

# SPORTS

Thursday, February 9, 1995

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## New recruits will add depth to Husker volleyball team

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit may have finally gotten the one thing that could help his volleyball team win a national championship: depth.

On Wednesday, Lisa Avery, Jaime Krondak, Fiona Nepo and Renee Saunders signed letters of intent to play volleyball for the Cornhuskers this fall.

Pettit said he was pleased with the players Nebraska signed.

"I'd be very surprised if a couple of these players don't become significant players," Pettit said. "From these four, they all have the ability to be exceptional players."

Two of the players are from Nebraska.

Krondak, a 6-foot-1-inch middle blocker from Lincoln East, is the fifth Spartan to receive a volleyball scholarship to Nebraska. Nikki Stricker, who graduated in 1993, was the last

player from Lincoln East.

Pettit said the first-team Mizuno All-American would help out as an outside hitter from the left side.

"She has been at our camps ever since she was in the sixth grade," Pettit said. "She is someone that we are fortunate to recruit."

Saunders, a 5-foot-11-inch outside hitter from Omaha Marian, also will play basketball at Nebraska.

Pettit said Saunders would be on a volleyball scholarship this fall and then next year change over and receive a basketball scholarship.

"She is another player capable of playing two or three positions," Pettit said.

Saunders, an honorable mention Mizuno high school All-American, chose Nebraska over Clemson, Illinois and Penn State.

The Huskers also received a commitment from Avery, a Shawnee Mission native and the 1994 Kansas volleyball player of the year.

### Nebraska Volleyball Signees

<b>Lisa Avery</b>	6-1
Middle blocker, Shawnee Mission, KS	
■ 1994 USVBA All-American	
<b>Jaime Krondak</b>	6-0
Outside hitter, Lincoln	
■ First-team Mizuno High School All-American	
<b>Fiona Nepo</b>	5-9
Setter/Hitter, Honolulu	
■ Member of the U.S. Junior National team	
<b>Renee Saunders</b>	5-11
Outside hitter, Omaha	
■ Intends to play both volleyball and basketball at NU	

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## Boone scores high, NU stampedes Buffs

From Staff Reports

Nebraska needed someone to step up Wednesday night against Colorado.

And Jaron Boone was just that someone.

Boone scored 10 points during a 25-3 second-half run that assured Nebraska a 100-86 Big Eight Conference victory over Colorado Wednesday night before a crowd of 4,199 at the Coors Event Center in Boulder.

The Cornhuskers improved to 16-6 overall and 3-4 in the Big Eight. Colorado, last in the Big Eight, fell to 10-9 overall and 1-7 in the conference.

The win was the Huskers' second straight after a three-game losing streak.

Boone scored a career-high 31 points to lead all scorers. The 6-

foot-6-inch guard's previous career high was 24 points.

"It was a high-level all-star performance we need," Coach Danny Nee said in his post-game radio show. "Jaron played at a marquee high level."

Boone made 12 of 16 field goals and was 5 of 6 from 3-point range. For the game Nebraska made 8 of 13 3-pointers.

But Nee was also happy with his bench play.

Nebraska was trailing 71-68 with 10:35 left when a field goal by Chris Sallee closed the gap to one point and started a 17-0 run that started the 25-3 spree.

Tom Wald's subsequent three-point play gave Nebraska a 73-71 lead and the Cornhuskers held on for the win. Wald had nine points

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## Taylor strives for victory with routines

By Trevor Parks  
Staff Reporter

Joy Taylor has gone from small-town life to big-time gymnastics in a matter of three years.

Taylor, who grew up in New Palestine, Ind., said working hard in the gym got her from a town of 671 to the state of Nebraska.

Now, Taylor is showing that she is capable of competing at this level.

This season Taylor said she has had some things to work on.

"I haven't been as consistent as I would have liked to," Taylor said. "I've improved some things from last year."

Team injuries this year have put more pressure on Taylor.

Senior Martha Jenkins is out until March with a hyper-extended elbow, and freshman Laurie McLaughlin is out for the year with a knee injury.

Taylor said the injuries hadn't helped.

"We'd like to have everybody healthy," Taylor said. "The team has learned to deal with that because there have been a lot of them this year."

So in the absences of the two gymnasts, Taylor has had to step things up.

Taylor had a personal-best 9.775 at Missouri on the balance beam.

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Jay Calderon/DN

Nebraska gymnast Joy Taylor, a junior, is trying to make up for the losses of Martha Jenkins and Laurie McLaughlin to injuries.

## Nebraska basketball better off braving top ten teams

The Nebraska basketball team is once again unveiling its annual pattern.

The pattern is as easy to predict as the Super Bowl:

1. A walk through the non-competitive, non-conference schedule.

2. A fast, painful fall-flat-on-their-faces as the Cornhuskers begin their conference schedule.

3. Bouncing back with a Big Eight winning streak and polishing off the regular season with a respectable conference record.

4. The final step, of course, is an NCAA Tournament loss.

The Huskers have made the NCAA Tournament in their last four seasons, all ending with step No. 4.

With the exception of the 26-8 Huskers of 1990-91, the past three seasons have seen all four steps

completed.

In 1991-92, Nebraska went 12-3 in its non-conference schedule, which featured only one rated team and a bundle of schools like Eastern Wisconsin, Southern Utah and Eastern Illinois.

Then, the Huskers started off their Big Eight season by losing three of their first four and five of their first eight.

Nebraska finished the Big Eight 7-7 by winning four of its final six regular season conference games.

The following year, the Huskers again played only one rated team in their non-conference schedule and posted a 12-5 mark against the likes of Texas-Arlington, Fordham and Kent.

Nebraska started its conference season by dropping the first three games and stumbling to a 2-4 start in the Big Eight.



Derek Samson

Nebraska then stormed its way to an 8-6 conference finish by winning six of its last eight.

Last year, Nebraska dominated such powerhouses as Portland (not the Trailblazers), Florida A&M and Northern Iowa on its way to a 13-3 non-conference record. Its non-conference schedule featured no ranked opponents.

Once in Big Eight play, the Huskers fell to 1-3, then 3-5 before

winning six of its final seven, including the three victories in the Big Eight Tournament.

Once again this season, Nebraska has filled its schedule with every direction possible: Western Illinois, Northeastern Illinois, Northeast Louisiana and Northern Iowa.

It has also loaded its non-conference schedule this year with schools from states with not-so-rich basketball traditions: Idaho State, Delaware State and Creighton.

The Huskers still managed to beat their only ranked non-conference opponent, Michigan State, and came away with a 13-2 non-conference record.

Then came the Big Eight, and with it came a 1-4 start in conference games.

In Danny Nee's eight previous years at Nebraska, his teams have a

21-35 record in their first seven Big Eight games every year and a 28-28 record over the final seven.

After Nebraska dropped its third straight eight days ago, an 82-69 loss at home against Oklahoma State, Nee said the Huskers weren't at the Big Eight's level yet.

"We just don't think we're playing at the level that you have to play at to win in the Big Eight," Nee said after his team fell to 1-4 in the Big Eight.

But while Nebraska was playing schools like College of Charleston, Morehead State and Appalachian State, most of its Big Eight foes were on that higher level.

Kansas' non-conference schedule features Massachusetts, Connecticut, Indiana and Florida.

Oklahoma played both Georgia

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