



Jon Waller/DN

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit calls middle blocker Allison Weston the key for the Huskers. Pettit said Weston needed to step up for the Huskers to continue their nine-match win streak.

NU to face experienced team

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

The last time the Nebraska volleyball team lost a match at the NU Coliseum was Sept. 4, 1992, to New Mexico in five games.

This weekend, the Lobos, 7-1 and ranked 17th by Volleyball Monthly, return to Lincoln to play the 9-0 Cornhuskers.

The Huskers will play host to Pittsburgh tonight at 7:30 and will take on New Mexico at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit, whose team is ranked No. 2 by Volleyball Monthly and No. 3 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, said New Mexico presented the Huskers with a challenge — one they have yet to see this year.

The Lobos' sole loss came at the hands of No. 1 Stanford on Sept. 10. "This is the most experienced team (New Mexico) has ever had," Pettit said, "maybe the best team they have ever had. I am excited because in one way or another, after Saturday night, we are going to know how good we are."

Up to this point the Huskers have been extremely good — maybe even too good for their competition, Pettit said.

"I was stunned by how easily we won some matches last weekend," he

said.

Nebraska swept a field of Maryland, Texas Tech and Louisiana State last weekend at the Tiger Classic in Baton Rouge, La., winning all three matches in the minimum of nine games.

"I don't quite know what to think of it," he said. "It seems like some teams just aren't competing against us. LSU has a great program, and we found ourselves in a situation where they just would not compete. Either that or we ought to be playing Cuba and China."

Through nine matches, Nebraska has lost only one game — that came against Arizona State. On the surface, the results look nice, but Pettit said he was concerned about two areas of the Huskers' play.

"There are a couple of things that Nebraska volleyball always does well," he said. "We always block well, and we have a strong middle attack. So far, we haven't done either one of them well, and we're dominating with other things."

"We are dominating with defense, ball-handling and outside hitters."

Following Nebraska's win over Maryland last Saturday, Pettit said he was so upset with the Huskers' play in the middle that he held an unexpected 45-minute practice session.

The middle blockers, especially

sophomore Jen McFadden, responded against LSU later that night.

McFadden, who was named Big Eight Player of the Week for her play in Baton Rouge, collected seven kills in Saturday night's win over the Tigers.

"McFadden went out and just dominated the LSU match," Pettit said. "It was good to see, because we have to have her performing at that level if we want to compete with the top teams."

Pettit said he would like to see the strong middle blocking from the LSU match carry over into the Arby's Classic.

"We are a very balanced team right now," he said, "and that concerns me. That sounds strange, but I don't think great teams are balanced. I think when you are in great matches, somebody, particularly somebody like Allison Weston, has to start averaging five, six kills a game."

If that can happen, Pettit said, Nebraska will be ready to take on the nation's top teams.

"I think we are legitimately one of the top three to five teams in the country," he said. "Whether we can win the national championship depends on whether we can get better. And to get better, somebody's got to push us. This weekend, somebody is going to push us."

Weekend competitors hope to challenge NU

By Clay Short
Staff Reporter

New Mexico is ranked No. 17 in the country.

But the Lobos may not be able to test Nebraska in this weekend's Arby's Classic.

The Nebraska volleyball team has consistently been one of the top teams in the nation, and once again it is favored to win its fourth tournament title of the season.

The Cornhuskers will play host to the annual Arby's Classic tourney. New Mexico and Pittsburgh both hope to achieve what has so far been unachievable — a win against the 9-0 Huskers.

New Mexico coach Laurel Brassey-Iverson brings her players to Lincoln, knowing what kind of competition awaits them in the Huskers.

"They are good, very good," Brassey-Iverson said. "We've seen some video, and they do a lot of interesting things."

Brassey-Iverson said she was concerned primarily with the Huskers' height in the middle with All-American Allison Weston and Jen McFadden.

"They run their middle a lot, and that is kind of interesting. We really have to prepare for that," she said. "They also have No. 3 (Kelly Aspegren), who is an incredible hitter."

Brassey-Iverson's team will face



Schonewise

"From what I've seen, they (the Huskers) are just running over people."

KAREN SCHONEWISE

Kansas coach

the Huskers in a 7:30 match Saturday night at the NU Coliseum.

Former Nebraska player Karen Schonewise now coaches Kansas, taking over for Frankie Albitz, who coached the Jayhawks for eight years. Even though the Jayhawks won't play the Huskers this weekend, Schonewise knows what to expect from Nebraska coach Terry Pettit.

"They are good, once again. They are playing exceptionally well for this early in the season," Schonewise said. "From what I've seen, they are just running over people."

And that's what worries New Mexico, Brassey-Iverson said.

"They are really balanced, offensively and defensively," she said. "It's impressive how balanced they are."

The 7-1 Lobos are having one of their best seasons, Brassey-Iverson said, so they could be a challenge for the Huskers on Saturday.

New Mexico has only one loss on the season, and that came to No. 1 Stanford.

"I think that New Mexico might put up a fight for Nebraska," Schonewise said, "but that's doubtful considering the way Nebraska has played."

NU tennis players hope to raise racket this year

By Clay Short
Staff Reporter

After last season's fourth-place finish in the Big Eight Conference, Nebraska women's tennis coach Scott Jacobson has justification for higher aspirations this year.

The Cornhuskers return all of their players from last year's team, and Jacobson is optimistic about this year's campaign.

Nebraska will open play this weekend at the Husker Invitational.

The tournament will be Friday and Saturday at the Cather-Pound tennis courts, located at 17th and Vine streets. Eight teams are scheduled to participate, including Iowa State, Creighton, Iowa, Wichita State, Drake, Baylor and Texas Tech.

The Huskers will be highlighted by returning sophomores Annie Yang, April Yarmus and Cathy Liptak. All three had at least 15 wins last season.

Jacobson said last year's experience would definitely help going into the fall season.

"Plus all of the girls have had a year of experience now, and without a doubt, that will greatly improve

their performance," he said.

The Huskers' No. 1 singles player, Yang, also improved her play in the off-season.

"Annie played in eight or nine tournaments this summer," Jacobson said. "I think this will give her a chance for national recognition, as long as she continues to make big strides."

Jacobson said the entire team trained hard in the off-season, and is ready to make a run for the Big Eight title.

"Also the girls voluntarily voted in a mandatory strength and conditioning program," he said. "That kind of shows the team's commitment."

"I think they really want to improve over last season's performance and take us up to the next level of competition."

Jacobson also has something on his team this year that he hasn't had since he's been at Nebraska — depth.

"We have a lot more competition this year. Usually there are seven girls for six spots," he said. "This year there is a possibility of 11 girls for six spots."

"Everybody has to work to earn a spot on this team."

Lineman Wiegert a semi-finalist for Lombardi

From Staff Reports

Nebraska offensive lineman Zach Wiegert is one of 12 semi-finalists for the 1994 Rotary Lombardi Award.

Wiegert would be the fourth Cornhusker to win the award, which is given annually to college football's best lineman.

Nebraska's Rich Glover won the award in 1972, Dave Rimginton in 1982 and Dean Steinkuhler in 1983.

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Osborne

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nesota beat them by about three or four touchdowns. In that game, it seemed like what Minnesota got was on a few big plays.

And when Pacific walks into a capacity-filled Memorial Stadium Saturday, Osborne said he didn't expect the Tigers to be in awe of a highly-ranked team, especially after a near upset of Arizona last year.

"They have some good athletes, and they have experience playing so-called major college teams," he said. "They played Washington a couple years ago. Last year they played Arizona to 16-13 at Arizona, and last year Arizona had a very strong football team."

But as much as Osborne tries, it may be hard to convince people Pacific is a worthy opponent.

"Obviously, it's a situation where if we play well, we should win," Osborne said. "I'm sure we'll be heavily favored, but there are always those times when your opponent plays great and you don't play well. Then you have a lot of explaining to do, and we're hoping to avoid that."

PICKS HICKS

Daily Nebraskan staffers (8-2 last week, 17-3 season) pick the winners of the ten major college football games this weekend, with winners in bold:

Rice	at Iowa State
Minnesota	at Kansas State
Tulsa	at Oklahoma State
Colorado	at Michigan
UAB	at Kansas
North Carolina	at Florida State
Washington	at Miami
Arizona	at Stanford
Indiana	at Wisconsin

Pick the score- **Pacific 10 at Nebraska 64**

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