



Michelle Paulman/DN

Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater kills a ball earlier this year against Kansas. The Cornhuskers will play Colorado tonight in Boulder, Colo.

Huskers aim to clinch share of conference volleyball title

By Jeff Singer
Senior Reporter

A win by the Nebraska volleyball team tonight will mean less room in the NU Coliseum's rafters for years to come.

A Cornhusker victory would enable Nebraska to hang up another banner, as the Huskers would clinch at least a tie for their 17th consecutive Big Eight championship.

But Colorado's Buffaloes would also like a share of the title.

The Huskers and Colorado will square off at 7:30 p.m. (MST) in Boulder, Colo., to determine how

the Big Eight will be won.

Nebraska beat the Buffaloes less than two weeks ago in Lincoln 15-5, 15-9, 15-12 to hand Colorado its only Big Eight loss of the season. A Buffalo win tonight would put Colorado back in the hunt for at least a piece of the conference championship.

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit said he was expecting tonight's match to be a test for the fifth-ranked Huskers.

"It's going to be a good match," said Pettit, whose team has a 15-2 overall record and a 9-0 conference mark. "It will come down to good

passing and setting. We'll need to be assertive and not make unforced errors."

Husker outside hitter Laura Luther said Nebraska must play like the Huskers did in Lincoln to beat the 13th-ranked Buffaloes, 17-4 and 7-1.

"I think we know we're going to have to play real well," Luther said. "Our passers have to come out real aggressive and get the ball to (Nebraska setter) Nikki (Stricker)."

The Colorado coaching staff expects another tough match from the

See COLORADO on 8

Jayhawk sold on contending for Big 8 title

By Jeremy Fitzpatrick
Staff Reporter

Before this year, not too many people knew much about Kansas football.

When he came to Lawrence in 1988, senior tailback Maurice Douglas, a Columbus, Ohio, native, didn't know much about the Jayhawks either.

"I really hadn't heard of Kansas football," Douglas said. "Coach (Glen) Mason did a good job of selling the program to me."

The Jayhawks have done as good a job selling their program to the nation this year.

Kansas is No. 13 in The Associated Press poll and will make its second appearance on national television this year when the Jayhawks come to Lincoln to play the Cornhuskers. Kansas is 7-1 overall and leads the Big Eight with a 4-0 record.

Douglas said contending for the Big Eight championship was a goal the Jayhawks set for themselves at the end of last year.

"That's what we've been shooting for, ever since last year ended," he said. "We felt we had the talent to battle for a Big Eight championship, and that is what we are going for this year."

A step toward that goal came Oct. 24 when the Jayhawks beat perennial Big Eight power Oklahoma for the second time in 16 years.

"I think if you include Oklahoma as part of the big two or three (teams in the conference), we did tackle a big step in beating part of that trio," he said. "I think you at least have to take us more seriously now."

Despite their newly gained respect, Kansas is a 13 1/2 point underdog to the Huskers this week. Douglas said that spread did not surprise him after Nebraska's defensive performance against Colorado Saturday.

"I don't know it's as much as we're not getting respect as people are respecting the heck out of Nebraska," he said. "Obviously, Nebraska showed

Running It Up

When Kansas plays Nebraska on Saturday, the Big Eight's top four rushers will be showcased. A look at the averages of the league's top five rushers:

	Yards	Yards per Game
Calvin Jones, NU	752	107
Derek Brown, NU	707	101
Maurice Douglas, KU	554	69
Monte Cozzens, KU	527	65
Eric Gallon, KSU	455	65



Scott Maurer/DN

they had a really good defense, but I don't know if Colorado emphasizes the run as much as we used to."

Colorado was held to eight rushing yards in the game. Douglas said the Jayhawks would need a much better performance on the ground to beat the Huskers.

"We hope we can run on them," he said. "If we can't, we probably have as much chance as Colorado did."

"(Nebraska) looks strong — it's very difficult to run on them. I only got to see them one time. If they do to everybody what they did to Colorado, they're good."

"We'll just have to see." One advantage the Jayhawks will have going into the game, Douglas said, is having already appeared on national television this year. The Jayhawks lost that game to California.

"I think it would have made us as a team a lot more nervous if we hadn't had the California game under our belts," he said. "We feel a little more comfortable with it now."

Weather hampers practice

From Staff Reports

Snow caused Nebraska to switch gears and head indoors Tuesday in what coach Tom Osborne called a "fair practice."

The offense had planned to stay in the stadium for the entire practice, but as conditions got worse, so did the practice.

"It got pretty slippery so we just came in," Osborne said. "It's nice to have this place (Cook Pavillion) or we

wouldn't have gotten much done."

Osborne also expressed concern over fan celebrations going too far in ripping down both goal posts after the win over Colorado.

"I think we have to be concerned about liability," Osborne said. "In our society, people want to do crazy things and then sue you if they get hurt. It seems like we have to protect them from themselves."

"We were very fortunate we had extras."

Dog days of NU basketball over; program hits big time

Nobody was barking at the Nebraska basketball team's first practice of the season.

I looked around the Bob Devaney Sports Center, and it was more like Memorial Stadium on a Saturday afternoon. A huge contingent of red-clad old people had gathered to watch the Nebraska basketball team's first practice of the season.

But, strangely enough, the old codgers weren't alone.

There were normal middle-aged people there. Normal people who at any other time would be home catching the end of "Saturday Night Live." Normal students, too.

And then, about the time Jamar Johnson hit a three-pointer and people actually cheered, it all became clear: Dead Dog Alley is gone forever.

Thank God.

You remember the basketball promotion of the late '80s, the one that tried to pack people in to see guys like Richard van Poelgeest and Ray Richardson.

The idea won about as many fans as the Huskers won basketball games.

But watching "Haunted Husker Hoops" on Saturday, it was obvious that the program had turned a big corner.

At the scrimmage Saturday, there was plenty of evidence that Nebraska basketball has put the days of the dog pound behind.

First of all, there were 5,714 fans in attendance. The Devaney Center was far from packed, but coaches like Tim Neumann and Angela Beck would kill for that kind of crowd at their



John Adkisson

biggest events of the year.

Second, the spectators were actually hungry for basketball. Somewhere during the first of two 15-minute scrimmages, a guy sitting behind me yelled at the referees to "call it both ways." True, the guy may have been a little demented, but the enthusiasm was still a welcome sight.

Lastly, the scrimmage — for the most part — was well-orchestrated. The Chicago Bulls-like darkness and the spotlights that surrounded the play-

ers' entrance was an added attraction that would be welcomed permanently.

There were still flops: One of the refs looked more like Nebraska coach Danny Nee than the actual winner of the coaches' look-alike contest held earlier that evening.

And two of Nebraska's walk-ons — Chad Jaeger and Jeremy Glenn — were introduced before public address announcer Steve Johnsen announced "the 1992 Nebraska basketball team."

Oh well. We're not Duke yet. But Nee and the Cornhuskers are making strides by bidding time. Nee knows his team wasn't the biggest show in town on Saturday, and he also knows they won't be until football season is over.

Until the football team finishes,

Nee will quietly be preparing his team for the basketball explosion that hits this state in January.

Believe it or not, a date with pre-season No. 1 Michigan in Hawaii is less than two months away. With a solid nucleus of returners and three talented freshmen, the Huskers have the raw talent to stay with the Wolverines for awhile.

That kind of December test can ready the Huskers for teams like Kansas and Oklahoma — and the ABC and ESPN television cameras — that will storm into the Devaney Center in 1993. When the time comes, Nebraska and its newly classy program will be ready to roar.

And the dogs will be dormant. Adkisson is a senior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan sports editor.