

# Record crowd watches Huskers beat OU

Player says team lacked intensity

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

A new record led to an old result for the Nebraska volleyball team Saturday night.

The Cornhuskers, who played before a NU Coliseum record crowd of 4,373, defeated Oklahoma for the ninth straight time, 15-4, 16-14, 15-7.

Nebraska improved its record to 11-2 overall and 5-0 in Big Eight play, while increasing its winning streak to nine.

But not many of the Husker volleyball players were too excited about their performance against the Sooners.

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—Pettit  
NU volleyball coach



Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska's Laura Luther attempts a dig during the Huskers' three-game win over Oklahoma on Saturday night. A record NU Coliseum crowd of 4,373 fans watched Nebraska improve to 11-2 overall and 5-0 in the Big Eight.

After dominating the first game, the Huskers went up 10-5 in the second game until Oklahoma scored eight unanswered points to take a 13-10 lead. The two teams then seasawed back and forth until the Huskers were able to earn a two-point victory.

Luther said that even though Nebraska has won 16 straight conference titles, Saturday's second game showed the Huskers can sometimes be too passive.

“I think it definitely makes us wake up; sometimes we can get lackadaisical,” Luther said.

Oklahoma volleyball coach Miles

Pabst said Nebraska didn't play as well as it had in the past.

“Nebraska had trouble passing the ball,” Pabst said. “My gut feeling is they're not as strong a ball club as they had last year, especially when you lose two All-Americans in (Janet) Kruse and Cris (Hall).”

This was the Huskers' second win of the season over Oklahoma, as they beat the Sooners 15-11, 15-4 and 15-2 in Norman, Okla.

The 4,373 fans that came out to watch the Husker victory bested the 4,328 mark set against Oklahoma in 1988.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said matches against the Sooners seem to bring out the Husker fans.

“Oklahoma is a traditional rival for Nebraska,” Pettit said. “If we were playing shuffleboard they'd come out to see it.”

Pettit said he was expecting the fifth-ranked Huskers to play better for the Nebraska fans in time for their next home match against No. 15 Colorado Saturday.

“We have the best fans in the country,” Pettit said. “When they come back next Saturday, they'll see a lot better play.”

Volleyball player earns 1,000th kill

By Derek Samson  
Staff Reporter

Stephanie Thater hit two milestones Saturday when she collected her 1,000th kill and moved into eighth place on Nebraska's all-time kill chart.

“I didn't even know it,” Thater said after the Cornhusker volleyball team downed Oklahoma in straight games. “I don't focus on personal stats.”

Thater, a senior middle blocker, registered 11 kills in 24 attempts and passed Enid Schonewise, pushing her career kill total to 1,006 in front of a record crowd.

She now needs 53 kills to pass current Husker assistant Cathy Noth and move into seventh place.

“(The crowd) was really helpful. We always like playing Oklahoma and love playing at home,” Thater said.

Despite sweeping the Sooners, Thater said Nebraska looked rusty in the 15-4, 16-14, 15-7 win.

“We definitely did not play to our potential. We need to take charge of our individual issues,” she said. “You have to know that your five other teammates will have the pride to do their job.”

The fifth-ranked Huskers boosted their record to 11-2, but Thater said the team didn't improve in the process.

“We've got some things to work on,” Thater said. “We have been gradually getting better each game this season and tonight it came to a halt.”

“For us to be a Final Four team, we have to play at a top level all the time,” she said.

Nebraska was forced to the wire in the 16-14 second game win, but Thater said she would have preferred a blow-out.

“I love to play intense competition, but if we don't play well I'm not happy,” Thater said. “If there was any frustration or lackadaisical on our side it was caused by us and not Oklahoma.”

## Ten Bensel's win doesn't pull cross country ahead of Arkansas

By John Adkisson  
Senior Editor

Fran ten Bensel won another race, but the Nebraska women's cross country team came up short in its bid to win the Razorback Invitational in Fayetteville, Ark., this weekend.

Arkansas, the host team, easily outdistanced the second-place Cornhuskers, winning by 45 points.

But ten Bensel, a senior All-American, won her third individual title of the season, running the 5,000-meter course in a time of 16:57.

“Fran ran another great race,” Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen said. “She was pushed by a very quality runner, and she did well.”

Junior Theresa Stelling, who ran

fifth with a time of 17:32, was the only other top-10 finisher for Nebraska.

Dirksen said the women's team still needed to develop its depth in time for the Big Eight Championships.

“We've still got to get better after our first couple of runners,” he said.

On the men's side, Dirksen said he was thrilled with the performance of junior David Iteffa.

Iteffa finished fifth with a time of 29:47 on the 10,000-meter course, and finished just one second behind a runner from Arkansas who placed second at last year's NCAA championship.

“He ran by far the best race he's ever run,” Dirksen said. “David went head-to-head with Arkansas' best runner, and he took him to the wire.”

The Nebraska men's team finished sixth out of a nine-team field with 149 points. Arkansas also won the men's division, scoring 43 points.

Reneir Henning, the Huskers' second-highest finisher on the men's side, finished 29th with a time of 31:56.

“We're capable of running a little better than we did,” Dirksen said. “We're a better team than what we're running now, but time's running out.”

The Huskers will take a partial team to compete next weekend in the University of Nebraska-Kearney Invitational. The full teams will return to compete in the Big Eight Cross Country Championships on Oct. 31 in Boulder, Colo.

## Huskers rank No. 8 in AP poll

From Staff and Wire Reports

Without playing a game, the Nebraska football team made a three-notch jump in The Associated Press Top 25 football poll Sunday.

The Cornhuskers gathered a total of 1,030 points and leaped from No. 11 to No. 8, passing Colorado, Penn State and Stanford.

Colorado fell from No. 7 to No. 9 after tying unranked Oklahoma at home. Kansas, the only other ranked team in the Big Eight, moved from No. 25 to No. 22 after rallying to beat Iowa State 50-47.

Washington and Miami, both 6-0, were tied at the top of the poll, each

receiving 1,517 points. The tie was the first in the AP poll since Oct. 27, 1941, when Minnesota and Texas shared a spot at the top.

The No. 8 ranking is Nebraska's highest this year.

Before taking the weekend off, the Huskers drew ire from Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne for sloppy play after a two-hour scrimmage at Memorial Stadium on Friday.

Nebraska's top two offensive units had five turnovers, including three fumbles.

“It looked like some of the guys weren't very focused,” Osborne said. “Any time you come out here to play, you have to play. So it was a disap-

pointing performance from that standpoint.”

The highlight of the scrimmage was the return of sophomore quarterback Tony Veland, who had been injured since late August.

Veland had 10 plays in the scrimmage, and Osborne said his missed practice time was evident.

“He's still a little rusty,” Osborne said. “He's not throwing the ball like he did earlier. I believe he's still feeling his way.”

Osborne said he expected Veland to be at full strength for Nebraska's game this weekend at Missouri.

## Gymnasts bring show to Lincoln's Pershing

By Nick Hytrek  
Senior Reporter

Gymnastics fans who couldn't get enough of Shannon Miller, Tatiana Gutsu, Vitali Sherbo and Trent Dimas during the 1992 Summer Olympics will get a second chance to see them perform.

Only this time it will be in person.

Miller, Gutsu, Sherbo and Dimas are part of a group of international champions touring the United States. The tour will stop in Lincoln Monday and Tuesday, with a performance at Pershing Auditorium Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Also scheduled to perform are former U.S. Olympian Kurt Thomas, 1989 women's world champion Svetlana Boguinskaia, members of the Nebraska men's and women's gymnastics teams, and younger gymnasts from Lincoln's four gymnastics schools.

“I personally think it will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the best in the world,” said Francis Allen, Cornhusker men's gymnastics coach. “It's probably one of the best groups ever assembled.”

Nebraska women's coach Rick Walton agreed.

“It's not every day you get some of the better people in your sport coming through town,” Walton said.

The list of honors for the members of the tour goes on and on. Miller won five medals at the

1992 Summer Olympics, including a silver in the women's all-around. Beating Miller in the all-around was Gutsu, who was also a member of the Unified Team, which won the team gold.

Sherbo, also of the Unified Team, won six gold medals at Barcelona — more than any other athlete. Dimas, who competed for Nebraska for one year, won a gold in the high bar.

As well as performing, the gymnasts will work out at the Nebraska facilities Monday. That's when Husker gymnasts will benefit, Walton said.

“We're certainly going to set up the video camera and hope to get something out of it,” he said. “I would be willing to bet (my gymnasts) won't be in a hurry to get out that day.”

Allen agreed it would be a learning experience.

“It will be a professional clinic for me and my staff,” he said. “The Russians work on so much trivial stuff. We're going to have them critique some of the stuff our guys are doing.”

It should also be an inspirational experience, both coaches said.

“If you want to motivate someone to work hard, let them watch those who have made it to the top of the world,” Walton said.

“It'll just be total inspiration for the kids, for everybody,” Allen said. “Plus, it's hard to tell how one of them might inspire kids from Lincoln to be in the Olympics.”