

New assistant coach fits in UNL program

By Tony West
Staff Reporter

When the Nebraska volleyball team steps into competition in 1995, it will have a different look.

It will not be because of a great deal of different players on the bench, but a different assistant coach.

26-year-old Todd Raasch will join Cathy Noth, head assistant coach, on Coach Terry Pettit's staff for the 1995 season.

Raasch, an assistant coach for the University of Nebraska-Kearney for the past three seasons, replaces Val Novak.

Novak accepted a position at Omaha Westside High School as a physical education teacher and assistant volleyball coach.

Last season, the Cornhuskers were 31-1 and lost to Penn State in the NCAA Regionals at the NU Coliseum.

Despite the change in assistant coaches, Pettit said he doesn't expect much change in the program.

"The main core of the program stays the same," he said. "(Raasch) was pretty much the person we were most comfortable with."

However, Raasch said he may feel some pressure.

"I think until I get comfortable, that's expected," he said.

Raasch is a native of Wisner and played men's volleyball for Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa. He was also an assistant and head junior varsity coach at Graceland from 1990-92 before coaching at UNK.

"This is just the next step to work in

"I guess I really want to try to maintain the level of recruiting that we have. The way I see it is that I'm in it to promote the sport and make it fun."

TODD RAASCH

Assistant Volleyball Coach

Division I," Raasch said.

The biggest challenge in making this step is maintaining the quality of recruiting that Novak had established, Raasch said.

Novak helped recruit next season's incoming freshman class, which was labeled as the top recruiting class in the nation by Volleyball Magazine.

"I guess I really want to try to maintain the level of recruiting that we have," Raasch said. "The way I see it is that I'm in it to promote the sport and make it fun."

But Raasch said he realizes that recruiting isn't the only aspect of the game that he is expected to perform for the team.

"I think I'm strong as far as teaching techniques," he said. "I think I can also challenge the players on the court."

Pettit agreed. "I think he can help us in a lot of areas," he said.



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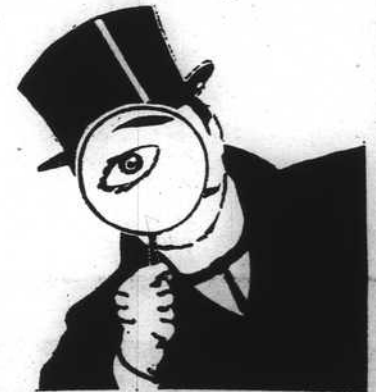
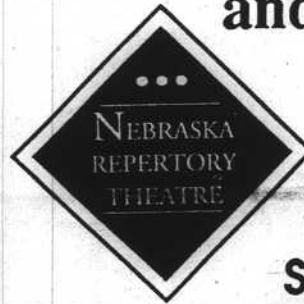
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