

Mistakes devastate CU, McCartney says

By John Adkisson
Senior Editor

No last-second miracles or even a fifth down could have saved Colorado and coach Bill McCartney on Saturday.

For the first time in four years, McCartney's Buffaloes lost a game to a Big Eight opponent—a convincing 52-7 Halloween day blowout at the hands of No. 8 Nebraska at Memorial Stadium.

And after the game, McCartney offered no excuses.

"Obviously, it's a real decisive defeat," McCartney said. "But I'm not in a state of shock. I watched the whole thing happen."

The whole thing must have seemed

like an eternity to McCartney, whose team had won three consecutive Big Eight titles.

He watched Colorado freshman quarterback Koy Detmer throw two first-half interceptions and fumble once, resulting in 17 Cornhusker points and a 24-7 Nebraska lead at the half.

"Mistakes killed and they multiplied," McCartney said. "Guys get frustrated and they do things to compound the problem. It's really frustrating and disappointing to fall behind like that."

Buffalo senior linebacker Greg Biekert said the severity of the half-time deficit surprised most of the Colorado players.

"Some of the guys got down," Biekert said. "I know no one's been in that position since they've been here. What do you do when you're in that

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Biekert
Colorado linebacker

position?”

Colorado didn't do much. After Detmer threw his third interception of the game midway through the third quarter, McCartney replaced him with sophomore Kordell Stewart. On Stewart's first drive, he ran for

no gain, was sacked for nine yards and threw an incomplete pass.

"When I came in, those (Nebraska) guys were coming up the field fast," Stewart said. "If I tried to scramble, they were there. I could understand what Koy was going through."

The list of the Buffaloes' second-half possessions read like this: Punt, interception, punt, punt, punt, fumble. By the time the fourth quarter had come, Nebraska had taken a 31-7 lead and put the game away.

"They thoroughly beat us in all phases of the game," McCartney said. "They dominated us."

The final statistics reflected the domination. Colorado managed only six yards rushing and turned the ball over six times while Nebraska didn't.

But the biggest statistic of the day, McCartney said, was time of possession.

The ground-oriented Nebraska offense kept the ball for nearly 43 minutes and gradually wore down the Buffalo defense.

"You get beat badly because you're not controlling the clock at all," McCartney said. "A team that strong with those kinds of players is going to make a lot of hay in a situation like that."

The pain of the loss—Colorado's first to Nebraska since 1988—may take some time to heal, Biekert said. "Now that we've been the Big Eight champions, it hurts the program to lose like this," Biekert said. "I don't know if it sets our program back, but it's really a kick in the side."

Stewart agreed. "That's show Halloween is, I guess," Stewart said. "But I don't want to have any more like this one."

Huskers practice for future foes in Tiger match

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

Nebraska used the Missouri volleyball team as guinea pigs Saturday night.

The Cornhuskers pounded the Tigers in a tuneup for five straight upcoming matches against ranked teams with a 15-1, 15-13, 15-10 win at the NU Coliseum.

After defeating the Tigers by 14 points in their first game, the Cornhuskers experimented with offenses that Coach Terry Pettit said would be used against Colorado, Texas Tech and Texas in the week ahead.

"If our goal had been to beat Missouri bad, we would've set the ball to the left side," Pettit said. "We were running a lot of right side even though we didn't need to—we did things that weren't exactly used to beat Missouri, but to help us against other teams."

Husker middle blocker Stephanie Thater agreed with Pettit.

"The first game was a blowout," said Thater, who had nine kills in 17 attacks for a .235 hitting percentage. "We started working on things for the next couple of weeks."

Nebraska setter Nikki Stricker, who had 31 assists in the match, said it was tough letting the Tigers come back in games two and three while trying to run different offenses.

"It's kind of frustrating when you know you can beat a team with your own thing, but you have to work on other things," Stricker said.

After pounding Missouri in game

one, the Huskers were challenged in the next two games.

Nebraska had to come back from a deficit of 8-4 in game two and squandered an eight-point lead in game three as the Tigers closed the gap to 9-6 before Nebraska scored the five-point win and the match sweep.

The sweep helped the Huskers tie a school record from 1976 as Nebraska won its 34th game in a row.

Missouri volleyball coach Craig Sherman said the Tigers' lack of size helped the Huskers tie the record.

"To play with Nebraska with our size, we've got to run a quick offense," said Sherman, whose starting lineup averaged 5-foot-9, three inches shorter than the Huskers. "We weren't real sharp tonight."

Missouri middle blocker Yvette Buhlig, who is considered a front-runner with Thater for Big Eight Player of the Year honors, said the Tigers weren't quick enough to play with Nebraska.

"They were saying to hit it over our setter (5-foot-6 Cindy Atteberry)—we've got to make up for that with our speed and we didn't do that tonight," Buhlig said.

The fifth-ranked Huskers improved their record to 15-2 and 9-0 in conference play, while Missouri dropped to 15-9 and 4-6.

The Tigers lost before their biggest crowd of the season, as 3,192 fans filed into the Coliseum. Missouri's average attendance for all matches this year has been 157 people.



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater hits over Missouri's Yvette Buhlig in a match at the NU Coliseum Saturday night.

Cornhuskers hoop it up at practice

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

College basketball practices officially began Sunday, and the Nebraska men's basketball team didn't waste any time getting started.

The Cornhuskers kicked off the 1992-93 season with their own version of Midnight Madness, called "Haunted Husker Hoops" at 12:01 a.m. Sunday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

The evening included the unveiling of the Nebraska squad, which has been picked as high as 11th in the nation in preseason rankings.

The Huskers played two 15-minute scrimmages and had a slam-dunk contest in between the games.

For the two scrimmages, the teams were divided by returning players and newcomers. The starters from the black team that comprised members of last year's 19-10 Husker team included Jamar Johnson, Jason Glock, Eric Piatkowski, Bruce Chubick and Derrick Chandler.

The white team was highlighted by a 1992 recruiting class that many consider to be the best in school history. The freshman class of Andre Woolridge, Erick Strickland and Jaron Boone practiced for the first time as Huskers, while redshirt Terrance Badgett and transfer Tom Best also played for the first time at Nebraska.

The returners edged out the newcomers in both games. In the first scrimmage, the black team won 25-23 and they again beat their younger counterparts 35-32 in the second game.

Johnson, a junior from Elkhart, Ind., led the returners in scoring with 23 points in the two games. Woolridge, an Omaha native, led the newcomers with 12 points in front of 5,714 fans at the Devaney Center.

Chandler, the only senior on this year's Husker team, said Nebraska's initial practice went well despite many of the Huskers not being in mid-season form.

"It went pretty good, and it gave our fans a chance to witness our basketball team," Chandler said. "Coach is really going to stress conditioning, because a lot of people were sucking wind."

Nebraska coach Danny Nee said even though many of the Huskers weren't in top form, he was satisfied with his team's performance in its first practice.

"We have a five-month season, so you can't maintain that top level all year; this is where we should be at this time of the year," Nee said.

The festivities Sunday morning capped a successful day of Nebraska sports, following the Husker football team's 52-7 win over Colorado on Saturday, Nee said.

"The Huskers had a great win this afternoon, and we had a great start to the basketball season," Nee said.

Freshman hitter shines during first season

By Tim Pearson
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, there was freshman quarterback Tommie Frazier against Colorado.

There was the highly touted recruiting class of Danny Nee's on display at the Cornhusker basketball team's first practice of the season.

And then there was freshman Billie Winsett's performance against Missouri.

On a weekend in which high-profile Nebraska freshmen were shining, Winsett remained a quiet contributor for the Nebraska vol-

leyball team.

Winsett started two of the three games in the Huskers' 15-1, 15-13, 15-10 victory over Missouri, and she has played in every match this season.

Assistant coach Cathy Noth said she looked for Winsett "to come in and make a difference."

Against the Tigers, Winsett, an 18-year-old, 5-foot-11 outside hitter from Boonville, Ind., did just that, recording two service aces and four digs.

"Her strength is in her ball-handling. She was very consistent in her play tonight," Noth said. "We were pleased with her defense."

Despite Noth's praise, Winsett

said she only played "average" against Missouri.

"I usually remember the things I need to work on," she said. "This sometimes overshadows the good things."

Noth said Winsett has improved, increasing her level of play as the season goes on.

Winsett has played in all but one conference match for the Huskers this season.

"Her improvement comes in practice," Noth said. "When everybody else is gone, she'll still be in the gym practicing."

Even though this is her first year at Nebraska, Winsett hasn't been

surprised with her success so far this season.

"At the beginning of the season, coach (Terry Pettit) said to not worry about how old you are," she said. "I'm really happy that I'm playing."

Noth said she hadn't been surprised by Winsett's success.

"When we recruited Billie, we knew she was going to be a player that could help us in ball-handling," she said.

Noth said Winsett was beginning to feel more comfortable on the court as the season progressed.

"The more she plays, the more she's going to get comfortable out there."