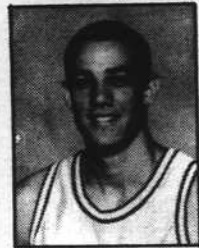


Sallee petitions for extended eligibility

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

Chris Sallee, the backup center on the Nebraska basketball team, may not be back next year for a full season.

The 6-foot-10, 230-pound junior from Scottsdale, Ariz., has filed an appeal with the NCAA requesting a one-semester eligibility extension.



Sallee

Under Bylaw 30.6.1 of the NCAA rule book, athletes are allotted a maximum of five years to complete four years of college eligibility. Sallee, who has played three years of college basketball, has been enrolled in college for 4 1/2 years. If his request for an extra semester is not granted, Sallee will not be allowed to participate in Nebraska's second-semester games during the 1995-96 season.

Sallee first enrolled in college in the spring of 1991 at Scottsdale Community College. He

remained at the junior college during the fall of 1991, but did not play basketball. Prior to the spring semester of 1992, Sallee transferred to South Mountain (Ariz.) Community College, where he played basketball for two seasons before enrolling at Nebraska in August 1994.

Sallee started four games and averaged 6 points, 4.8 rebounds and 16 minutes per game this season for the 18-14 Cornhuskers, who lost to Penn State last week in the second round of the National Invitation Tournament. His 56-percent shooting from the field was the best on the team.

Nebraska senior associate athletic director Al Papik said the athletic department would submit a request to the NCAA this week. The 30-page report, Papik said, details Sallee's medical history, as well as his academic records.

In addition, the appeal contains statements from three doctors and a personal message from Sallee.

Once the NCAA receives the report, Papik said, it will be sent to an eligibility committee

See SALLEE on 8

Volleyball magazine names NU freshman class No. 1

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Reporter

The four freshmen slated to join the Nebraska volleyball team in the fall have been rated as the No. 1 recruiting class in the nation by Volleyball Magazine.

In its May 1995 issue, the magazine ranked the Cornhusker class first, followed by UCLA, Long Beach State, Big Eight rival Colorado and Georgia Tech.

Nebraska's recruits, who signed letters of intent on Feb. 8, are: Lisa Avery, a 6-foot-1-inch middle blocker from Shawnee Mission, Kan.; Jaime Krondak, a 6-foot outside hitter from Lincoln; Fiona Nepo, a 5-foot-9-inch setter from Honolulu; and Renee Saunders, a 5-foot-11-inch outside hitter from Omaha.

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said it was nice to be named No. 1, but he wasn't overly excited about ratings at this point of the incoming freshmen's careers.

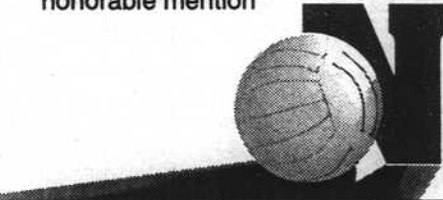
"We had the second-rated class once," Pettit said. "We've usually been in the top 10. I don't know of a time when we've had the top spot."

Analysis of recruits, Pettit said, is not always accurate. He pointed out that seniors-to-be Allison Weston, Billie Winsett and Christy Johnson were not highly touted coming out of high school.

One Step Above the Rest

The Nebraska volleyball team's recruiting class was ranked the top class in the country by Volleyball Magazine.

- Jaime Krondak - Mizuno first-team All-American
- Lisa Avery - Mizuno second-team All-American
- Fiona Nepo - Mizuno third-team All-American
- Renee Saunders - Mizuno honorable mention



"Nobody even rated them or knew about them," he said.

Weston and Johnson were both first-team All-Americans last year, and Winsett earned All-Big Eight honors.

Each of the four future Huskers signed in

See RECRUITS on 8

ON THE RIGHT TRACK



Jeff Haller/DN

Colleen McKinney is bundled up against the cold Tuesday as she practices hurdles at Ed Weir track. The outdoor track season starts Saturday.

Humble Erstad may receive baseball's triple crown

It is impossible to live up to the label of having unlimited potential.

It is impossible to produce the numbers expected of the best player in college baseball.

Darin Erstad is doing both, and he's not even trying.

"I can't try to put up numbers because they will never be good enough for everyone," Erstad said. "The numbers will come as long as I focus on hitting the ball hard."

The past nine games, the Cornhusker junior left fielder from Jamestown, N.D., has a .634 batting average with 26 hits in 41 at-bats, three home runs, five doubles, a triple and 22 RBI.

But Erstad doesn't even think he's accomplished the impossible.

"I am not doing anything different than I was earlier in the season," Erstad said. "I am just hitting the ball hard, and now they're dropping in for hits."

In fact, Erstad somehow manages to find fault in his performance the past nine games.

"I have been having some good at-bats. I am being more patient

and taking the pitchers into some deeper counts, but I am still swinging at bad pitches," Erstad said. "I am still getting myself out. Sometimes I get mad because I know I can play better."

Erstad's quest for perfection helped him earn first-team all-state honors in North Dakota eight times in four different sports.

His desire earned him the MVP award in the Cape Cod Summer League, the nation's premier amateur league.

It helped him become one of the nation's best punters as part of Nebraska's national championship football team.

And it is this same obsession that has made him the projected No. 1 pick in this summer's draft.

But he does not allow his preoccupation with perfection to be a reason for putting up big numbers.

"Numbers don't really mean anything to me," Erstad said. "I don't want to think I have to hit this many homers or drive in this many runs or hit .400 or something.



Jeff Griesch

The numbers will take care of themselves."

Through 21 games, Erstad's philosophy has worked to perfection.

Erstad has 45 hits in 91 at-bats, a .495 average. He also has eight homers, three triples, eight doubles, 36 RBI and 28 runs scored.

If he continues to assault opposing pitchers, he will also attack the Nebraska record book.

Projected over a 57-game regular season, Erstad would win Nebraska's all-time triple crown for highest batting average, most home runs and most RBI in a single season.

Erstad is on pace to hit .495 with 22 homers and 98 RBI, crushing Marc Sagmoen's .454 average in 1993, Bobby Benjamin's record of 21 home runs in 1988 and Mike Duncan's mark of 90 RBI in 1985.

He would crush Paul Meyers' 1985 record of 100 hits in a season by 22 and have a chance at capturing the record of 26 doubles and the single-season mark for triples with nine.

But even more impressive than these numbers, any rotisserie fan will tell you that total bases are the most important statistic in baseball.

At his current pace, Erstad would have 225 total bases on the season. That number would crush Meyers' 1985 record of 178.

These numbers become even more amazing because Erstad would accomplish them in just 57 games. Meyers and Duncan set their records during a 69-game season, and it took Benjamin 71 games to hit 21 homers.

Taking these projections a step further, if Erstad led the Huskers to the College World Series, played in 75 games like Pete Incaviglia did in 1985 and continued his total base production, Erstad would finish with 296 total bases, breaking Incaviglia's NCAA record of 285.

But Erstad is not driven by records. He just wants to win.

"We've been so close to being an NCAA team the past two years, but we just didn't get the job done when we needed to," Erstad said. "Right now I think we're on the bubble somewhere, but I feel like the confidence of this team is higher than it has been the past two years. We have a chance, and that's all we can ask for right now."

If Erstad gets a chance to extend his season, all Nebraska's offensive records could fall.

Griesch is a senior news-editorial major and a Daily Nebraskan senior reporter and columnist.