

# Huskers soar in height vs. height battle

By John Adkisson  
Staff Reporter

The Oklahoma volleyball team couldn't beat Nebraska Saturday night, but the Sooners sure had all the right numbers.

Like 6-foot-1, 6-foot-2 and 6-foot-3.

The Sooners, the only team in the Big Eight with a taller front line than Nebraska, took the Cornhuskers to four games before losing 15-4, 15-11, 13-15, 15-10 in front of 3,820 fans at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The victory gave 22-3 Nebraska a 15-match winning streak and its third straight 12-0 regular-season conference record.

But it took some persistent hitting up, over and around the Sooner trees before Nebraska emerged with its seventh consecutive win over Oklahoma.

"They're a 6-3 block, and that's a pretty big block to go around," said Husker middle blocker Kim Tonniges, who finished with a team-high 9 block assists. "They did a great job closing the block, and we just didn't cover too well for a while there."

For a while early in the match, it looked as if Nebraska would coast to its eighth straight three-game sweep. The Huskers won the first game in fewer than two service rotations.

Oklahoma was down, but not out by a long shot.

"I told the kids after the first game, I told them they were all scared," Sooner Coach Miles Pabst said. "Scared stiff."

The Sooners loosened up in the

second game behind 6-2 middle blocker Laura Rappard, who finished with a team-high 17 kills. But Oklahoma lost an 11-9 lead as Nebraska stormed back to score the final six points and take a two-game lead.

Was Oklahoma out of it yet?

Apparently, 6-3 middle blocker Gretchen Anderson thought not. The freshman ignited a Sooner rally in the third game as she smashed kills for two consecutive sideouts with the score tied 13-13.

One point later the final Sooner tree, 6-1 sophomore Gloria Holcomb, pounded a smash into mid-court to give the Sooners a 15-13 win and give Nebraska its first game loss after winning 25 straight.

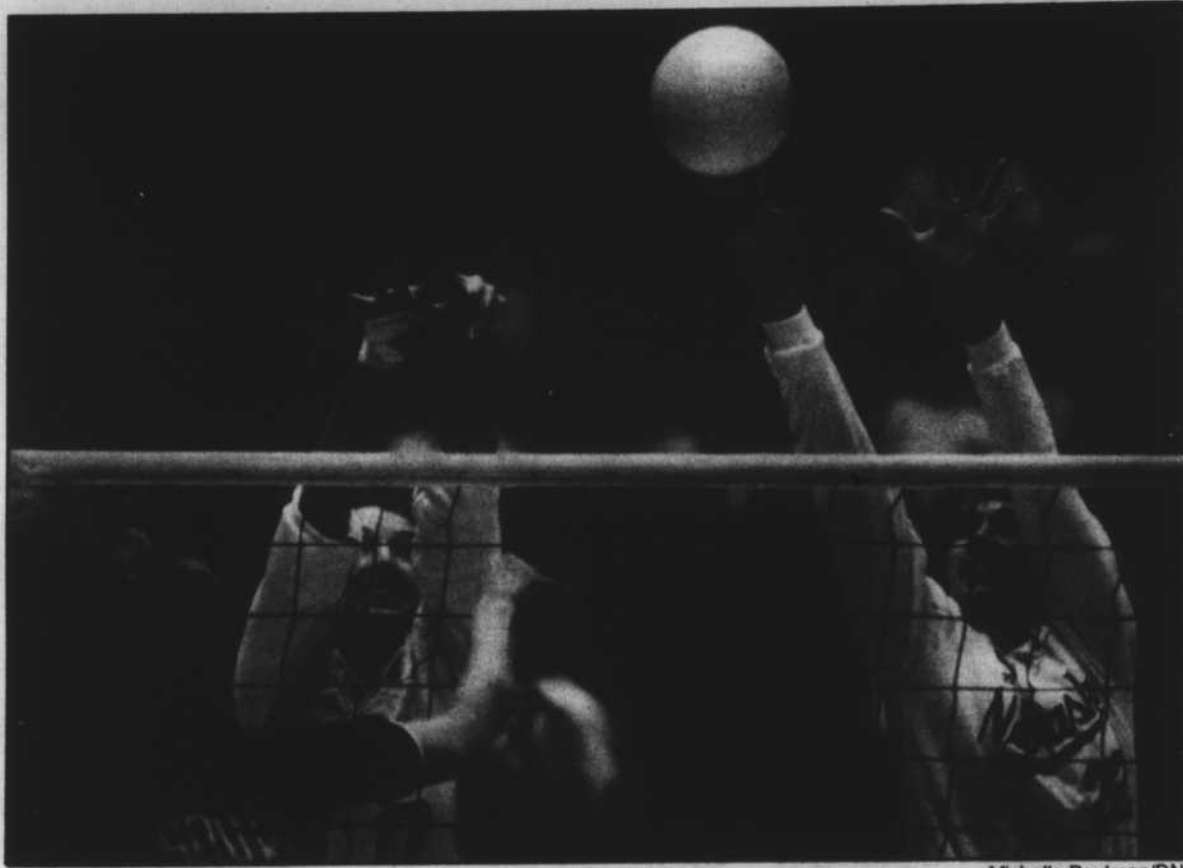
Nebraska Coach Terry Pettit said the third-game loss may have been good for the Huskers.

"We've been in a zone now for four or five weeks," he said. "To some extent it was good for us, good for us to play against a big block... good for us maybe to even play four games."

Tonniges said after the third game, she and her Nebraska teammates knew they needed to take control.

"We did not want that to happen," she said. "But after (the third-game loss), we said, 'This isn't supposed to happen,' and we took control from there."

Nebraska did take control in the fourth game despite Oklahoma leads of 6-4 and 8-7. The Huskers secured the win as senior Cris Hall served three consecutive points for a 14-8 lead and Nikki Stricker notched a service ace on the match's final point. Seniors Janet Kruse and Hall, both



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska's Janet Kruse (left) and Peggy Meyer block a spike attempt against Missouri Saturday night. The win over the Tigers clinched Nebraska's 16th-straight Big Eight title.

playing in their final regular-season home match, notched 18 and 10 kills, respectively. Eileen Shannon had 15, and Stephanie Thater added 12 for the Huskers.

Pettit said the victory proved that his team can fight adversity and win. "Great teams find ways to win sometimes when they don't play very

well, because they play well on the big points," he said. "So it was certainly a good effort."

On Friday, Nebraska clinched its 16th consecutive conference title with a 15-3, 15-3, 15-2 whipping of Missouri.

Kruse, Hall, and Shannon each had 10 kills to pace the Husker win in

a match that lasted just 48 minutes.

Pettit said winning the title, his 15th in 15 years at Nebraska, was still special.

"Each one is different. There's a tendency when you have a record like that to lump it together and not realize the commitment it's taken from each different group of people," he said.

## Ten Bensel takes 2nd

# Huskers qualify for national meet

By John Gardner  
Staff Reporter

The Nebraska women's cross country team used three top-10 finishes to run away with the NCAA District V Championships title in Wichita, Kan., Saturday.

The Cornhuskers scored 45 points to outdistance second-place Kansas State, with 85. Iowa State finished third with 87 points, and Kansas ended up with 88 for fourth.

With its first-place finish, Nebraska earned an automatic berth to the NCAA Championships in Tucson, Ariz., Nov. 25.

Fran ten Bensel led the way again, running the 5-kilometer race in a time of 16 minutes, 54.6 seconds, qualifying for second place. Lisa Graham came up big with a sixth-place time of 17:52.2 and Theresa Stelling finished 10th in 18:08.2. Julia Saul from Kansas won the individual title with a time of 16:48.

Coach Jay Dirksen said he was pleased with the overall performance of his team.

"We were really the dominant team

in the meet," Dirksen said. "Everyone ran real well, and because of that, we won by a lot more points than we did at the Big Eights."

Dirksen said his team placed all seven runners before anyone else's top four. In fact, they all placed in the top 30. He said he was surprised by the margin of victory.

"Forty-five points is a very low score for this caliber of competition," Dirksen said.

Ten Bensel, who won the Big Eight Conference meet, ran a very "controlled" race this week, Dirksen said.

"Fran's plan was to get into one of the top spots early, then run conservatively the rest of the way," he said. "And that's exactly what she did. We wanted to make sure she was healthy going into the national meet."

Dirksen said the biggest surprise in his eyes was the performance of Sylvia Veit. Veit placed 17th.

"That was the best race I've ever seen Sylvia run," he said.

As for the men, Nebraska placed fifth with 163 points.

As expected, Iowa State ran away from the field, scoring a mere 29 points to easily outdistance second-place Kansas State with 64 points.

Dirksen said he was pleased with the way the men ran, especially after the way the meet started.

"The guys were totally out of it at the beginning and finished very, very strong," he said. "They definitely ended the season on a good note."

Freshman David Itteff, hampered by a hip injury, led the way for the Huskers with a time of 31:38.9 and a 13th-place finish.

Dirksen said he especially was pleased with Tom Banks, who finished the 10-kilometer race in 32:22.5 to place 26th.

"Tom ran as good a race as I've ever seen him run," Dirksen said.

The Nebraska women now will look forward to the national meet. Things are looking good right now, Dirksen said.

"We really have some momentum going into nationals," he said. "The girls have been running very well lately. They're coming on at the right time."

## Outfielder signs NU letter of intent

Nebraska baseball coach John Sanders announced Friday that Darin Erstad, an outfielder from Jamestown, N.D., has signed a letter of intent.

The 6-foot-1 Erstad hit .374 this past summer with 12 home runs and 65 runs batted in for his legion team, which finished second in its division in the state tournament.

Erstad, who is also a standout hockey player, kicks for his high school football team and runs the hurdles in track.

He passed up scholarship offers from Creighton, Minnesota and Wyoming.

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The Computing Resource Center is offering free microcomputers seminars to UNL students. The seminars will feature an introduction to Microsoft Word for the Macintosh and WordPerfect for IBM machines.

Lab Location	Dates	Times
Advanced Microsoft Word for Macintosh Bancroft 238	Tuesday, November 19	2:30 to 4:00
Advanced WordPerfect 5.1 on IBM Sandoz(IBM)	Tuesday, November 19	3:00 to 4:30