

Cross country meet to be challenging for NU teams

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Having had a chance to relax, the Nebraska cross country teams will have to be faced with tough competition this weekend.

While a few Nebraska runners competed at the Doane Invitational last Saturday, most took the weekend off.

However, the majority of the runners will step back onto the course for competition Saturday at the Minnesota Invitational in Minneapolis. The men will run 8,000 meters, and the women will follow with a 5,000-meter run at the University of Minnesota golf course.

Having had a week off or not, Nebraska's runners should be challenged Saturday, Nebraska cross country coach Jay Dirksen said.

"Some of the best teams in the country will be there," he said. "This week will be the first real test we'll have. We should get tested for both men and women."

About 26 men's teams and 25

women's teams will be competing.

Although there are many teams, Dirksen said, Nebraska should be ready for the competition.

"All of our meets are big meets," he said.

But for the first time, the Cornhuskers will see the kind of competition they can expect later in the season.

"This meet simulates more of a championship-type meet," Dirksen said.

Dirksen said he was hoping for high finishes on both the men's and women's sides.

"I hope we can be in top 10 for men and top five for women," Dirksen said.

Even if the teams don't reach that goal, Dirksen said, he wants to see more of what he has been noticing so far this fall.

"Attitudes are really good," he said. "We're getting better. The big thing we want to do this week is keep improving."

Makovicka

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chart when Calvin Jones returns.

"It doesn't matter where you are on the depth chart because the I-back gets so much work in our offense that we will still have to rotate in and out a lot," Makovicka said.

Makovicka said Nebraska's coaches planned to use Saturday's game as a chance to evaluate all the running backs before entering the Big Eight season. The coaches now have to decide who will see most of the play-

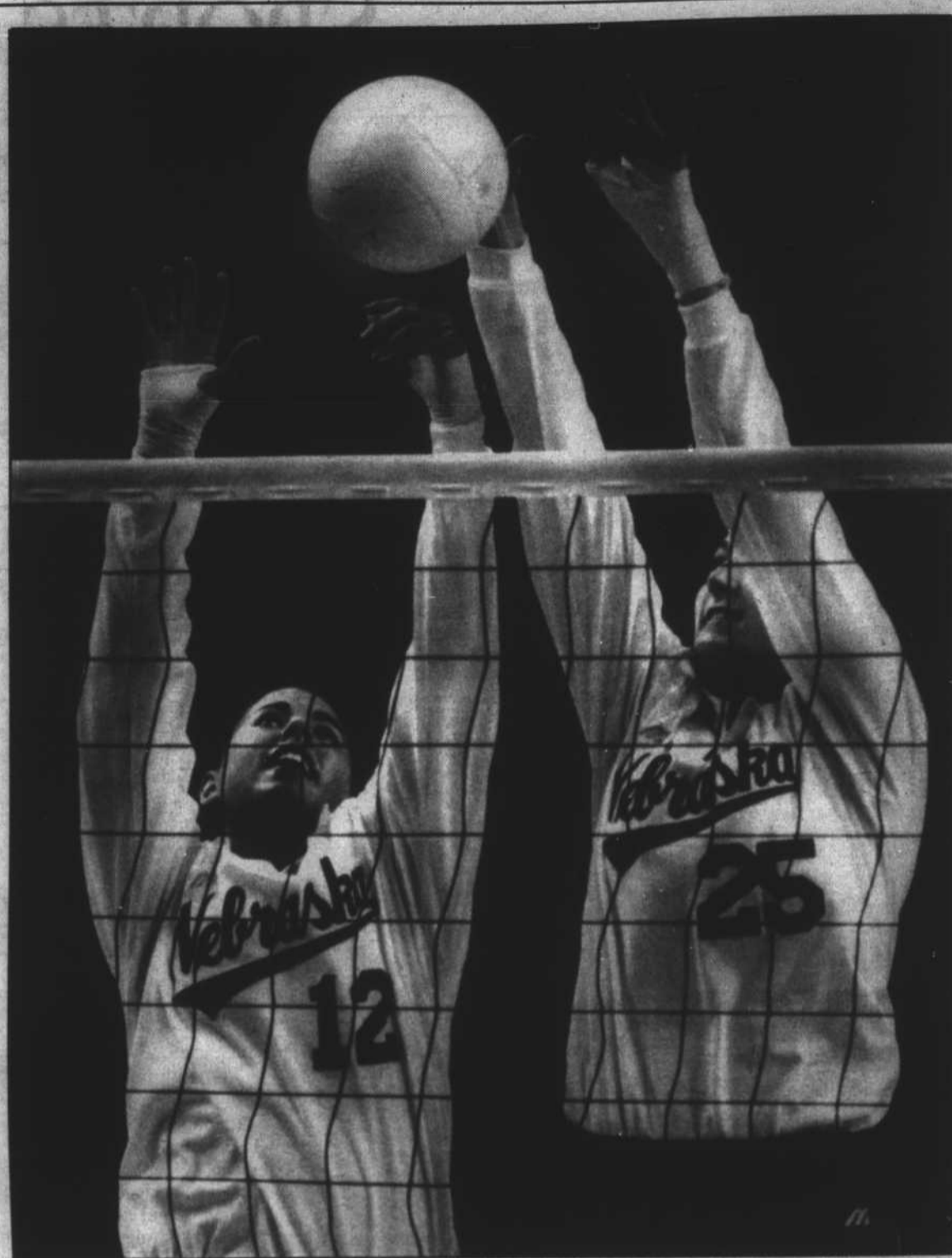
ing time behind Calvin Jones.

"It is going to be kind of a tough decision for the coaches," Makovicka said. "We are all trying to make it a little harder on them."

Although Makovicka has seen limited playing time, he said, he's pleased with his improvement over last season.

"Last year, I was just getting in at the end of the game when it didn't matter," Makovicka said. "But this season I've been in there when the game had still not been decided."

"It helps my confidence to see the coaches have the confidence to trust and believe in me to produce."



Travis Heying/DN

Nebraska's Nikki Stricker, left, and Jen McFadden attempt a block during Nebraska's win over Kansas State Wednesday night.

Cyclones

Continued from Page 7

ule that Iowa State has ever had," Nunez said. "We opened with Washington State so we could show our young team where we want to be."

Iowa State took both Indiana and Michigan to five games before

losing in the Big Eight-Big 10 Challenge in Boulder, Colo., Sept. 17-18.

Nunez said Nebraska would be a good "role model" for the Cyclones.

"My respect for Nebraska is enormous," she said. "They are solid all the way around. They have one of the best setters in the country in Nikki Stricker."

"They're extremely powerful, and their strengths are extremely well-rounded."

Stricker, the Huskers' senior setter, moved closer to breaking former Husker All-American Val Novak's school record for set assists by collecting 48 against Kansas State.

Stricker now has 2,984 career set assists, which is second to Novak's 3,303.

Former Husker Pickens charged with the rape of Alabama woman

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta Falcons cornerback Bruce Pickens is denying a 26-year-old Birmingham, Ala., woman's allegations that he raped her.

"Things like this happen when you're in my position," Pickens said Wednesday.

Pickens, 25, a former Nebraska player who completed his eligibility in 1990, was served Tuesday with papers charging him with one count of rape, but he was not detained, police spokeswoman Glenda Locke said.

"I want to first apologize to my teammates and the organization for any negative reaction this alleged incident has caused them," Pickens said at the Falcons' training complex. "I feel my innocence will be proven in

"I feel my innocence will be proven in the near future."

—Pickens former Nebraska cornerback

the near future."

The woman said that Pickens offered her a ride from a nightclub to her hotel Sept. 17 and that he stopped by his apartment to change cars, then talked her into going upstairs, where the alleged rape occurred, Locke said.

Afterward, the woman said, Pickens promised again to drive her to her hotel, but sneaked away instead, Locke said.

The woman went to Grady Memorial Hospital for an examination, but did not report the alleged rape to police until Sept. 22, Locke said.

Pickens was the Falcons' first-round draft pick in 1991 and the third pick overall. He will be arraigned Oct. 5.

Falcons officials did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Pickens is the second Atlanta player to be arrested this month. Wide receiver Andre Rison was charged with aggravated assault Sept. 2 for fighting with his girlfriend, rap singer Lisa Lopes, and firing a gun after two men tried to intervene.

His case also is scheduled for Oct. 5. Until then, he remains with the team.

Soccer clubs to converge on campus for tournament

From Staff Reports

The UNL Women's Soccer Club will be hosting a four-club tournament at Whittier and Mabel Lee fields Saturday and Sunday.

Along with two Nebraska teams, two teams from Kansas, one team

from Colorado State and one team from the University of Nebraska at Omaha will participate in the tournament.

Games begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, with other games following at noon, 2, 4 and 6 p.m.

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