



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska alumnae Lori Endicott takes a break from the Cornhuskers' volleyball practice Monday. Endicott won a bronze medal with the U.S. National Team in Barcelona and will play in Nebraska's alumnae game Tuesday.

## Olympic bronze

*Ex-Husker, now medal winner, returns home for alumnae match*

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

Despite winning a bronze medal, the 1992 Summer Olympics were still a golden experience for former Nebraska volleyball player Lori Endicott. Endicott and her U.S. National Volleyball teammates went to Barcelona, Spain, over the summer and came home with bronze medals from the Olympic Games. The former Cornhusker said just getting the opportunity to compete in Spain was a dream come true. "It was an incredible experience," Endicott said. "It's a dream for a lot of athletes and it's something to be proud of. It would have to be the highlight of a lifetime." Cuba won the gold medal in the Olympics while the Unified Team came away with the silver,

but Endicott said she was happy with a third-place finish.

"The gold or silver would've been more satisfying, but I'm proud to have won a bronze," Endicott said.

Endicott, a two-time All-American at Nebraska, returned to Lincoln to compete in tonight's volleyball match between the 1992 Huskers and the Nebraska alumni. The match begins at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

Endicott will also have her jersey retired in a pre-match ceremony, as she joins Cathy Noth and Karen Dahlgren as the only Huskers to have been given that honor.

"I feel really honored and proud — it's something every collegian dreams of," she said.

Awards are not unfamiliar for Endicott, as in addition to being an All-American, she was the Big

Eight's Player of the Year in 1987 and 1988 as well as being a three-time Academic All-Big Eight selection.

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”

—Endicott  
former NU volleyball player

Nebraska helped her excel in becoming an Olympian.

"I would not have made it to the level I am at without Nebraska," Endicott said. "The program is strong and very powerful and the great coaching brings out talent."

Endicott will be playing with Noth, Dahlgren and other Nebraska volleyball greats for the alumni squad.

She said that although the alumni had not had a lot of time to prepare for the 1992 Nebraska team, they should be able to give the younger Huskers a good match.

"I think we're going to do well," Endicott said. "It might be frazzled sometimes, but I think it'll be fun."

Endicott, 25, lives in San Diego, the home of the U.S. National Volleyball team.

She said she planned to continue playing for the national squad through the Atlanta Olympics in four years.

"I'm going to stay with the national team and hopefully make it to the 1996 Olympics," Endicott said. "It's good to have veterans on the team to help solidify the team."

## Volleyball team to face NU alumnae

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team may face one of its toughest foes this year when it squares off tonight against some old-timers.

The Cornhuskers will face a team of Nebraska alumnae to kick off the 1992 season at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said his team would have its hands full against the squad of former Husker greats.

"It's wonderful to go up against better players, and fundamentally they'll be better than a lot of teams we'll play this year," Pettit said.

Pettit said the match would be important for his young team.

Five starters return to the defending Big Eight champion Huskers, including senior middle blocker Stephanie Thater, senior outside hitter Eileen Shannon, juniors Nikki Stricker and Laura Luther and sophomore Kim Tonniges.

But the alumnae team is full of talent as well, with such volleyball legends as Val Novak, Virginia Stahr, Janet Krusc, Karen Dahlgren, Cathy Noth and Lori Endicott.

Endicott, who won a bronze medal as a member of the 1992 U.S. Olympic volleyball team, will be the highlight of pre-match ceremonies in which she will have her jersey retired.

Noth, in her sixth season as a Nebraska assistant coach, said tonight her allegiances would temporarily change places for a few hours.

"When I'm on the court, I'm on the court to win," Noth said. "It's going to be a very competitive match, and we'll give our top players a run for their money."

## Backup QB announced

From Staff Reports

Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne announced after Monday's practice that Joel Cornwell would be the backup quarterback to Mike Grant in Saturday's opener against Utah.

"Joel has graded the highest of all the quarterbacks in the fall practices," Osborne said. "Joel just hasn't made very many mistakes."

Osborne said freshman quarterback Ben Rutz would probably redshirt this year.

Zach Wiegert, Calvin Jones, Tyrone Hughes, who all missed Saturday's scrimmage, practiced Monday, Osborne said.

## Colorado's defense may whisk Huskers to Aloha Bowl

Cornhuskers. Buffaloes. Sooners. Jayhawks. The sports pages will soon be filled with news of all these creatures as well as Cyclones, Wildcats, Tigers and Cowboys.

Big Eight Conference football teams will be kicking off their seasons beginning Saturday. In Oklahoma's case, it will be Thursday against Texas Tech on ESPN.

Sorry Husker fans, there will be no redemption for past losses to Colorado this year — the Buffaloes are the best in the Big Eight.

But Husker fans, take heart. A new agreement with the Aloha Bowl ensures the third-place team in the Big Eight a spot in its Christmas Day game.

I believe Nebraska will finish third. That opinion is based not only on Nebraska's strengths and weaknesses, but also on the strengths of the other teams in the conference.

Here are my picks for the Big Eight standings:

1. Colorado — The Buffaloes will have one of the best defenses in the country this year and defense is what wins games. Greg Biekert and

Chad Brown give Colorado the best linebacker corps in the conference.

The switch to a one-back offense is the biggest question mark for Colorado, but there is enough game-breaking speed on this offense to make up for a lack of consistency.

2. Oklahoma — The Sooners finally got their passing attack on track in last season's Gator Bowl win over Virginia.

3. Nebraska — The Huskers might have the best one-two punch at running back in the country with Derek Brown and Calvin Jones, but too bad Coach Tom Osborne can't have them on the field at the same time.

Quarterback is a big question as is the defensive line, where a lack of a big-time pass rush will doom Nebraska against Oklahoma.

The whole season will come down to passing — if the Huskers can defend against it and come up with a dependable passing game of their own.

4. Kansas — The sleeper of the league. The Jayhawks play both Oklahoma and Colorado at home, so a win against either of those two could vault Kansas into the top three.

Defense is the key for Kansas. Dana Stubblefield is the best defensive lineman in the conference, but the Jayhawks must rebuild their defensive backfield.

Oklahoma is Oklahoma. The Sooners always come up with young, fast, hard-hitting defenders to take away any speed advantage other teams may have.

5. Kansas State — The Wildcats now have a winning attitude, something past teams have lacked. Kansas State must replace a lot of players from last season's 7-4 team, but enough quality players remain to make Kansas State a good team.

6. Iowa State — Coach Jim Walden is taking a big step backwards by changing his pass-oriented offense to an option offense. The Cyclones do finally have enough scholarship players to have quality scrimmages, so look for Iowa State to be better prepared than in previous years.

After that, it's hard to decide between Missouri and Oklahoma State — both will be so bad that nobody is going to pay any attention to them after the first two or three games.

Don't worry about hurricane damage to Miami hotels, Husker fans. Nebraska's heading to Honolulu.

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Nick Hytrek

Except for Colorado, no Big Eight team has proven itself able to consistently defend against the pass effectively, and Oklahoma will be able to capitalize on that simple fact.

The big area of concern for the Sooners is defense, where only three starters return, but