

NU hopes to have healthy team for match with Duke Huskers must have strong defense to get past Blue Devils, coach says

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team got a chance to see what its reserves had to offer on Wednesday night in Columbia, Mo.

The Huskers not only were without the services of starting middle blocker Jen McFadden (back spasms), starting outside hitter Billie Winsett (strep throat) and specialist Stephanie Clerc (back spasms). Coach Terry Pettit also stayed behind because of a stomach ailment.

Nebraska, 12-0, hopes to have everyone back when it plays host to 8-1 Duke at 7:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday night at the University of Nebraska Coliseum.

Assistant coach Cathy Noth, 1-0 as a head coach after Wednesday's 15-1, 15-4, 15-9 sweep of the Tigers, said Winsett would return, but McFadden's status was yet to be determined.

"McFadden is still wait and see," Noth said. "We'll see how she is feeling and decide before the match."

Duke travels to Lincoln after its first loss of the season, a five-game defeat at the hands of North Carolina on Tuesday night in Durham, N.C. The defending Atlantic Coast Conference champions return four starters from a team that finished 1993 with a 30-3 record and lost to Texas in the NCAA tournament.

"They are a top 20 team," Noth said of Duke, ranked 18th in the Jatest Volleyball Monthly poll. "When we are playing a top 20 team, we need to stop their offense."

"But it is still important for us to organize

our offense and focus on our level of play. We want to continue to work on getting better each week."

The Blue Devils, coached by Jon Wilson, have faced Nebraska only once in school history, beating the Huskers in 1976.

"Their coach is a very disciplined and respectable coach," Noth said. "I am sure their team is a reflection of him."

Less than one week after senior Peggy Meyer filled in for McFadden and set a career high with 17 kills against New Mexico, Kate Crnich set a record of her own filling in for Winsett.

Crnich recorded a personal-best eight kills against the Tigers. Noth said the 5-foot-11 outside hitter from River Forest, Ill., gave the Huskers a needed lift.

"Kate Crnich came in and did a good job," she said. "When we have girls go down with injuries, the rest of the team has to come in and step it up a notch."

Noth said she enjoyed her one-game stint as coach, even though she knew it was short-lived.

"That was a great opportunity," she said, "and it's something that is not going to come around real often."

NOTE:

The first 100 students to enter the Coliseum for Friday night's match will receive a free T-shirt. Any student who wears the shirt back for Saturday's match will be given a coupon for a free hot dog and pop.

By Clay Short
Staff Reporter

The Duke volleyball team lost its first match of the season Tuesday night to North Carolina.

And even though the Blue Devils lost, Duke coach Jon Wilson said his team was up to the task of playing No. 2 Nebraska.

"Coming off of a loss has traditionally been successful with this team," Blue Devil coach Jon Wilson said. "For the last four or five years, they have responded to a loss by coming back strong, and that is what we are looking for this weekend."

Wilson knows what caliber of team will face Duke at the NU Coliseum tonight and Saturday night.

"Nebraska has nothing to exploit," Wilson said. "They really don't have a weak spot where you can consistently get points."

"They are a very solid team physically, and I expect a long, hard battle."

This is the maiden voyage for the Blue Devils to the NU Coliseum, where the Cornhuskers haven't lost in 31 matches.

"We expect large, hostile crowds. But there are two ways to look at a hostile crowd. It can intimidate or it can motivate," Wilson said.

"We look for it to motivate us."

Duke is 8-1 on the season and ranked No. 18 in the Volleyball Monthly poll.

"We have a good team, and we are going to be competitive," Wilson said. "They can humble a lot of good teams this year."

Wilson said he was hoping his team could

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JON WILSON

Duke volleyball coach

humble undefeated Nebraska. He said the pressure would be on the Huskers to maintain their perfect record of 12-0.

Duke is no stranger to a perfect record either. Wilson also can relate to the undefeated season that the Huskers are having. His team was undefeated until Tuesday night's loss to North Carolina.

"Definitely there is a lot of pressure to stay perfect. Coaches always have people pressing them to stay undefeated, but sooner or later somebody is going to knock you off," he said.

"We would rather bounce back from our first loss against a team that isn't ranked No. 2 in the nation, but we don't have a choice," Wilson said. "It could be easier."

Duke has won the only contest between the two schools, and that was almost 20 years ago in 1976, when the Devils beat the Huskers in two games.

NEBRASKA Softball

NEBRASKA ALUMNI GAME

SUNDAY
Oct. 2
1 p.m.

NU Softball Complex
14th & W

Free admission



Osborne

Continued from Page 9

not try to duplicate.

"It was not the style of play that we play," Osborne said, "which is running the ball and controlling the ball. I think Utah had some good fortune. I don't think you can take that score as totally indicative of the strength of the two teams."

Brook Berringer, making his first start at quarterback for Nebraska, will not be the only first-time quarterback on the field Saturday. In fact, Berringer will be the most experienced quarterback in action on Saturday.

Redshirt freshman Jeremy Dombek, who completed eight of 23 passes for 102 yards against Utah, will start for the first time as a Cowboy.

Leading the Wyoming charge will be running back Ryan Christopherson, who ranks fifth in the nation in rushing, averaging 152

yards per game.

The 6-foot, 241-pound senior trails Nebraska sophomore I-back Lawrence Phillips by nine yards on the season, although he has carried the ball 37 more times. Phillips, who is the nation's third-leading rusher, said he didn't look at the game as a matchup of the two backs.

Wyoming safety Lee Vaughn said the Cowboys knew that the Nebraska offense still was potent, even without Frazier.

"As far as the defensive backs are concerned," Vaughn said, "we know we will probably have to worry about the pass a little more. I think the run is still our main concern, but I don't think we'll have to concentrate on the run as we would if Frazier was in there."

Wyoming may have extra incentive to play well, Osborne said. Seven Wyoming players, including five starters, hail from Nebraska.

"There's always a certain amount of motivation there from the Nebraska players," Osborne said.

PICKS HICKS

Daily Nebraskan staffers (9-1 last week, 26-4 season) pick the winners of the ten major college football games this weekend, with winners in bold:

Iowa State	at Oklahoma
North Texas	at Oklahoma State
Colorado	at Texas
West Virginia	at Missouri
Stanford	at Notre Dame
Georgia	at Alabama
UCLA	at Washington
Florida	at Mississippi
Virginia Tech	at Syracuse

Pick the score- Wyoming 14 at Nebraska 47

DN graphic

NEBRASKA Volleyball

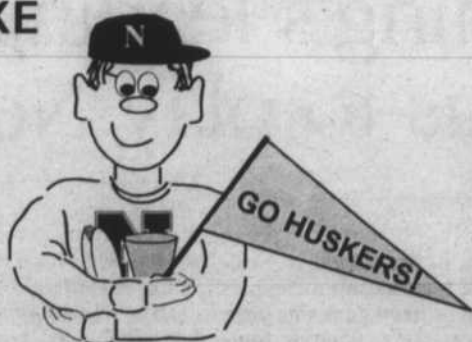
NU vs. DUKE

FRIDAY
Sept. 30
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
Oct. 1
7:30 p.m.

Nebraska Coliseum

ADMISSION
\$6 - Reserved seating
\$4 - Adults general admission
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