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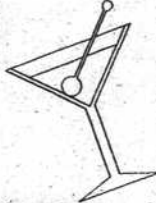
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## Record punts reap Kosch AT&T award

From Staff Reports

Nebraska punter Jesse Kosch won the AT&T Long Distance "punt" award with a 61-yard average on two kicks Saturday in the Cornhuskers' 77-28 win over Arizona State.

Kosch had punts of 74 yards and 48 yards for his average. The 74-yard punt was the longest of the sophomore's career. In three games, he has punted just six times and boasts a 47.2 average. Kosch would rank second in the Big Eight, but he doesn't have enough attempts to qualify.

Kosch has helped Nebraska lead the nation in net punting, with an average of 47.8 yards an attempt. In honor of the accomplishment, AT&T has donated \$400 to the NCAA's Degree-Completion Award Program.

## Abdullah

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"Offensively, we want to get our whole scheme set and have a balanced game," he said.

That may be easier said than done because the Husker defense dominated Pacific last year, holding Abdullah to 20 yards on nine carries.

"They're such a complete team at every position," he said. "The main thing is for us to execute. We can't control Nebraska, only ourselves."

Abdullah played for two years at San Diego State before transferring to Pacific, which is located in his hometown of Stockton, Calif.

Playing in Stockton has been a good experience for Abdullah, but he

said that he would like to see more enthusiasm from the hometown fans.

"Football is a spiritual game," he said. "It would be great to have more support."

And Abdullah said Nebraska's support was phenomenal.

"Nebraska is the best place in the country to play as far as the fans are," he said.

Growing up watching Pacific struggle has given Abdullah the incentive to prove something to his hometown.

Abdullah said he would love to leave Pacific with a Big West championship and a trip to the Las Vegas Bowl.

"We haven't really done anything in the past 20 years," he said. "It would be great to go to the bowl and prove something to Stockton."

## Denny

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not that big of a deal to put up 77 points. They've done it to a lot of teams.

"People were writing a lot of stuff about how we just play Nebraska for the money and that we were just going to get killed. Well, I didn't hear any of that about Arizona State and look what happened to them. There is a lot more that we get from this game than just money."

An All-Big West Conference candidate, Denny totaled 69 tackles last season. He is averaging six tackles a game this season.

Denny, who missed his first game last week when an injured knee kept him out of the loss to Fresno State, said there were plenty of benefits from playing Nebraska that the Tigers could take into their Big West schedule.

"Most teams don't get the chance to play a top five team every year," he

said. "It can really benefit us down the road. We get to measure ourselves against the best players in the country. You can't beat that kind of opportunity and that kind of experience."

"It's pretty much us against the world when we walk in there. It's a lot of fun. Not everyone gets the opportunity to play on a team like Nebraska's home field. It will be a great experience — as long as we can improve and play a whole lot better than we have been."

The 6-foot-1, 225-pound senior said the Tigers were more interested in recovering from a slow start than in trying to match Nebraska.

"If everybody does their job, then good things will happen," he said. "We're more concerned with improving than we are the score. Defensively, we want to slow down their running game better than anyone has to this point. The key to us keeping it any kind of game is our defense slowing their run down. But that won't be easy."

## Crnich

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and I like to watch her play," Crnich said.

Defensively, Crnich said she was satisfied with the way she was playing this fall. The junior from River Forest, Ill., leads the top-ranked Huskers in digs, averaging 3.4 a game.

Offensively, however, she said she still had plenty of room for improvement: Crnich, who has started eight of nine matches this season for the 8-1 Cornhuskers, has registered 42 kills, fourth on the team behind Allison Weston, Lisa Reitsma and Winsett.

"This past year," Crnich said, "I think my defense has gotten a lot better. Right now, I'm really not happy with my hitting. That's something I have got to work on more. It's gotten better, but it needs to be a lot better."

As a freshman, Crnich played in

only 19 matches and 27 games, totaling 10 kills and 21 digs. A year ago, she played in 24 of 32 matches, and had a career-high 16 digs in a four-game win over Iowa State on Oct. 22.

When she arrived in Lincoln, Husker coach Terry Pettit said Crnich was something of a raw talent. But long hours of work on the practice court have paid off, he said.

"Kate is one of those people that if she gets thousands and thousands of repetitions, she becomes very good at something," Pettit said.

"Her vision is good. Her arm swing is good. But almost everything else is learned. She has really made herself into a very good volleyball player."

Crnich said Pettit's assessment was accurate.

"I've come a long way since I was a freshman," Crnich said. "Just doing things over and over has helped me in practice. I don't think there is a practice that goes by that I don't work on my arm and my hitting."

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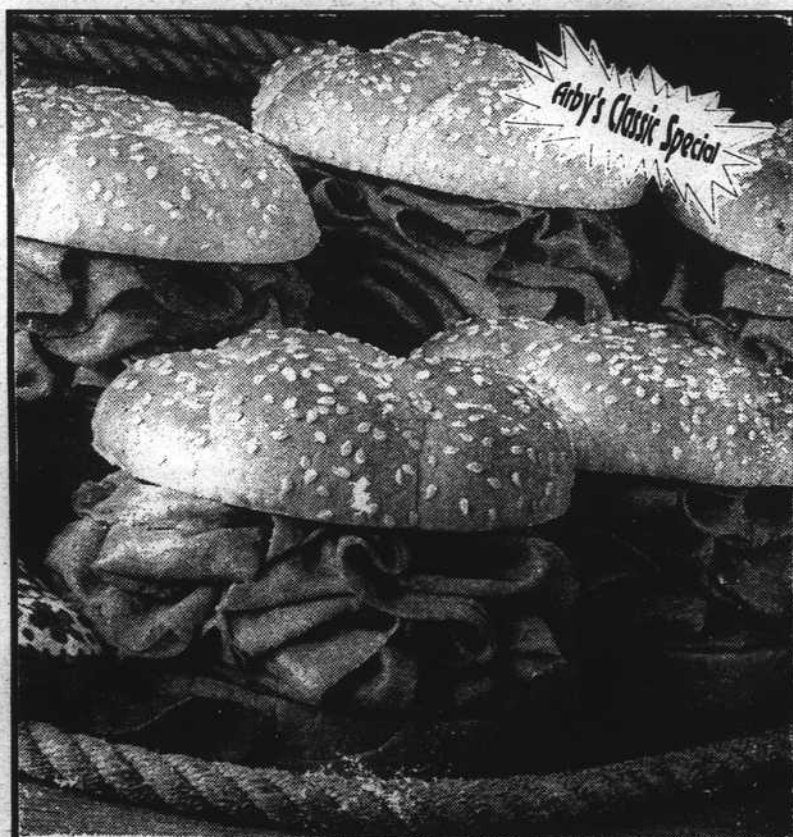
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