

Brand

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 an excellent defensive player and a good passer, and she's made the adjustment to the college game."

Brand previously played on the Australian National Team before coming to Nebraska.

The 5-foot-9-inch outside hitter said a friend who played volleyball at Florida State recommended that she leave Australia and test the college volleyball waters in the United States.

"I heard through the grapevine that there was this opportunity," Brand said. "I wanted to go to a good school and not an average volleyball school."

Brand said she had seen a lot of differences between Nebraska and her hometown of Adelaide, Australia.

"There's no ocean here, so I feel very claustrophobic," Brand said. "But the people here are really friendly and

really nice."
 Brand competed in 22 of Nebraska's 32 matches last year and helped the Huskers to a 27-5 record and a trip to the NCAA Midwest Regional.

Brand has also been honored on the Phillips 66 Academic All-Big Eight honorable mention list as well as on the Big Eight Academic Honor Roll as an exercise science major.

She said she and the team had set higher goals for this year.

"I'd like in my final year to win a national championship because we've been so close," she said.

This year's team has the ability to bring home a national title from December's NCAA Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., she said.

"We need to play as a team and be competitive rather than expect to win just because we're Nebraska," Brand said.

No. 3 Huskers begin season

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska volleyball team is ranked third in Volleyball Monthly's preseason rankings.

The Huskers, who return four starters from last year's team, which finished 27-5, is the only non-West Coast team to crack the top seven.

Nebraska was ranked seventh last season before Ohio State ended the Huskers' season in the final of the NCAA Midwest Regional in Lincoln.

Nebraska will open its season Tuesday with an exhibition match against Nebraska alumni before facing New Mexico on Sept. 4 in the First Tier Invitational.

UCLA, last year's national cham-

pion, which beat Nebraska in a four-game match in Lincoln last season, is ranked No. 1. Behind the Bruins is Long Beach State, the team that lost to UCLA in last year's national championship match.

Two other Cornhusker opponents made it into the Top Ten: Pacific, which Nebraska plays Sept. 5 in the First Tier Invitational, is ranked fifth; and Southern California, which Nebraska plays Nov. 13, is ranked seventh.

Colorado, a team expected to challenge Nebraska for the Big Eight championship, is ranked 18th. Oklahoma, another two-time Cornhusker opponent, received votes but did not crack the Top 20.

Volleyball Monthly top ten

Source: Volleyball Monthly Magazine



1. UCLA
2. Long Beach State
3. Nebraska
4. Hawaii
5. Pacific
6. Stanford
7. USC
8. BYU
9. UC-State Barbara
10. Florida

Brian Shelton/DN

Toronto gets pitcher Cone

NEW YORK (AP)—The Toronto Blue Jays, seeking to solidify their hold on first place in the American League East, obtained pitcher David Cone from the New York Mets Thursday for infielder Jeff Kent and a player to be named later.

Cone, who is 13-7 with a 2.88 ERA, leads the National League in strikeouts with 214 and has five shutouts. The All-Star has led the league in strikeouts for the last two years and has a career record of 80-48 with a 3.13 ERA.

Kent, 24, is a rookie who plays second and third base. He's hitting .240 with eight home runs and 35 RBIs in 65 games.

Cone, one of the few bright spots for the Mets in a disappointing season, becomes a free agent after the season. With his success this year, Cone's contract demands would probably place him among the top paid pitchers, or in the \$4 million-per-year range.

Cone is expected to report to the Blue Jays Friday and will probably start one of the games against the Milwaukee Brewers this weekend.

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