

Colorado

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"We're going to have to be sharp Saturday," Brown said. "It's a great caliber defense Colorado has. They're strong up front, real aggressive."

As far as the Huskers are concerned, Osborne said he had no worries about freshman Tommie Frazier starting at quarterback.

Frazier made his first start last week against Missouri and threw for 157 yards, ran for 77 and scored three touchdowns.

"He's played in a lot of important ball games over his career so I think he has pretty good poise," Osborne said. "I think he'll do well. If we didn't think he would, we wouldn't start him."

The importance that Colorado puts on its matchup with Nebraska is no secret, but the circumstances dictate the importance of this season's game, Osborne said.

"Certainly they're going to be focused on this game because it's going to represent a lot as far as who wins the Big Eight championship," he said.

Brown said he had noticed that Colorado put out a greater effort against the Huskers.

"When they play, they do play a lot harder than what I've seen in past games," Brown said. "I think that's great. It makes the game that much better."

DN weekend picks

Daily Nebraskan staffers pick the winners of the ten major college football games this weekend, with winners in bold:

- Kansas St. at Oklahoma**
- Oklahoma St. at Kansas**
- Missouri at Iowa St.**
- Michigan at Purdue**
- Georgia at Florida**
- Texas at Texas Tech**
- West Virginia at Miami**
- Florida St. at Virginia**
- Ohio St. at Iowa**
- Stanford at Washington**

Nebraska 27,
Colorado 24

Last week: 7-3
Season: 46-23 (.667)



Notes:

- Nebraska has a 34-14-2 record against Colorado, but is 0-2-1 against the Buffaloes in the last three meetings. Nebraska last beat Colorado 7-0 in 1988 at Lincoln.
- Playing on Halloween hasn't haunted the Huskers in the past. Nebraska is 15-0 in all games played on Oct. 31.

Buffaloes

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points to a 1-5 Minnesota team.

"We played really well 90 percent of the game in those two games," Bickert said. "But it's the little things that make big plays. And that's what happened."

Bickert has never lost to Nebraska and Colorado is undefeated in the Big Eight during his career.

"It's a real important game to me and the other seniors," Bickert said. "This is our big game of the year, and to go out without a loss in the conference would be a great accomplishment."

"I want to finish my college career by beating Nebraska three out of four times," Figures said.



Jeff Haller/DN

Nebraska's Kim Tonniges (left) and Eileen Shannon put up a block last Saturday against Colorado. The Cornhuskers, 8-0 in the Big Eight, will host Missouri in a 7:30 p.m. match Saturday at the NU Coliseum.

Improved Missouri team not conceding win to NU

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

In years past, the result of a Nebraska-Missouri volleyball match would be a foregone conclusion.

But this season, an improved Missouri team will wait until after Saturday's match is played before deciding who the victor will be.

Fifth-ranked Nebraska will battle the Tigers at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the NU Coliseum.

The Cornhuskers have won the last 23 meetings between the schools and have a career 36-2-1 record against the Tigers.

But the Tigers have improved on last year's marks of 1-11 in the Big Eight and 10-22 overall to 4-5 and 15-8 this season.

Missouri volleyball coach Craig Sherman said it was easy to see why the Tigers had improved so much in one year.

"We've had a lot of young kids that are maturing," Sherman said. "They play well together and they work well together."

The brightest spot for the Tigers this season has been senior outside hitter Yvette Buhlig. Buhlig leads the conference in hitting percentage as well as service aces this season.

Sherman said Buhlig was vital to Missouri's success.

Probable Starters

Missouri at Nebraska, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday
NU Coliseum

Nebraska (14-2), (8-0)

- Stephanie Thater 6-2 MB
- Eileen Shannon 6-0 OH
- Kim Tonniges 5-11 OH
- Laura Luther 6-0 OH
- Allison Weston 6-0 OH
- Nikki Stricker 5-10 S

Missouri (15-8), (4-5)

- Cindy Atteberry 5-6 S
- Shannon Brown 6-0 MB
- Yvette Buhlig 5-11 OH
- Gwen Mullens 5-9 OH
- Cara Reichel 5-10 OH
- Melinda Wrye 5-7 OH



Scott Maurer/DN

"She's provided a lot of leadership, and she helps raise our level of play," Sherman said.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said that if the Huskers could stop Buhlig, the match should be easy.

"She's their best player, and gen-

erally when you stop a team's best player, they usually let up," Pettit said.

Pettit's team hasn't let up this season, as Nebraska currently has a 12-match winning streak and has won 31 games in a row. If the Huskers sweep Missouri, the consecutive-game streak will tie Nebraska's school record, which was established in 1976.

The 14-2 Huskers swept Kansas Wednesday 15-4, 15-7, 15-4, and Nebraska outside hitter Laura Luther said that score symbolized the Huskers' improvement since Nebraska started the year at 3-2.

"We've raised our level of play since the beginning of the year," said Luther, who ranks among the Big Eight leaders in hitting percentage and service aces. "All aspects of our game have improved."

But the Husker that the Tigers are most concerned with is Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater.

Thater, a Missouri native, is challenging Buhlig for the Big Eight's hitting percentage title, and Sherman said it should be interesting when the two square off Saturday.

"It'll be a good battle there," Sherman said.

"If she kills the ball, we'll say 'Good hit, Steph,' and go on to the next point," Sherman said.

Women's, men's cross country run for conference championships

By Phil Carter
Staff Reporter

After a week of rest, Nebraska cross country coach Jay Dirksen says his men's and women's teams are tuned up for a run at the conference championships.

"I think we're ready," Dirksen said. "They've worked hard in practice, and we're pretty healthy so I think both teams have a chance."

The meet will be in Boulder, Colo., Saturday, and Dirksen said he hoped the altitude wasn't a major factor in the running conditions.

"Altitude is something you don't fear but you're aware of," he said. "If our runners can stay with it, they can perform really well."

Nebraska senior Fran ten Benschel, who won the Big Eight title last season, is the favorite to win the women's individual title.

"There's not a lot of people who can stay with her," Dirksen said. "If

she can stick with her race, then she's probably the favorite."

Dirksen said Colorado runner Brooke Boffman would possibly challenge ten Benschel.

"She's a real good runner, and (Colorado) has a good team," Dirksen said. "They're at home, and the altitude shouldn't affect them."

Although the Husker women are favored, Dirksen said that Kansas State had a good team and he picked them to win.

"(Kansas State) has a lot of balance," he said. "They have two runners in the top five of the conference, and their other runners always stay with the pack."

On the men's side, Dirksen said the Huskers were still pretty young, but he felt the inexperience could work either way.

"When you have a young team, you're going to be competitive or you're not," Dirksen said. "We've had a couple of guys who have some

colds and one has tendonitis, but we're pretty healthy."

The Colorado men's team is the favorite to win, Dirksen said.

"Their top seven runners are within 40-50 seconds of each other," he said. "I think anyone who has that type of grouping has a strong team."

Kansas State and Iowa State also will battle for the top men's spot this weekend.

"Kansas State has a balanced team, and Iowa State is strong, but they are going to be without their No. 1 runner and their best freshman," Dirksen said. "For us, David Itteffa has a strong chance at the individual title."

Itteffa, a senior, has been hampered by a hip injury. He was held out of track season and has been limited to just two races this season.

"I think he's back to normal," Dirksen said. "His training has improved, and the way he's improved all year, I feel this has been a very successful season for him."

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SATURDAY NIGHT

October 31, 7:30 p.m.
Nebraska Coliseum

Admission

- \$4.00 - Adults
- \$2.00 - non-UNL students
- Free - UNL students with an I.D.



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