

Jay Calderon/DN

Nebraska outside hitter Billie Winsett reaches for a dig Saturday.

Huskers triumph over Jayhawks before second-largest crowd ever

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

After two consecutive road losses, the Nebraska volleyball team was happy to return home to play Kansas Saturday night.

And Nebraska volleyball fans were also glad to see the Cornhuskers back at NU Coliseum after road losses to No. 16 Colorado and Oklahoma.

A crowd of 4,389, the second-largest ever at the Coliseum, saw the No. 12 Huskers defeat Kansas 15-4, 15-5, 15-10. Only last year's crowd — 4,538 for the Colorado match — was larger.

The Huskers improved their record to 14-3 and 3-2 in the conference. Kansas dropped to 12-8, 2-3.

Husker coach Terry Pettit said the turnout was indicative of the kind of fan support Nebraska has.

"It says a lot for our community," he said. "I don't know of many places in the country where fan support is solid after a win or loss."

"They're not fickle fans. It's very heartening to our players to see this type of support."

With the big crowd behind them, the Huskers started fast, jumping out to a quick 4-0 lead. Nebraska then built its lead to 10-2 and they won behind the strength of sophomore Allison Weston's nine kills in the first game.

In the second game the Jayhawks fought back. But with Kansas ahead 5-3, the Huskers scored 12 unanswered points to take the game.

After the first two games, the Jayhawks didn't have any blocks. They finished with just four blocks.

Nebraska out-blocked the Jayhawks 25-4.

Pettit said the Huskers' height advantage was part of the reason for the Huskers' dominance in blocking.

Weston, who led the team with 17 kills and a .500 hitting percentage, said the Huskers simply had better hitters.

"We practiced our hitting, and that pays off when teams don't have that big of blocks," she said.

The crowd was a great momentum builder for the Huskers, Weston said, and the team wanted to give the fans what they came to see.

"After the second game," she said, "Coach said that all these people came to watch us play, and we had to show them something."

The Huskers showed the crowd something in the third game. Nebraska led the whole game and won 15-10 after a late surge by the Jayhawks.

Pettit said Kansas' passing broke down during the match, allowing the Huskers to pull away.

"Kansas is a better team than they showed (Saturday night)," he said.

Weston said the win over the Jayhawks will help the Huskers.

"Normally, we're the best team in the conference," she said. "When we beat Kansas we got a lot of confidence. It shows the other teams that we're not out of this."

Former Husker tight end killed in plane crash Friday

From Staff and Wire Reports

Former Nebraska tight end Jerry List was among five people who died in a plane crash near Stuart Friday.

List, 43, played at Nebraska from 1970-72 and was a member of the Cornhuskers' only two national championship teams in 1970 and 1971. He also holds the Nebraska record for most career receptions by a tight end with 64.

List's wife, Susan, also died in the crash.

List was a banker in Valentine who was en route to Bay City, Mich., where he was to be inducted Saturday as a member of the Bay County Sports Hall of Fame.

The plane the group was flying in was scheduled to go to Lincoln where they would catch a commercial flight to Michigan.

The single-engine plane left Stuart-Atkinson Airport at about 10:25 p.m. Friday when it struck a truck-trailer and a hog shed shortly after take off, authorities said.

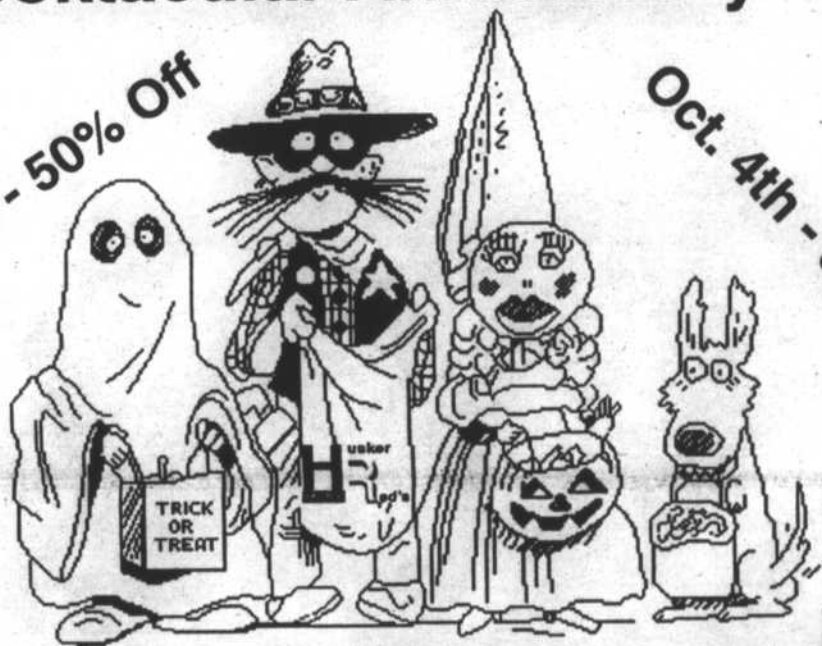
Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, who was an assistant coach with the Huskers when List played at Nebraska, said he was shocked to hear of List's death following Nebraska's 45-28 win over Kansas State Saturday.

"He was a good friend of mine," Osborne said. "I usually stopped to see him once or twice a year up in Valentine. I really feel bad for his family."

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