

# SPORTS

Monday, October 31, 1994

Page 8

## Husker volleyball beats CU for 21st win

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Reporter

Colorado became the Nebraska volleyball team's latest victim on Saturday night as the Cornhuskers tied a school record with their 21st consecutive victory.

Playing before an NU Coliseum-record crowd of 4,607, the Huskers swept the defending Big Eight champion Buffs 15-3, 15-12, 15-5.

Second-ranked Nebraska, 21-0, improved to 7-0 in the Big Eight, while No. 14 Colorado fell to 15-5 and 6-1.

It was last season's two losses to the Buffs — ending the Huskers' 17-year reign as Big Eight champions — that provided much of the motivation for Saturday night, Husker outside hitter Kelly Aspegren said.

"I have been waiting for this match for so long," said Aspegren, who contributed 15 kills and led the team with a .542 hitting percentage. "In the back of our minds, we had been thinking about Colorado a little."

The Huskers opened play Saturday night looking as if they had been thinking about Colorado more than a little. The Buffs did not score their first point until 26 serves into the match.

By that time, Nebraska already had built a 5-0 lead, which was quickly extended to 8-1 before Colorado scored again. The Buffaloes got no closer, and Nebraska rolled to a victory in the first game, finishing Colorado off on a kill by outside hitter Billie Winsett.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said the absence of Jen McFadden, whose season ended Tuesday night when she tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee, was not noticeable on Saturday.

Peggy Meyer, who started in place of McFadden, did not hit on all cylinders, Pettit said.

"Peggy was a little tight. But that's too be expected," he said. "The other people have been in the situation before, and I feel confident she will be much more a part of our offense in the next few matches."

"But I think our team is pretty comfortable

*"I don't know if we could play (No. 1) Stanford the way we played tonight. We played great ball, but we still have some things we need to work on."*

**KELLY ASPEGREN**

Husker outside hitter

with Peggy."

Colorado opened the second game strongly, establishing a 6-2 lead, before Nebraska took advantage of several Buffalo errors to close the lead to 8-7. Colorado stretched its lead to 11-7, but a double block by Aspegren and middle blocker Allison Weston ignited the Huskers. The Huskers went on an 8-1 run, and they won the game when Colorado swing-hitter Karrie Downey's hit went long.

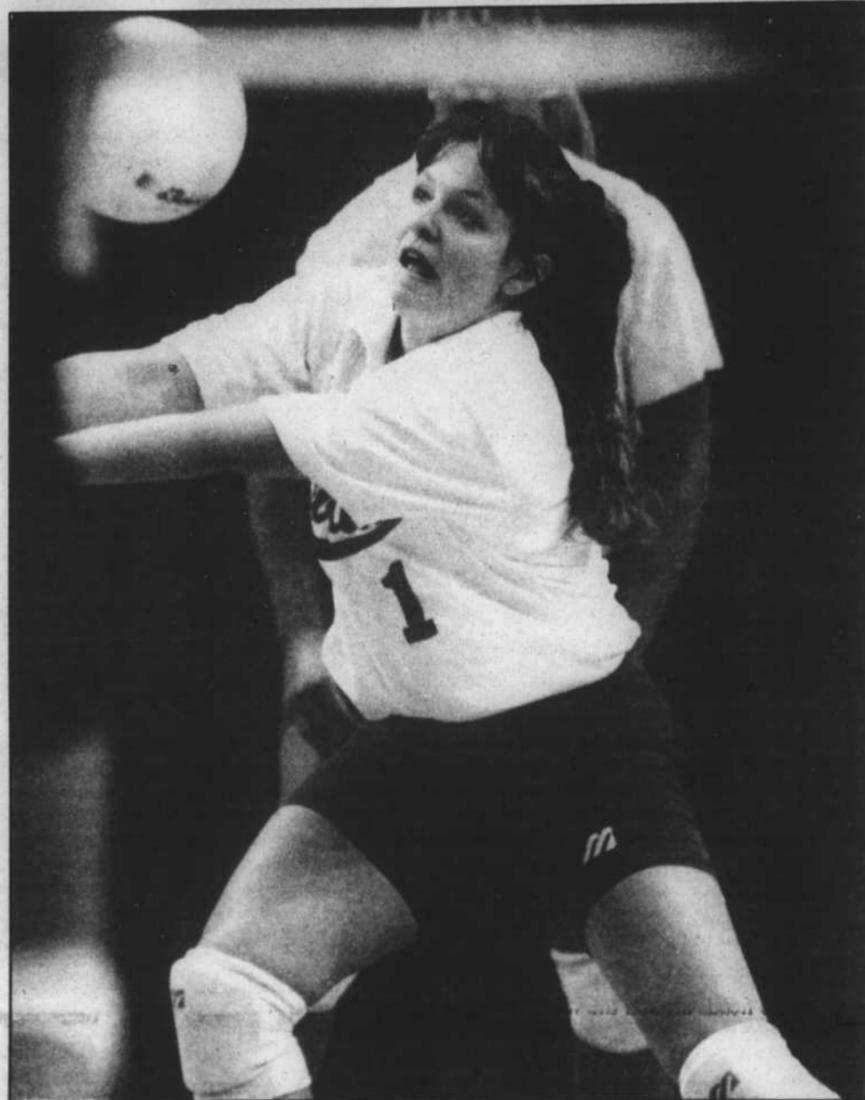
Pettit said the record crowd helped the Huskers pull out the second-game victory.

"They were wonderful," Pettit said. "Colorado made a run in the second game where they got in a rhythm ... I didn't think we were serving as aggressively as we had been. They are just a very good team, and they can make a run at any time."

With Nebraska leading 2-1 in the third game, the two teams traded side outs until Nebraska pulled away and scored nine straight points to take an 11-1 lead. The Huskers cruised the rest of the way, ending the match on a Meyer kill off the hands of two Colorado players.

"I don't know if we could play (No. 1) Stanford the way we played tonight," Aspegren said. "We played great ball, but we still have some things we need to work on."

The Huskers will try to set a new record with 22 straight wins on Wednesday when they play host to Kansas State at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.



Shaun Sartin/DN

Nebraska defensive specialist Stephanie Clerc digs a ball during the Huskers' three-game sweep of Colorado on Saturday night. Clerc had a team-high 13 digs.

## CU trips NU in cross country; Huskers take 2nd place in meet

From Staff Reports

Colorado got the best of Nebraska in one sport on Saturday: cross country.

The Nebraska women's cross country team finished second behind Colorado in the Big Eight conference meet at Manhattan, Kan. The third-ranked Buffaloes finished with six runners in the top 10 and edged the Cornhuskers 29-65.

Senior Julie Mazzitelli led the Huskers with a fourth-place finish and a time of 17:36. Fresh-

man Nora Shepherd finished 11th with a time of 18:13.

Nebraska coach Jay Dirksen was pleased with his team's second-place finish.

"We went in thinking it would be a dog-fight for second with Kansas," Dirksen said. "We ran very well today."

The Nebraska men's team finished with a fifth-place finish. Iowa State won the men's division.

Kevin Miiller led the Huskers with a 12th-place finish and a time of 24:57.

four receptions.

"Historically, Nebraska uses the tight end spot," McCartney said. "The one kid they moved to tight end this year (Alford), we knew when he was in the game they had a high tendency to do those things. We anticipated it, but we just didn't stop them."

From that point on, it was on the shoulders of the defense to preserve the win.

The Blackshirts stopped Colorado on two straight fourth-down plays on the Nebraska 35- and 21-yard lines.

Colorado finally got on the scoreboard with 1:06 remaining in the third quarter on Salaam's 6-yard touchdown run.

But Nebraska's defense didn't let up in the fourth quarter. The Huskers held the Buffaloes scoreless and stopped them on two more fourth-down attempts.

The victory marked the Huskers' fourth win over ranked teams.

Osborne said he was more confident on Saturday than he was on Oct. 15 in Manhattan, Kan., against Kansas State.

"I really felt like more of an underdog when we went down to K-State because of our situation at quarterback than I did (Saturday)," he said. "I felt that if we played well (Saturday), we would win."

## CU coach praises Huskers

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Reporter

After seeing his supposedly unstoppable offense crumble at the feet of the Cornhusker defense on Saturday, Colorado football coach Bill McCartney said the Nebraska football team deserved to be ranked No. 1 in the nation.

"Nebraska is the best team we have played to this date," he said, "and I don't see any reason why they shouldn't be No. 1. They started the season up there."

Colorado's offense, behind the firepower of quarterback Kordell Stewart and tailback Rashaan Salaam, was averaging 40.3 points and 503 yards per game before Saturday.

In Nebraska's 24-7 win, the Buffs managed only 314 yards. More revealing, Colorado penetrated the Nebraska 20-yard line only once, was forced to punt six times and was 0-15 on third- and fourth-down attempts.

"When we had the ball," McCartney said, "I didn't feel like we were ever hitting on all cylinders. I never felt like we were in a rhythm. I never felt like we got in sync, and I think you have to credit Nebraska for that."

Stewart, who drank a can of Big Red Soda while speaking to reporters after the game, said the Nebraska defense was well-prepared for the Buffaloes, who fell to 7-1.

"A couple of times," Stewart said, "I remember it was like they knew where we were going. They had the defense set up exactly where we were going to. It seemed

like they just overloaded to the side I ducked under to. They were just there."

In his three losses to the Huskers, Stewart has completed 24 of 64 passes, with no touchdown passes and three interceptions.

"Getting a chance to beat Nebraska is great," he said. "But it's not just about trying to beat Nebraska because it's a rivalry or whatever. I knew for us to beat this team today we had to play well, and we didn't."

McCartney said he was concerned about the Buffs' lack of success converting on third and fourth downs. On four fourth-down tries, Stewart was hit for a loss three times and threw one incomplete pass.

"The key plays that allow you to possess the ball and start to get your whole offense going we didn't convert," McCartney said. "Throughout the game, I thought there were several things we could do, and we didn't get them done."

Colorado was burned nine times by passes to Nebraska's tight ends. Eric Alford caught five passes for 78 yards and a touchdown pass from quarterback Brook Berringer. And Mark Gilman hauled in four passes for 46 yards.

"Historically, Nebraska uses the tight end a lot," McCartney said. "The one kid they moved to tight end this year, No. 88 (Alford). We knew when he was in the game, they had a high tendency to do those things, and we anticipated it, but we just didn't stop them."

Although the Orange Bowl and the national title probably are out of the picture, McCartney said the Buffaloes would not let the rest of the year go to waste.

"Our team is one of the closest teams I've ever been around," he said. "And right now we are going to have to rally around that. Our expectations were so high and our commitment was so deep that now it is going to be a real test of our unity and our grit."

## Colorado

Continued from Page 6

4:34 remaining in the first half, and Berringer went to work.

The junior from Goodland, Kan., completed four passes for 58 yards on the drive, and Clinton Childs scored on a 2-yard run with 36 seconds left in the half.

Berringer completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards and one touchdown as Nebraska improved to 9-0 overall and 4-0 in the Big Eight.

Nebraska's 17-0 lead at intermission marked the first time Colorado was held scoreless in the first half in 28 games.

Husker defensive tackle Christian Peter said he didn't expect Nebraska's defense to be so dominant.

"They have a great offense," Peter said. "They've been rolling over people all year. We just came out and gave 100 percent effort on every play."

The Huskers picked up where they left off at halftime when their first possession of the second half ended in a 30-yard touchdown pass from Berringer to tight end Eric Alford.

Alford caught five passes for 78 yards, while another Husker tight end, Mark Gilman, had