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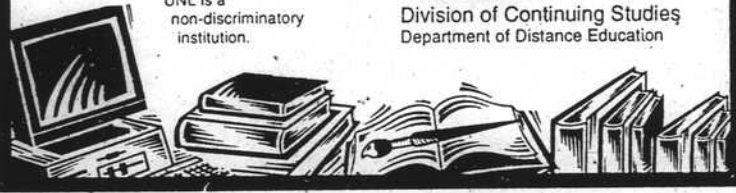
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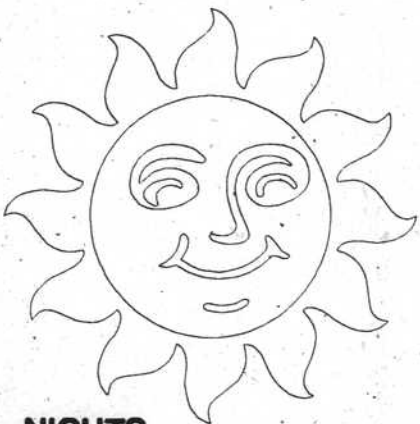


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Reitsma shows signs of stardom in loss to top-ranked Stanford

By Mitch Sherman
Senior Editor

In the Nebraska volleyball media guide, nine returning players were asked which Cornhusker would surprise people the most this season. Lisa Reitsma didn't vote for herself.

But seven of the other eight Huskers did.

Since her arrival on campus last fall, the 6-foot-4 sophomore from Sanborn, Iowa, has been consistently labeled as an "untapped talent."

Consider the tap turned on. Starting for the first time this weekend in the State Farm NACWAA Classic, Reitsma led Nebraska with 35 kills in two matches.

"Lisa Reitsma is still really a babe," Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said, "and yet she played like a dominant player. And when she knows what she is doing, she is going to be even better."

Against defending national champion Stanford, Reitsma led all players with 24 kills and a .408 hitting percentage. At times, the left-handed outside hitter dominated the match.

For much of the fourth game — in which the Huskers lost a 14-6 lead and couldn't capitalize on four game points — Reitsma was Nebraska's main offensive weapon.

"I wasn't happy with my blocking or my defense," Reitsma said after she was named to the all-tournament team. "But I've improved quite a bit. I have learned so much. When I got here, I didn't even know how to attack. I

"Lisa Reitsma is still really a babe, and yet she played like a dominant player."

TERRY PETTIT

Nebraska volleyball coach



Reitsma

couldn't set the ball right. I didn't have the right approach."

A year ago, Reitsma played sparingly until the final weeks of the season. She showed flashes of brilliance against Penn State in the final match of the year.

During spring practice, Reitsma said she began to notice significant improvement. She said she learned a great deal from Kelly Aspegren, a senior last year, who started at Reitsma's spot for the past two seasons.

Penn State coach Russ Rose was impressed with Reitsma, who participated in the U.S. Olympic Festival this summer in Denver.

"Reitsma brings an entirely different component to the game," Rose said. "Aspegren was a great player and did a lot of great things for Nebraska, but Reitsma just about shuts off the entire court."

After losing to Stanford, the Nebraska players met with Pettit, Reitsma said, and then talked among themselves. At the end of their meeting, the Huskers' huddled and chanted, "one."

"That's our statement, our goal this year is to be one," Reitsma said. "We are just one. We're just happy. There's a lot to improve on, but we'll take it."

A loss early in the season, Reitsma said, will prove beneficial. Last year, the Huskers rolled through the regular season without being challenged. They

were 31-0 and had never been taken past the fourth game of a match until losing to Penn State in the Midwest Regional final.

"It (the easy schedule) hurt a lot," Reitsma said. "If you play people like this all year, you are going to be ready for them at the end of the year. Last year, I don't think we were ready at all."

Despite losing to the Cardinal, Reitsma said she saw plenty of positives this weekend. The Huskers committed 17 service errors against Stanford, a statistic that will stand out in the minds of all the players all season. Many of the service errors, she said, came at crucial times in the match.

"If you are on a roll it just completely takes you out of your game," Reitsma said. "You can always come back, but it just takes a lot out of you."

Reitsma said she was impressed with the play of Stanford, which was without its top player, Kristin Folkl. But she said the Cardinal were playing much nearer to their potential at this point in the season than Nebraska.

Stanford's depth was a decisive factor, she said. Twelve Cardinal players saw action in two games or more. Only one of Nebraska's three true freshmen played more than one game.

Once the Husker freshmen mature, Reitsma said, Nebraska will be much closer to Stanford's level.

If Nebraska meets Stanford again, she said, the Huskers will know what to expect.

"This loss obviously doesn't bother me nearly as much as losing to Penn State last year," she said. "This is a great time to lose. It shows us exactly what we have to do to win. It's almost like you take this loss, and it's a great experience. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. I loved it. It was so much fun."

Long friendship figures into hiring of new NU assistant track coach

By Mike Kluck
Staff Reporter

A friendship that began 25 years ago has helped Nebraska find a new assistant track coach.

Nebraska track coach Gary Pepin announced the hiring of former Texas assistant Billy Maxwell as Nebraska's sprint, hurdles and sprint relay coach Thursday.

Maxwell began his college coaching career in 1970 at Tennessee, where he was the sprint and hurdles coach and also served as meet director of the Dogwood Relays and Tom Black Track Classic.

Maxwell said that while coaching at Tennessee he met Pepin, who was an assistant at Kansas, and the two started a friendship.

"Gary and I are pretty good friends," Maxwell said. "I have always respected Gary, particularly his work at the University of Nebraska."

Pepin said that although he felt that up until the last couple of months, he didn't know Maxwell very well, he had always respected his work as a track coach.

Pepin said Maxwell's hiring would

bring many added benefits to the Husker program.

"I don't know anybody who works any harder," Pepin said. "We are very pleased Billy Maxwell decided to join our staff. He is recognized throughout the track and field community as one of the premier sprint coaches and recruiters in the country. He will bring a wealth of insight that will do nothing but benefit our program."

Some of Maxwell's success includes coaching Willie Gault while at Tennessee. Gault went on to become an Olympic gold medalist and a standout in the National Football League.

Maxwell also coached more than 100 NCAA All-Americans and 19 NCAA champions in his 13 years at Tennessee.

Maxwell then led the men's and women's track and field programs at Louisiana State from 1983 to 1986.

At LSU, Maxwell transformed the Tigers into a national power. He led LSU's women's team to a 1985 NCAA runner-up finish and coached four NCAA champions and dozens of NCAA All-Americans.

The past three seasons Maxwell

has been an assistant sprints and jump coach at the University of Texas.

Pepin said he had the most applications ever for the coaching position, but said Maxwell was the most qualified coach the Huskers could have hired.

Pepin said besides Maxwell's coaching abilities, he was also looking forward to Maxwell's recruiting.

"We felt like over the years he has done a great job of recruiting," Pepin said. "He is one of the best recruiters in the country. There were many times over the years when we were recruiting some of the same people, and they decided to go with him instead of us."

Although Maxwell has been a head coach before, he said he had no desire at this time to be a head coach again. He said he had only one objective on his mind.

"I'm excited and I want to get up there and get started," Maxwell said. "My goal is to get up there and win the Big Eight Men's and Women's Track Championship."

Maxwell replaces Steve Rainbolt, who left the Huskers in August to take the men's and women's coaching position at Kent State.

Cornhusker soccer team earns a scoreless tie with No. 17 Vanderbilt in exhibition

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska soccer team finished its exhibition season Sunday with a scoreless tie against Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn.

The Commodores were ranked 17th in Soccer America's preseason NCAA Division I poll.

The Cornhuskers, in just their second year of competition, faced the Commodores, who last year competed in the NCAA Tournament and finished the season ranked 19th.

Nebraska coach John Walker said he was pleased with the way his team

performed against Vanderbilt.

"We turned in a good performance," Walker said. "It was a good even game, and we played everybody."

Walker said the Huskers dominated the first half of play and were able to withstand Vanderbilt's attacks on goal. He said he was pleased with the Huskers' ability to hold possession of the ball.

Walker said the exhibition contest would be a good learning experience for his young team.

"It's nice for our players to know that we can compete with the No. 17 team in the nation," Walker said.

Walker said freshman defender Heather Brown of Cobourg, Ontario, played well against the Commodores. Brown, who did not play against Queen's because of a clearinghouse problem with the NCAA, is expected to start at defender for the Huskers. Brown played on the Ontario provincial team from 1992 to 1995 and won a gold medal in 1995 when her team captured the Canadian national championship.

The Huskers open their regular season at the Ethel S. Abbott Soccer Park Complex against Creighton University Sunday, Sept. 3, at 7 p.m.