

# NU takes underdog role in UCLA match

## Husker's focus concerns Pettit

By Jeff Singer  
Senior Reporter

One of this weekend's Nebraska volleyball matches will pit a heavy favorite against a big underdog. But for a change, the fifth-ranked Cornhuskers will be the latter.

Nebraska will face No. 1 UCLA at 9 p.m. Saturday in the Pacific 10-Big Eight Challenge in Los Angeles. The Huskers will open the tourney by playing No. 10 Southern California tonight at 8.

Colorado, the second-place team in the Big Eight, will also participate in the tournament.

Nebraska, which has already won its 17th consecutive Big Eight title, will try to beat a Bruin team that has compiled a 23-0 record so far this season.

Husker volleyball coach Terry Pettit said even though his team is the underdog against UCLA, Nebraska will give the Bruins a good match.

"I've never seen us not play well in a match like this — we will compete," Pettit said.

Nebraska outside hitter Eileen Shannon said she doesn't mind not being the favorite for a change.

"There might be less pressure going up against a team that's No. 1 than a team that's No. 6 or 7 — it doesn't look as bad if we get beat.

"I like being the underdog — you get a bigger satisfaction out of winning," Shannon said.

The match against UCLA is important in showing how legitimate the Huskers' 18-2 record is this year, Shannon said.

### Probable Starters

Nebraska at Southern Cal  
8 p.m. Friday  
Nebraska at UCLA  
9 p.m. Saturday  
Pauley Pavilion, Los Angeles

#### Nebraska (18-2)

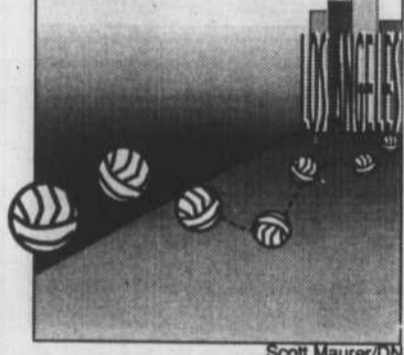
Stephanie Thater	6-2	MB
Eileen Shannon	6-0	OH
Kim Tonniges	5-11	OH
Laura Luther	6-0	OH
Allison Weston	6-0	OH
Nikki Stricker	5-10	S

#### Southern Cal (16-6)

Laura Warnock	6-2	MB
Meika Wagner	6-0	MB
Kelly Kuevler	6-0	OH
Cica Baccelli	6-5	OH
Katie Haller	5-9	OH
Missy McCaw	5-10	S

#### UCLA (23-0)

Marissa Hatchett	6-1	MB
Lisa Hudak	6-0	MB
Jenny Evans	5-11	OH
Elaine Youngs	6-0	OH
Natalie Williams	6-1	OH
Julie Bremner	5-10	S



Scott Maurer/DN

"It will show what we're made of," she said.

The Bruins got the best of Nebraska last year when UCLA beat the Huskers 12-15, 15-10, 15-10, 17-15 in front of 11,032 fans at the Bob

Devaney Sports Center — the largest crowd to ever watch a NCAA volleyball match.

Saturday's Husker-Bruin rematch won't only highlight two of the nation's best teams, but also two of the country's top players as well.

Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater and UCLA outside hitter Natalie Williams have led their respective teams to high national rankings.

Thater, the 1991 Big Eight Player of the Year and an All-American selection last season, leads the Huskers with her .371 hitting percentage and is among the conference's leaders in several categories.

Williams has been named the NCAA Player of the Year twice in her career and is leading the Pacific 10 in hitting with a .437 percentage.

Pettit said he's looking forward to watching the two players match up against each other.

"Their (UCLA's) strength is in their players, and Natalie Williams is a great player, but Stephanie Thater is equally as good," Pettit said.

The two matches this weekend will be the fourth and fifth straight that the Huskers have played against opponents rated in the Top 20. Last week, Nebraska beat Colorado, Texas Tech and Texas.

Pettit said his major concern for the weekend was having the Huskers not focus enough attention to their match with the Southern Cal on Friday.

The Women of Troy come into Friday's match with a 16-6 record, and are third in the Pac 10 standings. Two players for Southern Cal — Katie Haller and Cica Baccelli — are averaging more than four kills per game.

"I think the first match is very important," Pettit said. "We can't look past USC and we have to take care of business."

# NU women hope to generate offense through good defense

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

Defense wins championships. That adage is the philosophy behind this season's Nebraska women's basketball team.

"We want to have the best defense in the league," said Karen Jennings, a 6-foot-2-inch forward for the Cornhuskers. "We want to win the Big Eight championship."

Nebraska is a team loaded with weapons, Jennings said.

"We are very defensive-oriented, explosive, quick and we get out and run the court well," she said. "Our talent on the team is the strength of the team."

Jennings is one of those weapons. Last year's Big Eight Player of the Year, she averaged 25 points on a team that finished third in the conference. Jennings was the team leader in scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage, free throw percentage and three-point percentage.

Along with Jennings, junior Meggan Yedsena is another offensive weapon. Yedsena, a point guard, averaged 11 points and six assists per game last season.

With the emphasis on defense, the women are using a new tactic: scrimmaging against

“We are very defensive-oriented, explosive, quick and we get out and run the court well.”

—Jennings  
NU forward

men. The Huskers are scrimmaging a group of men on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for the last 20 minutes of practice.

"This type of scrimmage allows us to have an opportunity to go against stronger, quicker and more physical opponents," said coach Angela Beck. "The intensity level and the thought process increases just because of the challenge."

With the emphasis on the defensive end of the court, Jennings said the women won't forget about the offensive end completely.

"We have great ability to score on this team," Jennings said. "We want to generate our offense through our defense this year, though."

# Two tight ends to miss game; wind conditions may be factor

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska football team will be without the services of their top two tight ends against Iowa State on Saturday, Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne said Thursday.

"It doesn't look like Gerald Armstrong or William Washington will go to Iowa State," Osborne said. "Gerald will probably be able to go against Oklahoma, and we hope William is back by then, too."

Husker backup tight ends Mike Vedral, Matt Shaw and Mark Gilman will be counted on to compensate for the loss of Armstrong and Washington.

"We hope there isn't that much dropoff,"

Osborne said. "We know they will play hard, and I hope they play well."

Osborne also said that 5-foot-11, 210-pound wingback Vincent Hawkins may also see action at tight end.

The weather forecast for Saturday afternoon calls for partly sunny skies in Ames, Iowa, with a high temperature in the lower 40s, according to meteorologist Connie McBurnie of KCCI-TV in Des Moines, Iowa.

The biggest weather concern for the coaches and players may be the windy conditions predicted for the game.

"The wind could be a factor," McBurnie said. "It should continue to be very windy through the weekend."

## Cyclone

Continued from Page 10

"We really have to figure we're going to get their best shot. There's no reason to believe we won't," he said. "They've got a lot of Nebraska players playing for them. A lot of those kids are going to play their very best game against us and obviously they can in some respects salvage their season. We're going to get a tremendous effort out of Iowa State."

At the same time, Osborne is concerned with the tight end position on his own team. Starter William Washington is doubtful for the game and backup Gerald Armstrong is questionable. That leaves third stringer Mike Vedral as the only tight end with considerable experience.

"The tight end thing naturally concerns us because those are two really key players for us," Osborne said.

Osborne also expressed concern about the ability of the Husker defense to again play with the emotion it has in the past two games against Colorado and Kansas.

"We're going to have to try to maintain that focus this week," he said. "I have no reason to believe that we won't. I think we'll play well, but we'll need to play well."

### Notes:

● Nebraska is 71-13-2 all-time against Iowa State. The Huskers have not lost to the Cyclones since 1977, when Iowa State won 24-21 in Lin-

### DN weekend picks

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

- Colorado** at Kansas
- Oklahoma** at Oklahoma State
- Kansas State** at Missouri
- Alabama** at Mississippi State
- Georgia** at Auburn
- Syracuse** at Boston College
- Penn State** at Notre Dame
- Illinois** at Michigan
- Washington State** at Stanford
- Arizona** at Southern Cal

**Nebraska 52, Iowa State 7**

Last week: 10-0  
Season: 64-25 (.719)



DN graphic

coln. Nebraska won last year's meeting 38-13.

● Among the 16 Cyclones from Nebraska are halfback James McMillion, one of the top punt returners in the country, and Chris Spencer, who ranks eighth on the Cyclones' all-time reception chart.

● Nebraska has not had a turnover in the past 18 quarters. The Huskers currently lead the nation in turnover, averaging two more takeaways than giveaways. Nebraska's last turnover was an interception just before half-time against Arizona State Sept. 26.

# Swimming, diving teams opening home seasons

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams will open their home seasons with a dual against South Dakota at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Last week, the Nebraska women opened their dual season at Colo-

rado State, winning 162-138. Freshman Melanie Dodd set a record in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 52.72. In addition, sophomore Julie Grimmer captured first on both the 1 and 3-meter springboards.

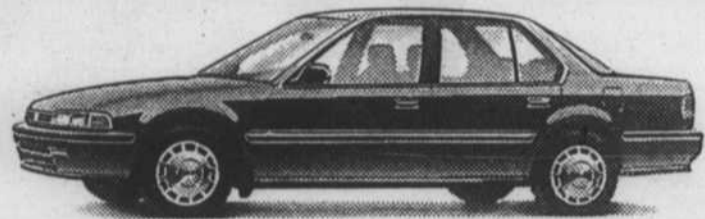
The men opened their season last weekend as well, winning a dual Saturday against Wyoming.

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