

# NU's match with Missouri features return of McFadden

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

Nebraska was leading 6-2 in the second game of its match Saturday night when Cornhusker middle blocker Jen McFadden strode onto the court.

The NU Coliseum crowd of 3,179 roared its approval as McFadden, who had been out the last five matches with an ankle sprain, returned to action in the 15-10, 15-6, 15-3 win over Missouri.

Although McFadden played in only one of the three games, Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he was encouraged by the play of the 6-foot-2-inch freshman from Dubuque, Iowa.

In her brief stint on the court, McFadden had two kills and one block.

"Our goal was to play her in one game," Pettit said. "It's real important to get her out there. It's good to have her back."

"She's a great player."

McFadden leads the Huskers in blocks and is third on the team in kills with 205. Her average of 1.9 blocks per game leads the Big Eight and is second nationally.

McFadden said she came down

on someone's foot and sprained her ankle before the Huskers' Oct. 27 match against Kansas State.

Three weeks later, she's glad to be contributing again.

"It feels really good to be out there," McFadden said. "It was hard sitting out, but by the time the Big Eight tournament comes, I hope to be playing a significant amount."

McFadden and the No. 14 Huskers were glad to be back at home after completing all of their road matches this season.

Nebraska, 20-4 and 8-2 in the Big Eight, is 10-0 at home this season. All of the Huskers' losses have been on the road.

Sophomore middle blocker Allison Weston said the Huskers played well in front of the Coliseum crowd.

"It's very uplifting to play in our home environment," she said.

The Tigers, who fell to 10-16 and 2-7 in the conference, gave the Huskers a scare early by scoring the first four points of the match. But the Huskers battled back to score the next six points.

The score was eventually tied at 10, but Nebraska pulled away, scoring the game's final five points.

Pettit said his team struggled out

of the gate, but he credited that in part to Missouri.

"We were a little flat to start off," he said. "But there's a tendency for teams that don't have anything else to play for but pride to play hard at the end."

The Huskers stormed out to a 6-1 lead in the second game on the strength of three service aces, two by Kim Tonniges and one by Kelly Aspegren. Missouri stuck with Nebraska, cutting the deficit to 8-6. But the Tigers weren't able to score another point in the second game.

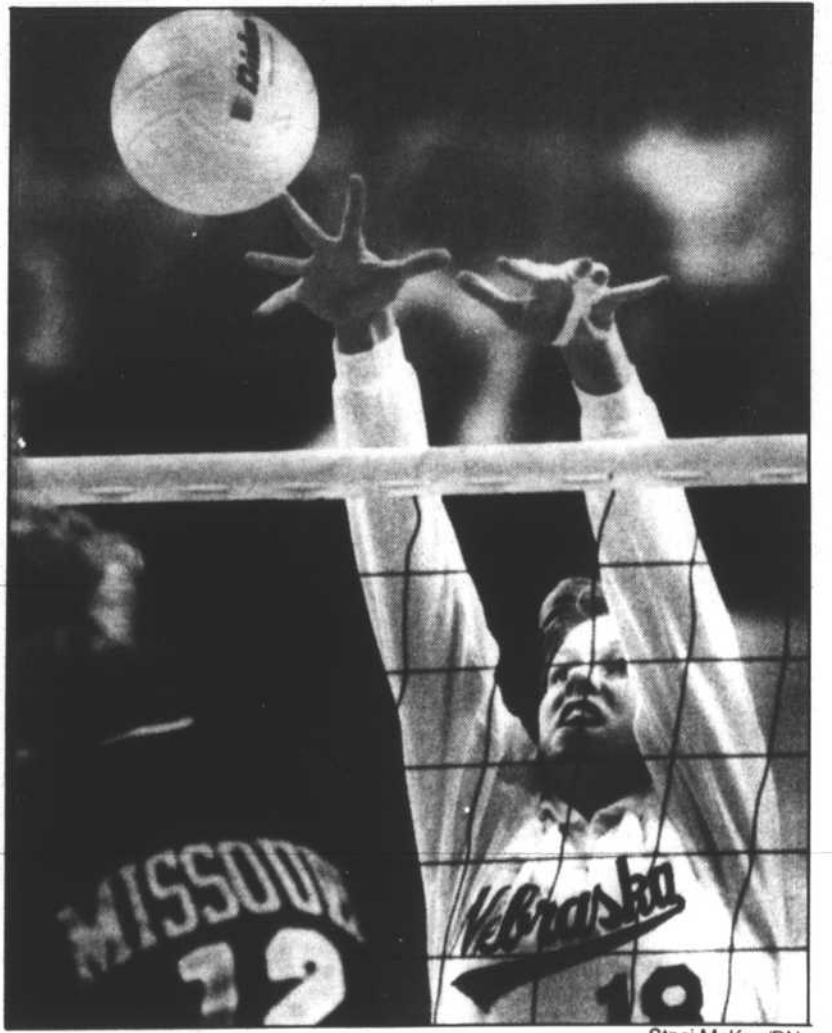
Nebraska jumped out early in the third game and won 15-3.

Weston, who finished with six kills and three service aces, said the Huskers' serving was a key to the match. The Huskers recorded 10 aces, one short of their season-high set against Iowa in the first match of the season.

But Pettit said he didn't notice the Huskers' serving dominance. Instead, he was looking to the future.

"In a match like this, you're working on different things," he said.

"We wanted to get faster sets to Aspegren and (Maria) Hedbeck and we experimented with Hedbeck on the right side. These are things we may have to do later on."



Staci McKee/DN

Nebraska's Allison Weston (right) attempts to block Missouri middle blocker Kathy Gerken's spike Saturday.

## Extra serving practice helps Huskers sweep MU

By Tony West  
Staff Reporter

At the end of every practice, Nebraska's volleyball team works on serving.

That extra work paid off during Nebraska's three-game sweep over Missouri on Saturday. The Cornhuskers managed 10 service aces — one short of last year's three-game match record of 11 against Iowa.

"Getting down to the end of the season, serving is probably most important," said Kelly Aspegren, who leads the Big Eight in service-ace percentage.

Allison Weston led the Huskers on Saturday with three service aces. Aspegren and Kim Tonniges had two

apiece.

Nebraska assistant coach Cathy Noth said the Huskers needed that kind of quality serving.

"We believe the game is serving and passing," she said. "Serving determines how the opponent is going to run their offense."

And the players seem to be putting more effort into their serving, Noth said.

"All of the players are taking responsibility when they go back to serve," she said.

Aspegren agreed. "Probably within the last four weeks we have put more focus on serving," Aspegren said. "As a team, we focus on serving tough instead of just serving the ball in."

## Women qualify for nationals

From Staff Reports

When the Nebraska cross country team left Lincoln for Carbondale, Ill., and the NCAA Division V meet last Friday, they had one goal in mind.

That goal was to get both men and women teams to the national meet in Bethlehem, Pa. on Nov. 22.

Only half of that objective was accomplished.

The Nebraska women qualified with a second-place overall team finish, while the men fell short with a third-place finish.

Although the team didn't achieve its goal, Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen said he was pleased with the effort.

Four of the Nebraska men placed in the top 22 and six of the Nebraska women placed in the top 34.

"Obviously we wanted both teams to go, but they ran well," Dirksen said. "It wasn't for lack of perfor-

mance. We just got beat by two better teams on the men's side."

Iowa State took the men's title and Oklahoma State finished second. Kansas won the meet for the women by a score of 77-89 over 13th-ranked favorite Nebraska.

"It was a little discouraging we didn't win (on the women's side)," Dirksen said. "But, the whole idea was to get to the national meet and we did that."

Dirksen said he was also pleased with some individual performances on both the men's and women's side.

Senior Theresa Stelling led the Husker women with a second-place finish on the 5,000-meter course.

On the men's side, Kevin Miller led the Husker team with a 10th place overall finish in a time of 32:47.6 on the 10,000-meter course.

## Husker wrestlers win eight titles

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska wrestling team started where it left off last season by winning eight individual titles at the Wyoming Open in Laramie, Wyo., Saturday.

The Cornhuskers, who finished third last year at nationals, won five titles in the open division.

Senior Scott Gonyo, a transfer from Drake, took first at 118 pounds. Two All-Americans from last year — Mike Eierman and Frank Velazquez — also took titles.

Eierman, who was fifth last year at nationals at 142, won at 142 by defeating teammate Justin Ware 17-6. Eierman scored 100 points in his five victories in the tournament.

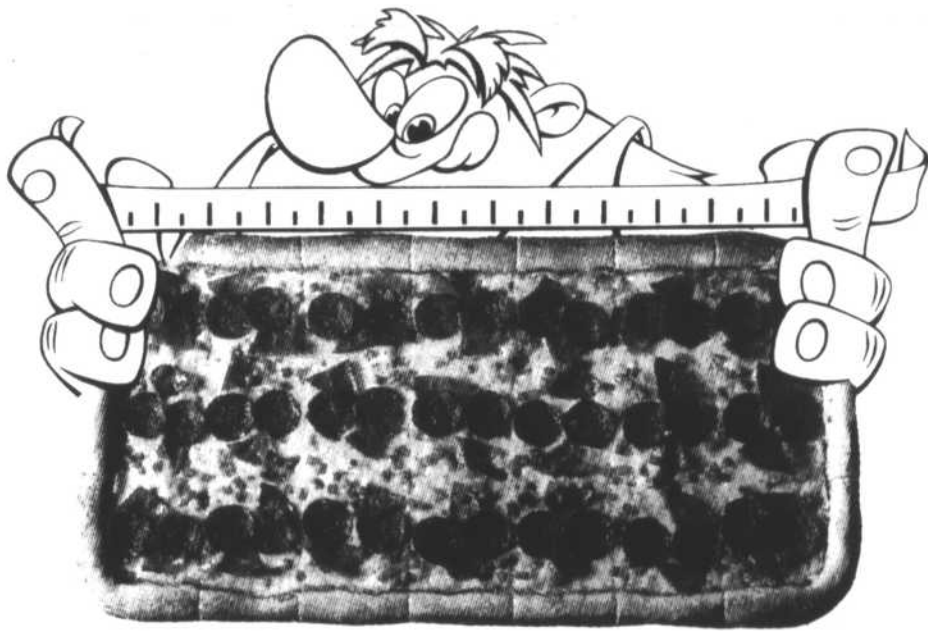
Velazquez, one of three seniors on coach Tim Neumann's squad, won his division at 134 pounds by defeating fellow teammate Steve Baer.

Sophomore Chad Nelson, at 167, and freshman Tolly Thompson, at heavyweight, were the Huskers' final two titlists.

Nebraska's next action will be Saturday at the Omaha Open.

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