

Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater (middle) looks on at the championship match of the Big Eight Volleyball Tournament. Thater sprained her ankle and missed both of the Cornhuskers' matches this weekend.

# Miami remains No. 1 in AP poll

By The Associated Press

A Miami-Florida State rematch moved closer to reality Sunday. Third-ranked Florida State doubled its lead over No. 4 Texas A&M in the Associated Press college football poll, virtually guaranteeing the Seminoles another shot at No. 1 Miami if No. 2 Alabama loses to Florida next week in the Southeastern Conference championship game. If Miami and Florida State finish 1-2 in the poll, they would be required

to meet in the Fiesta Bowl under rules established by the new bowl coalition. Miami handed Florida State its only loss, 19-16, on Oct. 3. If Alabama wins, the Tide would play Miami for the national title in the Sugar Bowl and Florida State would go to the Cotton or Orange bowls. But if Alabama loses, Florida State would almost certainly move up to No. 2, setting up a Fiesta rematch with Miami. Miami (11-0) remained a near-unanimous No. 1 after routing San

Diego State 63-17 on Saturday. Notre Dame (9-1-1) remained No. 5, idle Syracuse (9-2) moved up two spots to No. 6, idle Michigan (8-0-3) stayed No. 7, and Georgia (9-2) rose one notch to No. 8.

Colorado (9-1-1) climbed one spot to No. 9, and Washington (9-2) moved up one notch to No. 10. Nebraska is 11th, followed by Florida, North Carolina State, Stanford, Ohio State and Boston College.

## NU swim teams trail Minnesota

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska men's and women's swimming and diving teams each finished second in the Gopher Invitational in Minneapolis this weekend.

Both teams finished behind Minnesota in the meet, which had six teams on each side.

The Cornhuskers took home three of four relay titles on the women's side, while the men took home four first-place finishes in the relays.

The diving team captured one individual title, with Kevin McMahon winning the one-meter springboard competition. McMahon also finished third on the three-meter board.

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# Buffs finally end Husker mastery

By Tim Pearson  
Staff Reporter

OMAHA — The grin on Michele Kohler's face said it all.

Kohler was all smiles as she accepted the Big Eight Tournament Championship trophy after she helped Colorado to its first-ever volleyball victory over Nebraska.

After 15 straight losses to the Cornhuskers, the Buffaloes ended that streak with a 16-14, 15-11, 9-15, 15-8 win in the finals of the Big Eight Tournament Saturday night at Civic Auditorium.

Kohler, a 5-foot-7 outside hitter and the only senior on this year's Colorado team, said she had been waiting four years for the moment.

"My goal before I left was to beat Nebraska," she said. "It's a little bit sweeter to beat them for the Big Eight championship."

Buffalo coach Brad Saindon said he was pleased his team had finally beaten the Huskers.

"We've been chasing Nebraska for six years, and to finally get a piece of them, it's an indescribable feeling," he said. "It's like a dog chasing a rabbit. When the dog finally gets a hold of the rabbit, it doesn't know what to do with it."

The Buffaloes almost let the rabbit go after winning the first two games. The Huskers came out and won the third game.

Just one night before, Nebraska had overcome a two-game deficit to beat Oklahoma in five games.

Were Saindon and his Buffs worried about history repeating itself?

"My team has been in some pretty big matches the last three years that we haven't been able to pull out," Saindon said. "We've had five or six matches where we've been right in the hunt, but we've let them off the hook."

"We've had enough experience in these kind of matches. It was nice to hold on and finally pull one off."

Kohler was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, and three other Buffs — Nicole Vranesh, Staci Wolfe and Karrie Downey — were named to the all-tournament team.

Despite earning the MVP award, Kohler didn't take all the credit for the victory.

"Every single person played great," she said.

Saindon said he was proud of all of his players, especially Kohler.

"I'm so happy for Michele after she didn't make all-conference, which I thought was unjust," he said.

Saindon said the absence of Nebraska middle blocker Stephanie Thater, who was out with an ankle injury, hurt the Huskers.

"We wanted to play Nebraska at their very best," he said. "They could always depend on Stephanie Thater for the big play, big kill, or big block."

Saindon said Thater played a big role in the Huskers' win over Colorado earlier this season.

"She was the deciding factor in the match in Boulder," he said. "Tonight it seemed like no one really stepped forward for Nebraska. I was sorry to see her go down. I mean that very sincerely."

elle Kohler — with 23 and 22 kills, respectively. Kohler, Colorado's only senior, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Nebraska was led by senior Eileen Shannon, who finished with 24 kills and a .396 hitting percentage. Shannon and Luther were the only two Huskers named to the all-tournament team.

Now the Huskers, who fell to 21-5 with the loss, must try to regroup for a first-round NCAA Tournament match — again against Colorado at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

Pettit said he expected Thater to play in the return match.

"We're planning on her playing," Pettit said. "We'll do so unless we hear different."

## Tournament

Continued from Page 10

to score six straight points and eventually win the game.

But Colorado again took control of the match in the fourth game, rallying from an 8-6 deficit to score the final nine points and close the match.

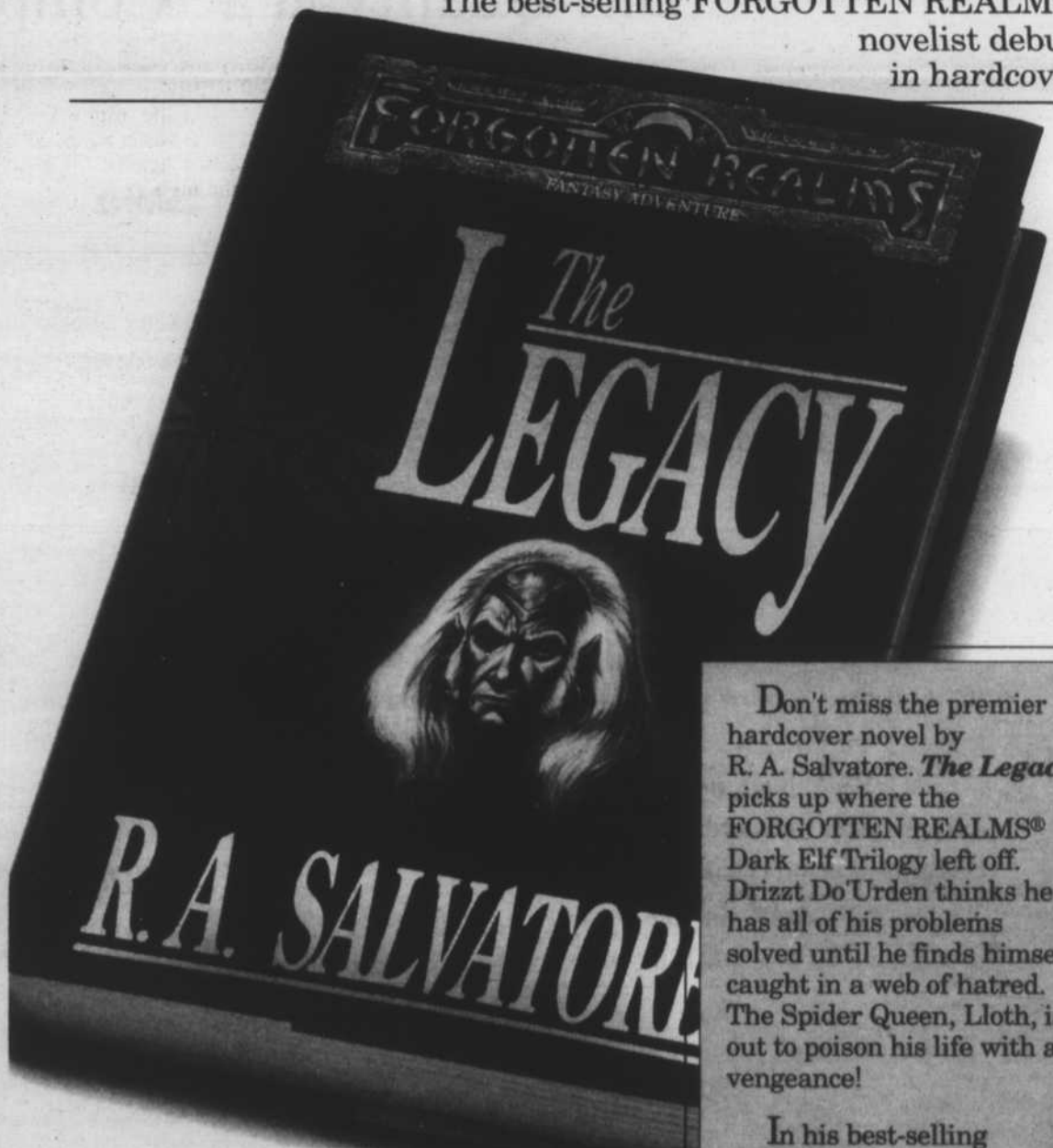
Pettit said the difference — especially in the final two games — was Colorado's ability to run points on Nebraska.

"The teams played evenly; the difference was runs," Pettit said. "I kept feeling that we were getting better, but we just took a breath at the wrong time in the fourth game."

Colorado was led by two hitters — Karrie Downey and 5-foot-7 Mich-

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