



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska's Nikki Stricker, left, and Stephanie Thater try to block a hit of Iowa State's Stephanie McCannon in the second game of the Cornhuskers' win over the Cyclones Wednesday.

## Volleyball team halts Cyclones' winning streak

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

It was just another night at the office for the Nebraska volleyball team Wednesday night.

The Cornhuskers beat Iowa State 15-3, 15-5 and 15-5 to improve their Big Eight record to 2-0 for the season and extend their Big Eight consecutive winning streak to 48 matches at the NU Coliseum.

Nebraska disposed of the Cyclones, who lost for the first time in 10 matches, in just 58 minutes as the fifth-ranked Huskers improved their overall record to 8-2.

The Huskers had nine unanswered point streaks in the first game, eight in the second game and another nine in the third game. The Huskers improved their career record against Iowa State to 40-0.

In win No. 40, Nebraska netted 13 total team blocks to Iowa State's one. The Huskers also out-hit Iowa State .414 to minus .070 as the Cyclones registered more errors than kills in the match.

Leading the hitting charge for the Huskers was senior outside hitter Eileen Shannon, who had a .429 hitting percentage in the victory.

Shannon gave credit to her teammates for her success in the win.

"I thought I played well in the backcourt," said Shannon, who added a team-high 11 digs. "I have to give credit to everybody for doing their job."

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said Shannon

and middle blocker Stephanie Thater had been the reason for the Huskers' current six-match winning streak.

"Everybody's improving, but in the last couple of weeks our left-side players — Shannon and Luther — have improved dramatically," Pettit said.

Another player who aided in the Husker victory was reserve outside hitter Kelly Aspegren. The sophomore from Callaway registered two kills in the third game to help the Huskers improve their all-time Big Eight record to 221-6-1.

Aspegren, who had played in a total of two games entering the match, said it was nice to get the opportunity to compete.

"It's a lot of fun," Aspegren said. "I haven't played all that much this year, so it was nice to go in and make an impact."

Iowa State started four freshmen in its conference opener against Nebraska. Cyclone volleyball coach Vicki Mealer said her young team was overwhelmed by the crowd of 2,981 fans at the Coliseum.

"Nebraska's got a great team and the atmosphere was intimidating for my team," said Mealer. "The atmosphere got the best of us."

Pettit said the Nebraska crowds make the Coliseum one of the toughest places for an opponent to play.

"This is a truly unique college volleyball environment," Pettit said.

## Starter faces Cyclones

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Peggy Meyer didn't let the pressure or her nerves get to her in Nebraska's 15-3, 15-5, 15-5 victory over Iowa State Wednesday night.

The 6-foot-1-inch sophomore volleyball player from Moorhead, Minn., started her first game in a Cornhusker uniform against the Cyclones and said she thought she passed her first test as a starter.

"I think I played pretty well. I wasn't pleased with my blocking, but overall I think I played well," Meyer said.

As usual against Big Eight opponents, Nebraska controlled the Cyclones throughout the night. Meyer said that was important for the team.

"It was very essential for us to have a good game so we know that we are improving," she said. "We really needed to work on our mistakes tonight. We weren't as worried about Iowa State as we were about ourselves making fewer errors."

Meyer's night included registering five kills in eight attacks for a .625 hitting percentage. She also had two serving aces.

"I knew I was doing OK, but it surprised me to start," Meyer said. "I hope I can continue starting and help the team to a national championship."

Shocked or not, Meyer was a big factor in helping Nebraska improve to 8-2.

"Everyone realizes the roles that everyone has to play," she said. "The team chemistry is good and seems to be getting better."

## Strong game needs pitching depth, coach says

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

Rhonda Revelle jumped at the chance to become Nebraska's softball coach last July.

Now she hopes to help her team achieve the same success she enjoyed when she was a Cornhusker.

"After I played here, I decided that if I ever had the opportunity to coach

here, that's what I wanted to do," Revelle said.

Revelle, who was an all-conference performer at first base for NU in 1983, helped to lead the Huskers to their first-ever postseason berth in 1982.

"I enjoyed the support the athletes got when I was here," she said.

So far this season, the Huskers are off to a 1-3 start.

Wins and losses aren't on Revelle's mind right now.

"Our primary goal is to establish my system," she said. "It's a time to assess our talent and see who our pressure players are."

This year's team returns two honorable mention Big Eight picks from last year, Kris Vucurevic and Shae Sloan.

Vucurevic, a senior catcher, hit

.292 last year, the highest of all returning Huskers.

Vucurevic will help tutor a young pitching staff this year.

Jody Splichal is the Huskers' only returning pitcher. She compiled a 2-4 record with a 2.53 earned run average.

With the lack of pitching depth, Revelle said the Huskers must build strength in other areas.

"Our infield defense is strong," she said. "We also have good team unity; they have a tremendous work ethic."

As for the spring season, Revelle said she hoped to field a "scrappy" team.

"Our goal for the season is to establish a personality of being scrappy and stubborn on the field, but relaxed and intense at the same time," she said.

## Big Eight football rallies the good, the bad and the ugly

Now that the Nebraska football team and the rest of the Big Eight has completed the non-conference schedule, there's good news and bad news to report for the Cornhuskers.

The good news is that Nebraska will make a return trip to the Orange Bowl with a 1992 Big Eight title to accompany them.

The bad news is that the Huskers will win one of the weakest conferences in the nation.

After a horrendous non-conference performance by the Big Eight's top teams — Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas — it seems the only difference between Big Eight football and the Titanic was that the Titanic had shuffleboard.

The Huskers, Sooners and Jayhawks have had their difficulties

in non-Big Eight play as all lost to Pac-10 Conference opponents within the last two weeks (NU 29-14 to Washington, OU 20-10 to Southern California and KU 27-23 to California).

Only the Buffaloes managed to go through the first four weeks unscathed, but Colorado still had their troubles in a one-point win over lowly Minnesota.

A perfect indicator of the weakness of the Big Eight is the New York Times' computer rankings. The Huskers are rated sixth in this week's poll, but you won't find another league foe among the rankings' top 20 teams.

Big Eight football has consequently fallen behind other conferences — the Pac 10, Big 10, Southeastern, Big East, Atlantic Coast and Catholic



Jeff Singer

(Notre Dame). So here's a look at how the Big Eight's men of the gridiron compare with various conferences throughout the country.

The Good: The Pac 10 is simply the best football conference in the country, as all 10 of the league's schools can compete with any opponent on any given day.

The Bad: OK, so there is one Division I-A conference worse than the

Big Eight. It's the Southwestern.

The SWC is so crooked that the reason Arkansas probably left it last year was because the Razorbacks felt left out since they couldn't keep up and commit as many NCAA infractions as the Texan schools.

The Ugly: Despite having too many teams (a total of 12 at last count) the Southeastern Conference is one of the top leagues in college football.

The problem the SEC has is that with so many quality teams competing within the conference, Southeastern squads usually beat each other up throughout the season, making the chances of a SEC-team winning a national title slim.

The Spoiled: Notre Dame is a good football team, but they're treated as immortal.

The Fighting Irish have their own television network (NBC — Notre Dame Broadcasting Company) to televise home games in South Bend, Ind., as well as a guaranteed spot in the newly formed national championship bowl coalition.

Next thing you know, Notre Dame administrators will ask to have Irish football coach Lou Holtz elected pope.

With all of the quality college football conferences in the country, it's obvious the Big Eight is a notch below the majority of the pack.

But at least Husker fans can say they're the best of the rest.

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