

Huskers helpless to change polls, for now

By Mitch Sherman
Staff Reporter

Even though 10-0 Nebraska finds itself in a position in the "bowl poll" that could lock it out of the national championship picture, Cornhusker players are staying calm—at least for now.

"It's a good feeling to be 10-0," outside linebacker Trev Alberts said. "But it doesn't mean anything. We don't have any room to talk right now. If we beat Oklahoma and go undefeat-

ed, then we can talk about where we should be ranked."

The issue of where the Huskers, who are third in the coalition poll behind undefeated Notre Dame and once-beaten Florida State, should be ranked has touched off a national debate among writers, television analysts and coaches.

On Jan. 1, the top two teams in the coalition poll, which combines point totals from the Associated Press and USA Today/CNN coaches' polls, will meet in a national championship game.

Some say the Huskers do not deserve a national-title chance because of past performances in bowl games against top-ranked teams. Writers have argued that the nation would rather see a Fiesta Bowl rematch between Notre Dame and Florida State.

Others, like Iowa State coach Jim Walden, said it was not the job of the national media to set up rematches and that the two undefeated teams should play for the championship.

Nebraska quarterback Tommie Frazier said the Huskers' attitude was

business-as-usual because the players couldn't do anything to affect the polls—except win.

"I can't control the voters," Frazier said. "The way they vote is the way they feel. We understand what we have in front of us. And all we can worry about right now is Oklahoma."

If the Huskers beat Oklahoma, then they may need help from Florida State to vault into the No. 2 spot. The Seminoles are 67 points ahead of Nebraska in the coalition poll.

Florida State plays host to North

“If they don't give us a chance, we'll know there's something going on with the voters.”

—Frazier

Nebraska quarterback

Carolina State on Saturday before traveling to Gainesville to play Flor-

See BOWL POLL on 8

NU disposes of Cyclones, looks to OU

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

A loss to Oklahoma on Oct. 9 dealt a severe blow to the Nebraska volleyball team's Big Eight title chances.

On Friday, the Cornhuskers will seek revenge against the Sooners.

But the seventh-ranked Huskers first had to take care of Iowa State Wednesday night, and they did in a three-game sweep, 15-8, 15-11, 15-3 in front of a NU Coliseum crowd of 1,450.

It took the Huskers, 21-4 and 9-2 in the Big Eight, a little longer than expected to dispose of a pesky Iowa State team before they could turn to their rematch with Oklahoma, Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said.

"All teams play hard at the end of the season," he said. "Iowa State's fighting to get into the Big Eight tournament. But playing hard isn't good enough."

The Cyclones started fast against the Huskers, taking a 4-1 lead. But the Huskers came back with six straight points to make it 7-4.

Nebraska scored eight of the next 12 points to win the game 15-8. Sophomore outside hitter Billie Winsett put the game away with one of her 14 kills in the match.

Pettit said it was encouraging to see Winsett, who had a team-high 16 digs, play well as the Huskers approach the end of the regular season.

"Winsett hit .393, and that's good to see," he said. "The left-side hitter has to be successful, and it's good to see her taking charge."

"Billie is instrumental in how we do the rest of the season. She was much more consistent (Wednesday night)."

The Huskers jumped out to a big lead in the second game. They scored the first nine points of the game and led 11-1. But the Cyclones didn't quit, storming back with nine straight points of their own to make it 11-10. But the Huskers, led by Winsett—who again ended the game with a kill—put Iowa State away.

Pettit said his team had trouble adjusting to the Cyclones' defensive scheme.

"One of the things they did was they



Kiley Timperley/DN

Nebraska outside hitter Maria Hedbeck (left) stretches for a dig while teammate Stephanie Clerc looks on during the Cornhuskers' 15-8, 15-11, 15-3 win over Iowa State Wednesday night.

dropped everybody back to dig," he said. "They gave us the tip but we didn't tip until the third game. If you don't catch that, they're going to dig some balls."

Junior outside hitter Kelly Aspegren, the Big Eight leader in service aces, said the Huskers took a while to adjust to the defense of the Cyclones.

"In the second game, we let up a bit," she said. "We weren't digging balls. We needed to tip the ball over the net, and we didn't do that until the third game. We should've adjusted earlier."

In the third game, the Huskers refused to

let Iowa State back in. Nebraska took a 7-1 lead but then the Cyclones looked to get back in the match. They scored two points to make it 7-3 but that's the closest they got as Nebraska scored the final eight points of the game.

Even though the Huskers won in three games, Pettit said he thought his team looked a little tired after some intense practices the last two days.

"We showed a little fatigue out there," he said. "The last couple of practices have been intense and hard."

"We practiced for two hours the day before the match."

Now, Pettit said, it's time to prepare for Oklahoma. The Huskers will play the Sooners Friday at the NU Coliseum, and they most likely will play them again in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament.

The Big Eight's second- and third-place teams face each other and the first- and fourth-place teams square off in the tournament, Nov. 26 and 27. Unless Colorado loses, Nebraska and Oklahoma will be either the second- or third-place teams in the Big Eight and will face each other.

Wacky preseason game sets stage for wild season

A bus driver gets more of an ovation than the opposing team's players combined.

A center named Pavel gets his fifth foul before halftime—and continues to play.

A pep band actually bellows "Whoop, there it is."

A 6-foot-11, 195-pound freshman, whose shadow doesn't fill up a crack in the sidewalk, is perfect from the field and line. And he even throws down the first dunk of the year.

It could only happen in preseason basketball. And it all happened Tuesday night, during Nebraska's 122-59 exhibition win over the Spartak Club of Kiev, Ukraine.

Unfortunately for Mikki Moore, the 6-foot-11, 195-pounder from Gaffney, S.C., and Nebraska basketball fans, the Huskers will never again face a team like the Spartak Club, whose players' names were 10 times longer than any of their defensive

stands.

Nee and Moore decided before Tuesday night's exhibition that Moore would not redshirt this season. Now, instead of having time off to put about 100 pounds on, Moore will have to battle the behemoths of the Big Eight before he's ready.

Unfortunately for Moore, Nee had little choice. Nee said he would have preferred to throw a redshirt and about 60 pounds on Moore this season.

But look down Nebraska's lineup and you literally have to look down. The next tallest Husker, Tom Best, stands 6-foot, 9-inches, when he's not slouched in pain from the back problems that have hampered his career.

And Melvin Brooks, a junior college transfer from Chowan (N.C.) College, is a generous 6-8.

So Nee was forced to ask: Who else is there?



Todd
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And after seeing Moore come from a small town in South Carolina, after witnessing his enthusiasm for the game, after hearing him answer every reporters' question with the word "sir," Nebraska onlookers have to ask: What's there not to like about the guy?

Unfortunately later in the season, Kansas center Greg Ostertag and Oklahoma State center Bryant Reeves will ask: What's there? Moore will become another stripe on the court after those meatheads come-a-stompin'.

But Moore, who just turned 18 earlier this month, will grow up—

and hopefully out—this season.

And he may not have to worry too much about banging with the big guys.

Senior 6-7 forward Bruce "Blue Collar" Chubick looks like he has done his best to fill up the middle of the court—and his gut—on his own. Chubick's 232 pounds—up from 215 last year—will help clog the gaping hole left in the middle by the departure of last year's centers, Derrick Chandler and Amos Gregory.

With a new flattop, Piatkowski looked like he belonged on the Ukrainian team Tuesday night. But when he shot, he was the old, dependable Polish Rifle.

Unfortunately, Piatkowski will feel more like a Polish sausage in a bun this season when he's double-teamed by every Husker opponent. The Ukraine will be Nebraska's only opponent that doesn't double-team—or, for that matter, play defense against—Piatkowski. But the Rifle's will-

ingness Tuesday night to share a round of ammunition with his teammates should keep some of the pressure off of him.

Guards Jamar Johnson, Jaron Boone, Erick Strickland and forward Terrance Badgett will benefit from Piatkowski's unselfish play.

And with a quick release from downtown, Jason Glock, the sophomore from Wahoo who redshirted last season, could become the Midwestern version of the three-point bombing California pretty boy of two years ago, Chris Cresswell.

Throw all of those players into Nee's pressure-cooker offense and Husker basketball this year is bound to be wilder than one of the coach's signature ties.

At least it was Tuesday night.

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