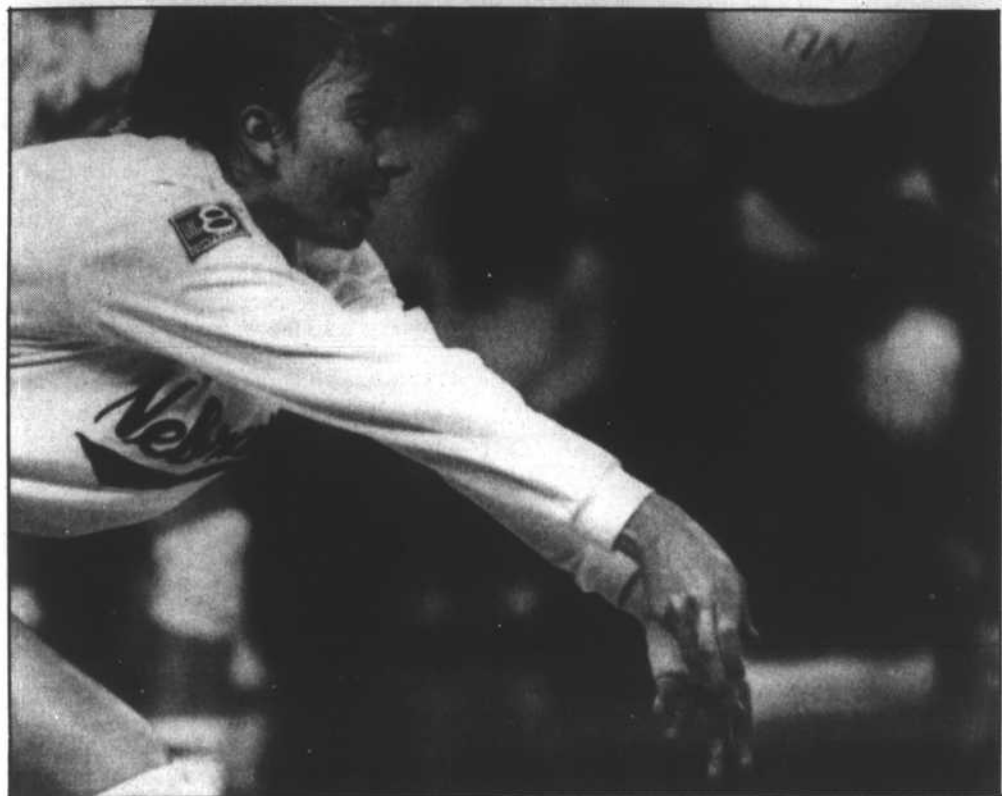


Huskers tame Wildcats on volleyball court



By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Coming into Wednesday's match against Nebraska, the Kansas State volleyball team hadn't won a game against the Cornhuskers since 1987.

The Wildcats also had never beaten the Huskers in a match — and they had 47 tries.

Kansas State also had not won its last 18 Big Eight matches.

Those three streaks continued Wednesday night against a Husker team playing without its leading blocker, freshman Jen McFadden. McFadden didn't make the trip to Manhattan, Kan., because of an ankle sprain.

The Huskers beat the Wildcats 15-5, 15-5, 15-7 at Ahearn Field House.

The win raised the Huskers' record to 16-3 and 5-2 in the Big Eight. With Oklahoma's loss to Colorado in three games Tuesday night at Boulder, Colo., Nebraska is only a half-game behind the second-place Sooners.

Nebraska and Colorado will meet in Lincoln Saturday night.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said his team did a good job against the 7-15 Wildcats, who stand in last place in the conference.

"I thought we did a nice job," he said on his post-match radio show on KFOR-AM. "Everybody did their job, and we get to go home early."

The Huskers jumped out early in the first game. With a 2-1 lead, Nebraska then scored 12 of the next 13 points to take a 14-2 lead.

The Huskers served for the game six times unsuccessfully, allowing the Wildcats to score three more points. But Nebraska middle blocker Allison Weston put down a kill to win it.

Playing in McFadden's place was junior middle blocker Peggy Meyer, who responded with eight kills, four coming in the first game alone.

Pettit said Meyer played well, and he said she might play against Colorado in McFadden's place, depending on the seriousness of McFadden's injury.

"I haven't even talked to the doctors yet," he said. "McFadden is a great ball player, but Peggy has the most experience and probably is our strongest sub."

The second game was much the same. The Huskers jumped out to an 11-1 lead before Kansas State made the score 14-5.

The Wildcats jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the third game. With the Huskers behind 6-4, junior Kim Tonniges came in for Nebraska and served three aces in a row to give the Huskers the lead for good at 9-6.

Pettit said the win was a good tuneup for Colorado.

"It'll be a challenge, but I think we'll be up to it," he said. "As a coach I'm really looking forward to this one."

DN File Photo

Sophomore outside hitter Billie Jean Winsett receives the ball in a match earlier in the season. Winsett helped the Cornhuskers down Kansas State on Wednesday.

Moving Pickens

Former Husker enters a greener pasture with Packers

By Jeff Singer
Senior Editor

For Bruce Pickens, it's as though a change in geography means a second chance in life as well.

In 1991, the former Nebraska defensive back was the second pick overall in the NFL draft when he was selected by the Atlanta Falcons. But Pickens has had nothing but trouble since setting foot in Atlanta.

Before his rookie season, Pickens held out of the Falcons' training camp because of disagreements in contract negotiations, and he was one of the league's last first-round draft picks to sign.

Squabbles with Atlanta coach Jerry Glanville limited playing time, and rape charges — which were eventually dropped — didn't make the next season and a half any easier. But they all made his trade to Green Bay two weeks ago a welcome transition.

"I'm really happy to be out of Atlanta," Pickens said. "It's like a new life."

Pickens said he thought his career was doomed before he even played a single down in Atlanta.

"The contract negotiations set off a war between me and Glanville, and things were never the same," said Pickens, who eventually signed a multi-year contract for more than \$2 million per year.

Pickens was Nebraska's highest draft pick since Irving Fryar was the No. 1 overall selection in the 1984

draft. He said his early selection led to some high expectations of him — expectations some have said he has not fulfilled.

But Pickens said he knew why he hadn't excelled as quickly as other players.

Pickens played in only 27 games and started only seven times in his two-and-a-half seasons in Atlanta. He said being on Glanville's bad side limited his playing time as well as his chances to improve to a professional caliber.

“I should've had the opportunity to be thrown into the fire. Being a cornerback, you learn by trial and error.”

—Pickens,
Green Bay defensive back

"I didn't get to play as much as I would have liked," he said. "I should've had the opportunity to be thrown into the fire. Being a cornerback, you learn by trial and error."

Pickens was involved in the trade that temporarily sent him and former All-Pro running back Eric Dickerson to the Packers for John Stephens and a future Packer draft choice.

But when Dickerson failed his physical with Green Bay and consequently retired, the trade became a straight Pickens-for-Stephens swap.

Pickens said Green Bay was a place he knew would suit him well.

"They're going to give me the opportunity to come in and play right away," Pickens said. "They play a lot of man-to-man (defense), and it's just like in basketball playing one-on-one — that's what all good athletes want."

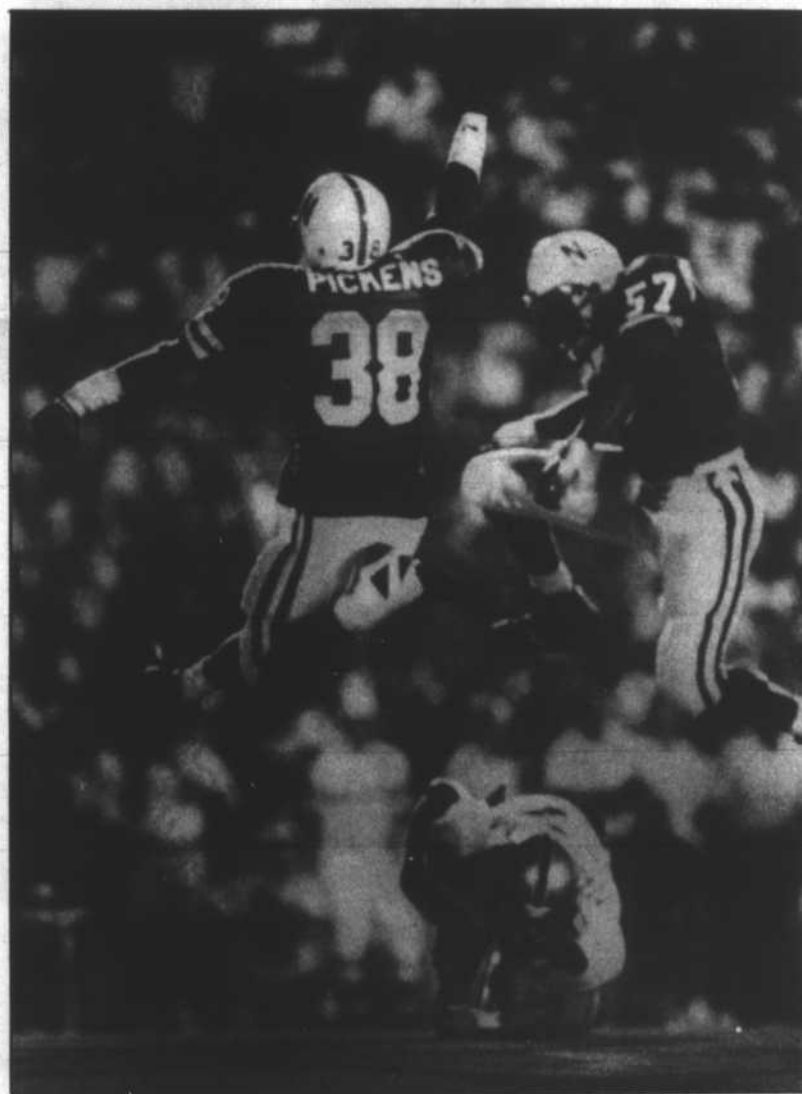
Pickens remained on the Packers' inactive list in his first game with Green Bay last Sunday against Tampa Bay. But as long as he isn't bothered by a lingering hamstring injury, he is expected to suit up for this week's game against Chicago.

Even if his hamstring injury does persist, he said there were some things he learned at Nebraska to help him overcome such a dilemma.

"At Nebraska, they help you to reach inside yourself and get the very best out of you," Pickens said.

Despite his professional aspirations, Pickens said, he still watches the Cornhuskers. This year's team has been taught the same lessons Pickens learned, he said, and can consequently compete for the national championship.

"(Nebraska) has given up a few more points than they would have liked," Pickens said. "But the quicker linebackers we have will help us when we play the good quarterbacks that Florida State or Miami has."



DN File Photo

Bruce Pickens, left, celebrates a sack with former Cornhusker Kenny Walker in Nebraska's 13-0 win over Baylor in 1990.

Pesky policies, picky pollsters destroy beauty of birth

Before I begin my column, I want to protest the way I have been treated by the Daily Nebraskan.

Last Sunday I wanted to go home to witness the birth of my gerbil Mookie's first litter. I informed the Daily Nebraskan of my intentions, and they proceeded to tell me I would be fined \$125,000 and suspended. They further stated that the Houston Oilers had set the precedent and they, the DN editors, were only abiding by the common-law rule. Oh, how cruel the law can be.

However in all this policy squabbling, there's really only one true victim: Mookie. As she went into labor, her little eyes probably turned to the top of her cage to look to me for comfort. All right, gerbils are blind — but my point is that she needed me to

be a calming force at a turbulent time. I usually sing her her favorite Nirvana songs for such relaxation — and where was I?

Slaving away on a terminal, that's where.

I'll continue to write for this heartless paper, but I hope they don't expect me to go to their frigg'in' Christmas party. Damn you, Daily Nebraskan. And that's from Mookie, too.

After the long day Mookie and I went through, we looked forward to viewing the new Associated Press poll and seeing our Huskers vault to the top of the college ranks.

Imagine her pain at seeing the 'Skers drop to sixth in the poll. At first I thought they were penalizing us for not having any Canadians on our team, but then I realized it went much deep-



Beau
Finley

er than that.

Those weasel sportswriters are still getting us back for giving up 487 passing yards to Kansas State. Hey, the KSU Air Kitties are a good team. Maybe they DID make our secondary look like a bunch of hairy ballerinas. And maybe switching from the nickel to the dime defense makes that extra defensive back worth about five cents — probably raising the issue of inflation. But I say "silence" to the critics. Amidst the adversity, we got the "W."

But I guess that's not good enough for the pollsters. It doesn't even seem to be good enough for some fans.

After the game with the KSU Fighting Felines, it was reported that the wife of secondary coach George Darlington was being unmercifully heckled in the stands. Security finally had to remove Chancellor Spanier after he repeatedly yelled: "Wanna see some 'Green Space?' Take a look at the that (expletive) zone."

But the problem is not with the Husker defense; it's with the whole theory of football. I mean, look at the size of the field. When a receiver knows where he's going and the defender doesn't, the receiver will be able to find an open area. It's only logical that a team could throw for 400-plus yards.

What football needs is a little help for the defense. It would make the game more violent and keep KSU scenarios to a minimum.

I propose that the defense get a center fielder for the secondary. In the Husker tradition of naming defensive positions, I call this defender the "Sidney." The Sidney will provide the needed support to the pass coverage. This counter-balances the offensive advantages, making the game more fair, but it also provides one more person to hit the ball carrier. That's one thing football could always use: more violence.

But this is only a fantasy, much like the one with me marrying Allie Weston in a vat of tapioca pudding.

See FINLEY on 8