

Pettit pleased by his team's play in scrimmage

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Nebraska volleyball coach Terry Pettit used Saturday night's scrimmage to get a look at four Cornhuskers who didn't play much last year. And what he saw may have pleased him.

Pettit said he wanted to get a better idea of how four players—Lisa Reitsma, Jen McFadden, Kate Crnich and freshman Jaime Krondak—could play.

Last season, Reitsma saw limited time in 18 matches, McFadden started 16 matches before suffering a knee injury and Crnich saw action in 24 matches.

Krondak is a freshman from Lincoln East. Those four players helped the red team beat the white squad 15-3, 15-11, 13-15 and 15-10 in front of an estimated crowd of 1,000 at the NU Coliseum.

Pettit said everyone played well. "We had good effort, and I thought after the first game we got some competition from the other side," Pettit said. "There's obviously a lot of things we need to work on, but we've got a good group of people and this gives us something to go on."

To help give some other players some action, senior Allison Weston was held back, Pettit said.

Weston, an All-American, had only nine kills in the match. Weston had one kill through the first two games.

Pettit said that probably wasn't indicative of what could happen in the regular season.

"We were working on different things other than getting her the ball," Pettit said. "We know what Allison can do, so we were looking at some other options."

And there were many options. McFadden, returning from a knee injury that ended her season last year and back surgery in the off-season, had 13 kills and nine blocks to lead the red team.

Pettit said McFadden played well for only practicing 40 percent to 50 percent of the time.

"I wanted to see if we can get close to a match out of her tonight," Pettit said the freshmen did well playing in the Coliseum for the first time.

McFadden said it was hard to describe the feeling of returning to the court.

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JEN MCFADDEN
NU middle blocker

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McFadden said that until she could play a full match, she would have Maria Hedbeck rotate in and play in the back row for her.

"It's just a matter of getting strong again," McFadden said. "Now that school starts and two-a-days are over, I'll start hitting the weights more, and it will come back gradually."

Another player who had success was Crnich. Crnich played for both teams and recorded 17 kills in 42 total attacks.

Reitsma had 11 kills and only one hitting error.

Three Nebraska freshman also saw a lot of playing time as well.

Krondak, playing for the red team, had five kills and a match-high 14 digs for the red squad.

Renee Saunders had eight kills for the red team, and Fiona Nepo, who played for both teams, had eight assists and 13 digs.

Pettit said the freshman did well playing in the Coliseum for the first time.

"I think Krondak, Fiona and Renee all could come in on that first unit and play," he said.

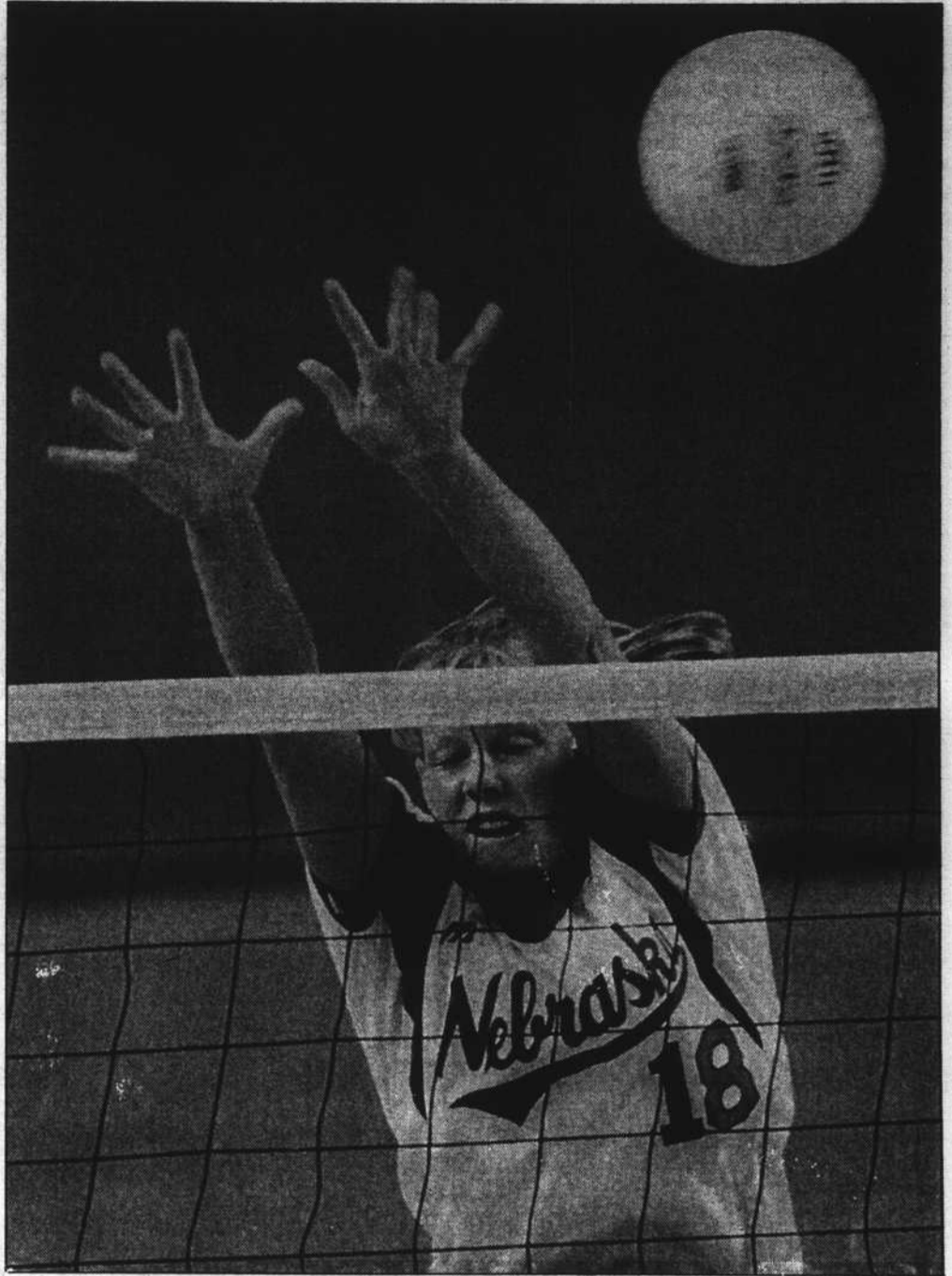
Stacie Maser had five kills in her first action as a Husker after redshirting last season.

Nebraska has one week to fine tune everything and get ready for the regular season.

The No. 2 Huskers open the season Friday, playing host to Penn State in the inaugural State Farm-NACWAA Volleyball Classic at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

NOTE:

— Senior Billie Winsett sat out Saturday's scrimmage with a pulled quadriceps muscle.



Travis Heying/DN
Allison Weston makes a block attempt during the Nebraska volleyball team's scrimmage Saturday night at the NU Coliseum.

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