

Probable starters

Nebraska (25-5)			
Vs.			
Notre Dame (25-7)			
Sunday, 1 p.m., Joyce Center, South Bend, Ind.			
Nebraska			
OH	Kelly Aspegren	5-11	Jr.
MB	Allison Weston	6-0	So.
S	Nikki Stricker	5-10	Sr.
OH	Maria Hedbeck	5-10	Fr.
OH	Billie Winsett	5-11	So.
S	Stephanie Clerc	5-6	Fr.
Notre Dame			
OH	Nicole Coates	5-7	Jr.
MB	Molly Stark	5-11	Sr.
S	Janelle Karlan	5-9	Sr.
OH	Christy Peters	5-11	Jr.
OH	Jenny Birkner	5-11	Fr.
MB	Julie Harris	6-2	Sr.

DN graphic

Volleyball team ready for rematch

By Tim Pearson
Senior Reporter

Nebraska's volleyball team entered South Bend, Ind., 11-0 on Sept. 25, but it left with its first defeat of the season after losing to Notre Dame in four games.

Now, over two months later, the 25-5 Cornhuskers are hoping it won't happen again.

Nebraska will play at Notre Dame again Sunday in a 1 p.m. match in the second round of the NCAA Volleyball Championships.

The Huskers advanced to the second round after a three-game sweep

of Cornell 15-7, 15-4, 15-1. The 25-7 Fighting Irish received a bye to the second round.

Husker coach Terry Pettit said he knew his players would perform better than they did two months ago against the Irish.

"It was one of our lesser performances of the season," he said. "They're a team we know we can beat. If we win, we get the chance to host regionals, but playing Notre Dame will be a challenge."

The Nebraska players are also looking forward to the rematch, setter Nikki Stricker said.

"It's really exciting to get another

shot at Notre Dame," she said. "Both teams have changed and grown, so it will be a great match."

Nebraska middle blocker Allison Weston — whose 485 kills on the season rank third in school history behind Kathi DeBoer's 529 in 1987 — said the chance to play at home in the regionals gave the Huskers added motivation against the Irish.

"It looks real good for us," she said. "It'll be a good rematch. Hosting regionals would be a plus for us."

Freshman middle blocker Jen McFadden, who missed the Cornell match because of back spasms, should be able to play, Pettit said.

"McFadden woke up with spasms in her back," he said. "I didn't like the way she was moving in warm-ups, so I felt that keeping her out was the best decision."

But Pettit said serving would decide the match even if McFadden wasn't ready to go.

"Our serving is really tough right now," he said. "Several of our servers have raised their level of play."

"Serving may be the key against Notre Dame."

Pettit said his team had improved greatly in the past month and a half.

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Nee says team selfish before weekend classic

By Jeff Griesch
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska basketball team will look to improve on a disappointing 1-2 start when it is the host for the Seventh annual Ameritas Classic this weekend at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Nebraska has never lost a first round game in the Ameritas Classic and has won the tournament five-straight times, but the Huskers will enter this year's tournament with the worst record in the four-team field.

The Cornhuskers have struggled

the past two games, losing to Texas 78-75 at home on Sunday and to Appalachian State 91-82 on the road Wednesday.

During his postgame radio show after the loss to the Mountaineers, Nee said the Huskers were not playing well together.

"It's a team problem — it's chemistry," Nee said. "There's too much individuality and selfishness. If you're interested in your score, go play golf. In team games the only stat I'm interested in is winning."

Ohio, the Huskers' first round opponent, come into the tournament 1-0 after an 84-51 win over Ohio Dominican Tuesday night.

Navy enters with a 2-0 record, while Portland is 3-1, including a runner-up finish in the Great Alaska Shootout.

"The Naval Academy has always been competitive and I'm impressed on paper about Portland," Nee said.

"Ohio is a good team and they return the Mid-American conference player of the year last year in Gary Trent along with a 7-foot-2 center," Nee said.

Trent, a 6-7, 215-pound sophomore, led the Bobcats in scoring and rebounding last season, averaging 19 points and 9.3 boards per game. While Jason Terry, a 7-2 sophomore center, will give Ohio a height advantage inside against Nebraska.

Weekend's foes unfamiliar to Portland Pilots coach

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

Portland coach Larry Steele said although he didn't know much about any of the teams in this weekend's Ameritas Classic tournament, he hoped his team could continue its success.

The 3-1 Pilots will face Navy at 8:30 p.m. Friday at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in the second game of the Ameritas Classic. Nebraska will play Ohio in the first game at 6:30 p.m. The winners of those two games will meet in the championship Saturday at 3:10 p.m.

In their three victories so far, the Pilots have proven tournament-tough. They traveled to Anchorage, Alaska, for the Great Alaska Shootout on Nov. 25-27 and came away with a second-place finish behind the No. 14 Purdue Boilermakers.

"We've gotten off to a nice start," Steele said.

But Steele said his team would have its hands full this weekend.

"Right now, at this very moment, I can't tell you a player's name on any one of the teams," Steele said. "However, I do know it's going to be a very good tournament, and (Nebraska) is a very well respected program."

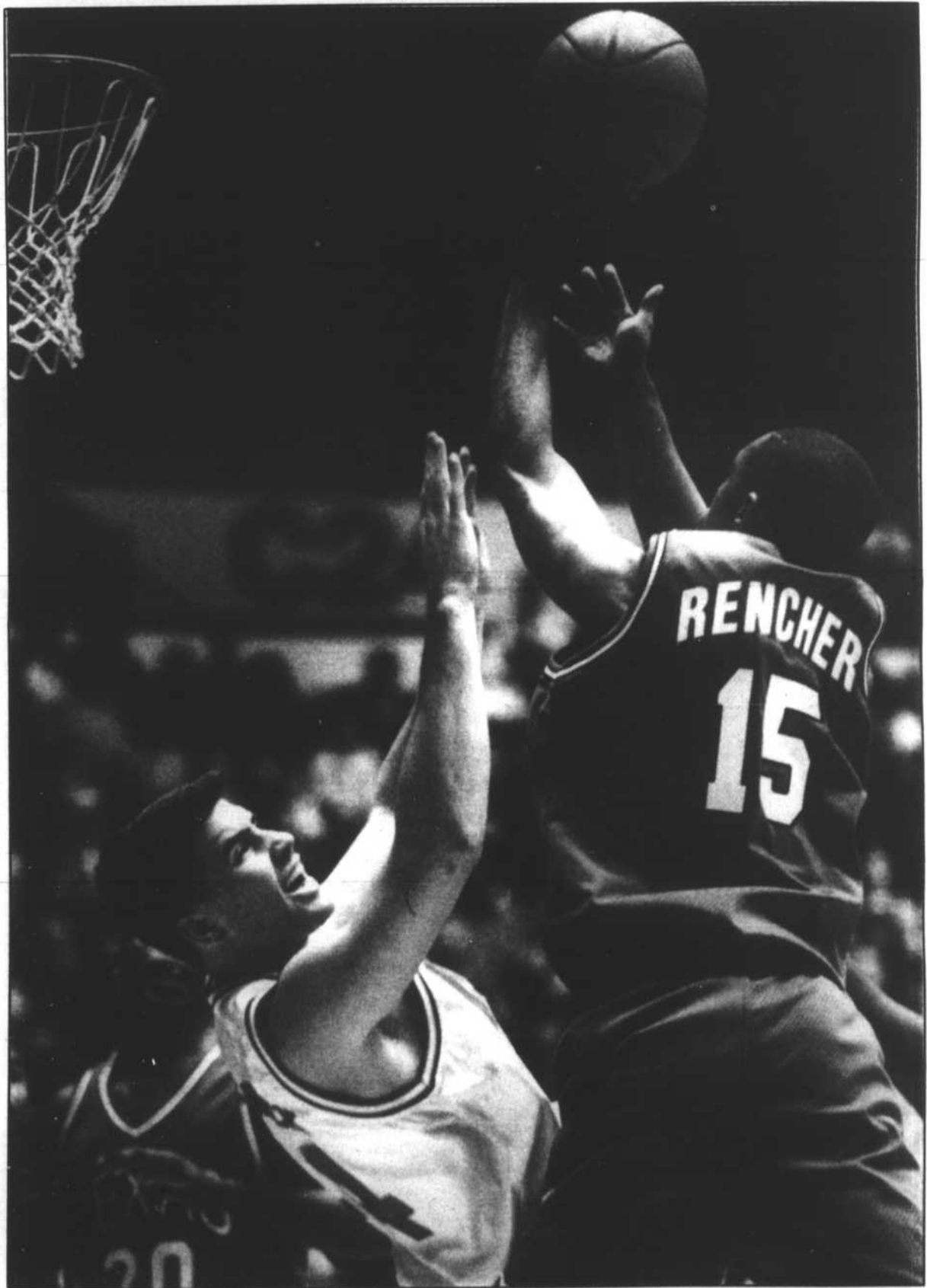
But Nebraska, at 1-2, has the worst record of the teams. Ohio is 1-0, and Navy is 2-0.

Matt Houle leads the Pilots with a 23.3 average. Newcomer Canaan Chatman is Portland's second leading scorer with a 17.3 average.

Although the Pilots have proven themselves offensively, Steele said their defense would carry them this weekend.

"To be successful in the tournament, we are going to have to be a good defensive team," Steele said.

Steele said he wanted to see an improvement on defense. The Pilots are giving up an average of 74.5 points per game.



William Lauer/DN

Nebraska forward Bruce Chubick tries to take a charge against Texas' Terrance Rencher during the Cornhuskers' 78-75 loss Sunday night.

Walloping Ward proves primary goal of Husker defense

By Derek Samson
Staff Reporter

For the Nebraska defense, one thing is certain: Stop Charlie Ward and you stop the explosive Florida State offense.

But, linebacker Mike Anderson and nose tackle Terry Connealy said, the Cornhuskers will have their hands full with Ward, the front-runner for the Heisman Trophy, during the Jan. 1 Orange Bowl.

Anderson and Connealy, who played in last year's 27-14 Orange Bowl loss to Florida State, know what Ward brings to

the Seminole offense.

"He is what makes them as good as they are," Anderson said. "They would still be a good team, but not anything like the way they are now. He brings a lot of different things to their offense."

Ward led Florida State to a 11-1 record last season and a second-place finish after the Orange Bowl. This season, Ward has his Seminoles ranked first and third with an 11-1 record. Florida State is second, behind the Huskers, in the bowl coalition poll.

"Florida State is a little more experienced this year, but they're basically doing the same things as last year," Anderson said. "What I have seen of them looks awfully similar to last year. They were pretty tough then, so I don't

expect anything different from them."

With the help of two Ward touchdown passes, Florida State jumped out to a 20-0 lead over Nebraska in the second quarter last year, before going on to the 27-14 win.

Ward finished the game, completing 15 of 30 passes for 187 yards. He also rushed for 23 yards and caught one pass for a 28-yard gain.

"He's a great runner and a great thrower," Connealy said. "He does a lot of things for them and he does a lot of things well. I think they have a lot of good players, but stopping him is a very big step."

Connealy, who had seven tackles in the loss, said the Huskers have their work cut out for them with Ward.

"He's a good passer and a good scrambler," he said. "It is hard to contain him, but we have to keep him in the pocket and away from scrambling where he makes things happen. We need to keep pressure on him."

Anderson, who accounted for five tackles in last year's Orange Bowl, said Ward's speed makes him dangerous.

"He is a great quarterback and a great athlete," Anderson said. "He has a lot of speed and he's what makes their team go. He's probably going to win the Heisman, so that tells you

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