.

On those broadcasts, Enberg and Walsh, the ex-coach of the San Francisco 49ers, try their best to do an impartial announcing job while Notre Dame kicks the snot out of some powerhouse like Navy.

But the two NBC boys sometimes go into a lapse and show their true green blood, referring to Mirer as simply "Rick" or tight end Derek Brown as "Derek" and going nuts when an Irish player crosses the goal line.

In other words, they're overglori-

fied Kent Pavelkas.

Both Walsh and Enberg spend a day before the game on the campus of the opposing school, supposedly to make the broadcasts even more impartial.

I can just see Walsh now, sporting a 49ers jacket, a leprechaun cap, and a Lou Holtz button, asking the opposing coach and laughing, "Hey, Bob, do you really think you can stop Rick and Derek?"

Of course this weekend, Walsh and Enberg will have the tough task of calling a real game: Notre Dame plays Tennessee in South Bend, Ind.

If the game is close in its final stages, pay close attention to Walsh's behind-the-mike tactics. Undoubtedly, as he did in NFL games last year, he'll criticize the Tennessee defensive alignment or talk about how Ronnie Lott



John Adkisson

would've broken up that pass.

But as bad as Walsh is, even NBC's decision to put him in a college broadcast booth is not as bad as the pay-per-view announcement.

Now that's poor.

Having to pay to watch Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield wouldn't be a great option, but that's a once-a-year spectacle like the Olympics or the Super Bowl.

On any given Saturday, hundreds

of college football games are played across the country.

A game involving Notre Dame isn't necessarily better than a game involving Clemson or Washington or Texas Tech or Toledo or Peru State or Nebraska Wesleyan.

When fights are on television, people can get together to defray the cost of pay-per-view. But can you imagine, when in a few years every Irish game will be pay-per-view, asking all your friends to come over and watch Notre Dame play Air Force?

It may be excusable if the game were for the national title. But no matter what Notre Dame does against Tennessee this weekend, the game against Penn State won't even be a showdown between two Top Five teams.

Notre Dame has one loss, and Penn State is still in the Top 10 despite a loss on the road to Southern Cal, a team which is not even going to a bowl game.

The two teams have as many combined losses as Nebraska and Colorado did entering their game last weekend. Yet, that game was piped into my living room without a hitch.

In fact, Notre Dame officials are expecting the general public to pay for their 2:30 p.m. game, which is the second televised game of the day.

What's the first game on Nov. 16, you ask? Just a little 11 a.m. matchup between Florida State and Miami, the top two teams in the country.

Maybe the best things in life are free after all.

Adkisson is a junior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan staff reporter.

Tickets remain for Iowa State

From Staff Reports

Nebraska athletic ticket manager Joe Selig announced Wednesday that about 1,000 tickets remain for the Nebraska-Iowa State football game Nov. 16 in Lincoln.

Tickets are priced at \$18.50 and may be purchased at the South Stadium Ticket Office, by mail or by phone with Visa or Mastercard. Anyone with questions may call the ticket office for more information.