

# NU volleyball team proves power in 1 hour

## Cornell defeated in NCAA match

By Tim Pearson  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team put in about one hour's worth of work Wednesday night in preparation for their second-round NCAA match Sunday against No. 16 Notre Dame.

And the Cornhuskers' work made Cornell's stay in Lincoln short. Nebraska defeated the Big Red 15-7, 15-4, 15-1 before an NU Coliseum crowd of 1,181.

The first-round match of the NCAA Volleyball Championships lasted only 52 minutes as the Huskers raced out to big leads in all three games.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said the match went the way the Huskers thought it would.

"It gave us the opportunity to work on various things that we may need to use later," he said.

Husker setter Nikki Stricker said Nebraska's height was a big advantage in the match. Cornell, which fell to 17-10, didn't have a single starter over six feet tall.

"They were a lot smaller than I thought they'd be," she said. "To us, that's an advantage. That gave us more confidence against a team we knew nothing about."

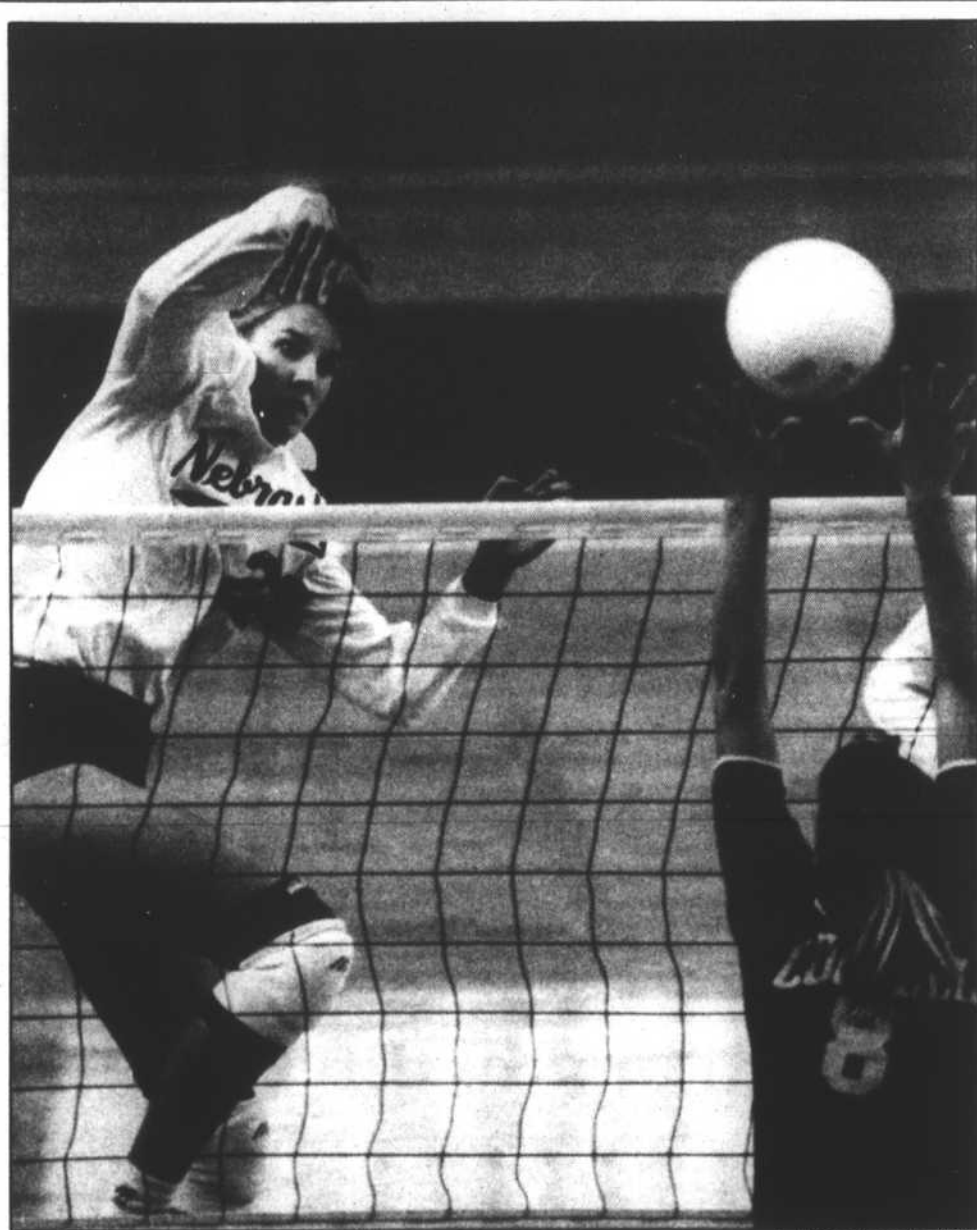
The 26-5 Huskers jumped out to a 9-1 lead in the first game. The Big Red charged back with five consecutive points of their own.

But Nebraska didn't let Cornell get any closer. Junior outside hitter Kelly Aspegren sealed the game with one of her eight first-game kills.

The Huskers amassed a hitting percentage of .529 in the first game and a percentage of .469 for the entire match.

The Huskers started the second game with six straight points off the serves of Stricker, who finished with 40 set assists and one ace in the match.

Cornell again came back to make it 8-3, but then Nebraska scored five straight points to virtually put the game away. In the third game, the Huskers scored 12 straight points to win the match.



Nebraska's Peggy Myer (left) spikes the ball over Cornell's Michele Kizorek during the first round match of the NCAA volleyball tournament Wednesday night at the NU Coliseum. Nebraska won 15-7, 15-4, 15-1 to advance to the second round Sunday against Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind.

Kiley Timperley/DN

## Coach of Big Red praises Huskers

By Mitch Sherman  
Staff Reporter

The Big Red volleyball team went down in the first round of the NCAA tournament Wednesday night.

Not the Big Red from Nebraska, but the Big Red from Cornell, the Ivy League's first representative in the NCAA tournament.

And there was no doubt about which red was bigger, Cornell coach Merja Connolly said.

"They were the strongest, tallest, most physical team we have played," Connolly said. "We're not stupid at Cornell. I'm very honest with my team. We told our team coming in that they would have to play an almost flawless game to come out with a win."

Even though the Cornhuskers sent Cornell packing after less than one hour of work in a 15-7, 15-4, 15-1 victory, Connolly said the Big Red would benefit from the experience it gained from the loss to Nebraska.

"It's a big step for Cornell and Ivy League volleyball," she said. "Nebraska has a great team."

Connolly, whose team finished the season 17-10, said she could not compare 25-5 Nebraska with other top teams around the nation because she had not seen most top teams play. The Huskers play Notre Dame Sunday at 2 p.m. in South Bend, Ind.

"I haven't seen Notre Dame," she said. "But I know we didn't see the potential of Nebraska. We didn't push them. They have a great team."

One Husker weakness stood out, Connolly said.

"The only weakness I see is if people aren't coming at them as hard," Connolly said. "If they go up against a shorter team that has good placement and hits a lot of dink shots, I could see them having problems."

But Connolly, who was a middle blocker and captain of UCLA's 1984 national championship team, said she hoped Nebraska would do well.

"It's nice to say we lost to the winners. We wish them the best of luck — unless they play UCLA."

## Huskers lose first game on the road

From Staff Reports

A combination of hot shooting by Appalachian State and poor defense by Nebraska cost the Cornhuskers as they lost their road opener 91-82 in Boone, N.C., Wednesday night.

The loss knocked the Huskers to 1-2 on the season, while Appalachian State improved to 2-0.

"I knew it was going to be a tough game, but it's just disappointing," Nebraska coach Danny Nee said on KLIN's post-game radio show. "We are just not in sync and we're just not playing good fundamental defense."

After a strong start by the Huskers, Appalachian State finished the first half with a 17-7 run to head into the

lockerroom with a 48-38 lead.

Nod Carter, a 6-foot-6 forward, led the Mountaineers with 22 points in the first half and finished with a game-high 32 points.

It was the second-straight game that the Huskers allowed an opposing player to score more than 30 points, which concerned Nee.

"You can't let someone go off," Nee said. "We have got to play better defense than that."

Hot outside shooting by the Mountaineers also burned the Huskers.

Appalachian State hit 11 three-pointers for the game, including 6-of-10 in the first half.

Mountaineer guard Brain Hege did

the most damage from long-range by hitting five three-pointers and finishing the game with 18 points.

Chad McClendon added 16 points for Appalachian State.

The Huskers answered the Mountaineers' first-half run with a 17-7 run of their own to start the second half to tie the game 55-55 on a three-point play by Jamar Johnson, who had a career-high 29 points Wednesday night.

But the Huskers could not retake the lead as the Mountaineers hit consecutive three-point baskets. Nebraska got no closer than three points the rest of the way.

## Huskers lead All-Big 8 team

From Staff Reports

Nebraska led the Big Eight with six players named to the coaches' first-team all-conference squad announced Wednesday.

The Cornhuskers edged out Colorado and Kansas State, which each placed five players on the first team.

Calvin Jones was named a first-team running back for the second-straight year. Other Huskers on the first-team offense include tackles Zach Wiegert and Lance Lundberg and guard Ken Mehlin.

All-American outside linebacker Trev Alberts was no surprise on the defensive squad. Teammate

Barron Miles, a junior cornerback, joined Alberts on the first-team defense.

Tommie Frazier, who was beaten out by Kansas State's Chad May for the first team, was named second-team All-Big Eight quarterback.

Nose tackle Terry Connealy, linebacker Ed Stewart and rover Toby Wright received second-team defensive honors.

Wingback Abdul Muhammad, split end Corey Dixon and tight end Gerald Armstrong were honorable-mention offensive selections.

Linebacker Mike Anderson, defensive back John Reece and kicker Byron Bennett also were named honorable mention.

## Shower nozzles, other obstacles can't stop the Huskers

I like two things: Cornhusker football championships and nudism.

Though I've spent some time in prison for the latter, which has made its appeal wane, my love for the Cornchuckers has been ignited by the character of this team, and it burns brightly in the Los Angeles of my soul.

Adversity seems to be the theme and the norm for the Nebraska football team nowadays.

The Huskies have not only had to face the task of defeating four Top 25 teams with a slew of injuries, but they've also had to deal with constant ridicule from the press.

Of course, this is only accentuated by the fact that the team had to see Kevin Ramaekers naked the entire season. That's hell.

Yet, amidst the tribulations, the Cornhumpers have managed a perfect 11-0 season and an opportunity to play for a national championship.

For testimony to this team's fiber

and spirit, one need only look to left cornerback "Red" Barron Miles.

Last week, Miles, in a fit of cleanliness, left the team's practice a bit early in order to shower.

When the Huskers finished their weightlifting, they joined Miles in the shower only to find him unconscious.

Miles was at a loss for what happened, but apparently he was viciously attacked by the shower nozzle, slipped and hit his head.

Unfortunately, Miles now is suffering from zepophobia — an acute fear of personal hygiene.

Coach Tom Osborne expressed relief that his cornerback was not injured in the accident, but allegedly he also said Miles really hadn't smelled so good since the accident.

Despite being shaken up and a bit funky, Miles played an outstanding game against the Oklahoma Sooners, stopping OU on a key fourth down that destroyed any chance of a Swooner comeback.



Beau  
Finley

But accomplishment in the face of difficulty is nothing new for "Country" Miles.

B.M. is perhaps the smallest player of the Huskers, yet he is the starting cornerback for the Cornchuckers, the backup punter, and the main man in the NU punt-return team.

A little-known fact: Miles is also backup to Chancellor Graham Spanier. Miles is a true Renaissance man.

And here comes some more adversity.

Despite Miles' and the rest of the Husker secondary's outstanding year (second in the Big Eight in pass defense), only one player — John Reece — was given any recognition by the

AP sports weasels or writers.

This snub came in spite of the fact that the Huskers shut down the formidable passing attacks of UCLA, Colorado and Oklahoma. Of course, the Kansas State Air Kitties' performance doesn't count — it was a fluke, a fluke, I say.

They have a word for that type of slight in Spanish — "El Screwjobo." But this is just a sample of the poor treatment dealt to the Cornbumpers this season.

But I say forget the AP voters, forget Matt Frier, forget the 487 yards, forget being vanquished by a piece of bathroom equipment and forget Craig James.

In fact, I've got a couple words for James, the ex-SMU running back. The first is "Eric Dickerson" and the second is "piggyback."

Are the Huskers the best team in the country? I certainly don't know. But there's nothing to say they're not. Nebraska's record is unblemished.

Florescent State can't say that. One loss is testimony that they are not the "best." At least not every game.

Thus, if you're going to allow FSU to play for the national championship instead of West Virginia, then you need to account for all of the intangibles and not just schedules.

Voters should look at the adversity teams go through, the injuries they overcome — both on the field and in the showers — and other things that supplement a record.

Basically, the voters have decided that there are more important things than records. Fine, maybe they're right. But don't bad-mouth and look down on these Huskers because of the past. They may not be pretty, but the 'skers win.

Teams of destiny have come from a hell of a lot less.

Finley is a first-year law student and a Daily Nebraskan sports columnist.