

Home state motivates Husker for big day

By Todd Cooper
Senior Reporter

Outside linebacker Trev Alberts barely knew what hit him Saturday in Nebraska's 38-13 victory over Iowa State.

But he did know that he hit Iowa State quarterback Kevin Caldwell, as Alberts dropped Caldwell four times behind the line of scrimmage.

"A lot of times the quarterback was scrambling and (the defensive line) would flush him out," Alberts said. "And, basically, I just ran into him."

Basically, Alberts ran into Caldwell four times for 28 yards in losses Saturday. Alberts had six tackles on the day, almost matching his previous best — seven tackles against Iowa State last year.

Alberts gave the credit to Nebraska's defensive line for Saturday's output — especially tackles John Parrella and Kevin Ramaekers and middle guard Pat Engelbert.

"There were a couple of times where they did all the work for me," Alberts said. "I got the credit for it."

But, he said, Nebraska's defensive line is playing "about the best as a group" against the run that Alberts, a sophomore, has seen.

"As far as those big strong guys," Alberts said, "you haven't seen a lot of just straight-down-our-throats types of deals. When they can do that, it forces (quarterbacks) outside to us and hopefully we can hold up our end of the bargain."

With a little motivation from home, Alberts, a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, held up his end well Saturday, defen-

sive coordinator Charlie McBride said.

"Well, he's from Iowa — I think that's a little motivation," McBride said. "But he really did play well."

Alberts said he wanted to impress the approximately 20 family members and friends attending the game from Iowa.

"They told me, 'Don't get all tight because we're here. Just go out there and have fun,'" Alberts said. "So I got out there and I was feeling pretty loose. I wanted to make some big plays because they were there."

Alberts said he had the same mindset last year against Iowa State. He recorded three tackles behind the line for 27 yards in losses in Nebraska's 45-13 victory in 1990.

"That was about the whole year, right there in that game," Alberts said of his first year. "I got half of my tackles in that game."

Alberts, who grew up watching Iowa and Iowa State, said he just naturally gets motivated against Iowa State.

"Come Monday, when it comes to the Iowa State week, I just really get focused," Alberts said. "I wish I could do this every week — be this focused — but things just seemed to fall in place (Saturday)."

Alberts said his knowledge of the defense has settled as well, since being named the Big Eight freshman-of-the-year last year.

"Last year, I was clueless," Alberts said. "I knew the dime (defensive) package and that was it. This year, I'm getting comfortable with all our different schemes."

Alberts said his technique has improved. And, ultimately, that results in games like Saturday's.

"My technique is getting a little better every week and technique is so important," Alberts said. "I've still got a long ways to go but I'm happy with how things are going."



Alberts

Student athletes hoping to disprove stereotypes

By David Moyer
Staff Reporter

Discrimination and biases in American society have caused many people to feel like they are always climbing a steep mountain. Overcoming extreme adversity and the pressures of dispelling myths in other peoples' minds can seem a tiresome and never-ending battle.

In college athletics, coaches, athletes and counselors are trying to dispel many of the biases that have been labeled on the student-athlete in the past and that have stayed with them through the years.

Problems with the Oklahoma football team and the UNLV and Kentucky basketball programs have added to the tarnished image of college athletics, and recent books that tell of alcohol, drug and sexual abuse as well as athletes graduating illiterate have made breaking stereotypes harder.

But this is an age of NCAA reform, and Nebraska athletic counselor Keith Zimmer said he believes the student-athlete has evolved into one who stresses academics first. And he wishes people would begin to realize the changes.

"It is unfortunate people are still buying into some of the stereotypes that existed 10 and 15 years ago," he said. "I think it is definitely student first and then athlete. Coaches, counselors, conferences and the NCAA have worked very diligently to overcome these things." Cornhusker 1-back George Achola also agreed with Zimmer.

"You look at our football team alone, you have guys like (Mike) Stigge, Pat Engelbert and Pat Tyrance last year," he said.

"These are people who can make it anywhere. It is very important to dispel the myth that we are all here to just play football and not to get a degree because a lot of us are very successful at doing both."

Nebraska recently placed eight players on the Academic All-Big Eight football team, and Nebraska leads the nation in GTE football academic All-Americans as well as all sports combined.

But the award that has been most impressive, Zimmer said, is the NCAA top-six award given to the best student-athletes in the nation.

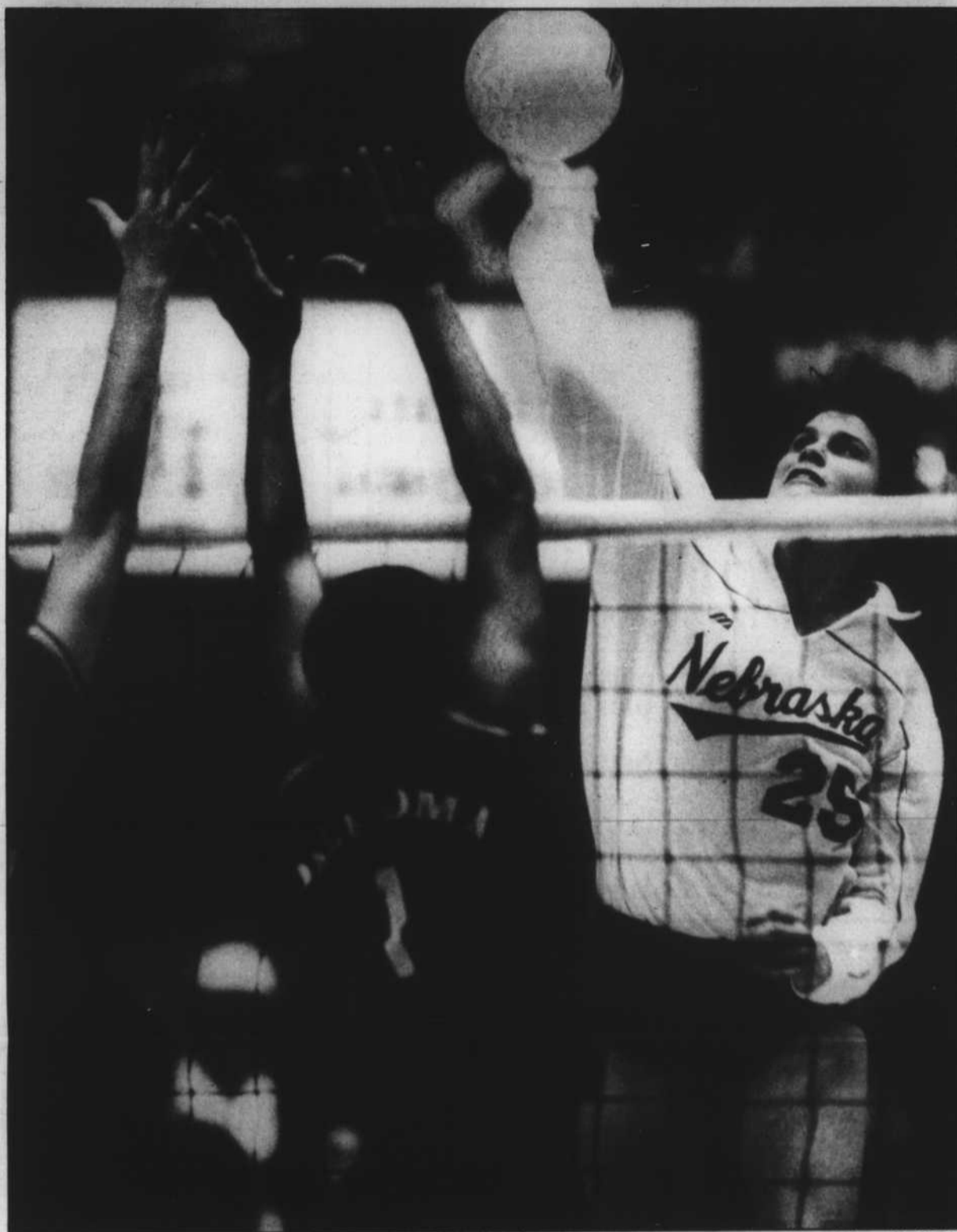
In the past two years Nebraska has won two out of the six awards each year. He believes this year's nominees, Janet Kruse and Mike Petko, also have a good chance to receive the award.

But student-athletes are involved in other activities besides studying and sports. Monday marked the beginning of a week of activities in which Nebraska athletes work with Golden Key members to promote the importance of education to junior and senior high school students. It is all part of the 70th observance of American Education Week, Nov. 17-23.

Once again student-athletes will be put on a pedestal, but this time as real people. Zimmer hopes the week will be the start of a changing opinion of the present-day student-athlete.

"Everyone is aware of the Husker football team and how many consecutive bowl games they've been to and how many 100-yard games Derek Brown has," Zimmer said. "Very few people know our program impacts 60,000 people on a yearly basis."

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Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska's Cris Hall spikes against Oklahoma in Saturday's match. Barring an upset, Nebraska will be hosting the NCAA Mideast Regional tournament for the third straight year. Hall and teammates Stephanie Thater, Janet Kruse, Eileen Shannon and Debbie Brand have played in each of them.

Lincoln likely site for tournament

By John Adkisson
Staff Reporter

It's looking like Lincoln, again.

The Nebraska volleyball team, ranked first in the NCAA Mideast Region, will likely play host to the four-team regional tournament which decides the region's Final Four participant, according to coaches of top-ranked teams which may have to face Nebraska on its home court.

Nebraska has played host for regional finals four times since 1985, and three of those times the Cornhuskers have advanced to the Final Four. Last year, Nebraska played host to the regional and advanced to the national semifinals with a win over Penn State.

The 22-3 Huskers are ranked first in the Mideast Region followed by Ohio State, Colorado, Penn State and Pittsburgh.

The NCAA first round will be the weekend of Dec. 7-8, and the Mideast Regional will be the following weekend. The Bob Devaney Sports Center, home of the volleyball team this season, is free on both weekends except for a 2 p.m. women's basketball game on Dec. 8.

Nebraska leads the nation in attendance, averaging 3,373 fans per match. That mark includes an NCAA record crowd of 11,032 for a match with UCLA earlier this year.

According to Donna Noonan, director of championships for the NCAA, regional sites are selected according to various criteria including rank of

team, projected attendance and past experience in playing host for regional.

Nebraska women's athletic director Barbara Hibner said she forwarded a bid for both a first-round match and the regional to the NCAA early last week.

Ohio State Coach Jim Stone, whose Buckeyes are 23-3 and averaging 1,293 fans per match, said his school didn't make a bid for the regional because of arena commitments with the Buckeye basketball teams.

"I think Nebraska deserves to host. It's a place we're familiar with and I think our kids would love to play there again."

Saindon
Colorado volleyball coach

Stone said he wouldn't mind coming to Nebraska to play the Huskers.

"I know that the fans there are knowledgeable and that a lot of people have worked hard to build that program to where it is now," Stone said.

Colorado Coach Brad Saindon has the third-seeded team in the region with the No. 16 Buffaloes. Saindon said Colorado also had basketball commitments, and didn't bid for either the first round or the Mideast

Regional. "I think Nebraska deserves to host," Saindon said. "It's a place we're familiar with and I think our kids would love to play there again."

Penn State Coach Russ Rose, whose undefeated Lady Lions lost to Nebraska last year in the regional finals, said he and his team wouldn't mind a return trip to Lincoln.

"I've always believed that the regional should go to one of the two top-ranked teams," Rose said. "Last year, I think we could've beaten Nebraska if we would have played in Wisconsin."

"This year, I don't think we could beat them at Nebraska, at Ohio State or even at Penn State."

Penn State has made four NCAA tournament appearances in Lincoln, more than any other team.

Rose said that in the past, Nebraska has done a good job in playing host.

"The fans, the community and the team are leaders in doing new things with the sport," Rose said. "I think Lincoln's as good a place as any."

● Nebraska will face either Oklahoma or Iowa State in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament at Civic Auditorium in Omaha Nov. 29. Colorado and Kansas have already secured spots in the tourney, and will play in the other semifinal match. The final will be Nov. 30.