

# Pressure on for Arby's Classic

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team will get a crack at two totally different opponents in this weekend's Arby's Classic.

The No. 1 Cornhuskers play host to 1-11 Baylor Friday night at 7:30 and 9-3 George Washington Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the NU Coliseum.

Husker coach Terry Pettit said Baylor, whose lone win was against Stephen F. Austin, was a team that had struggled this season, and the Colonials were a team with a big weapon.

That weapon is Svetlana Vtyurina. Last year in Nebraska's 3-0 win over George Washington in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, Vtyurina set an NCAA Tournament record with 48 kills.

Nebraska defeated the Colonials 17-15, 15-9 and 15-8 last year.

George Washington coach Susie Homan said after playing in the Coliseum last year, her team may not be as intimidated as they were on their

first trip.

"Last year's match was certainly a different situation, being there in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, but we try to take the same attitude into every match," Homan said. "We try to fight, and we try to win a match no matter what the circumstances are."

This match will help her team, Homan said, but she knows Nebraska is a hungry team.

"That was a great experience for our team," Homan said. "I know they had a disappointing finish last year, and from everything I have seen, they are a team on a mission."

Pettit said even with Vtyurina, who averages more than 7.3 kills a game, the Huskers would have chances to score.

"Fortunately she is not always in the front line, and there is some potential to run some points when she is in the back row," Pettit said. "When we played George Washington last fall, I think we wore them down."

Pettit said 6-foot-4 Lisa Reitsma would be matched up against Vtyurina

for most of the match.

The Huskers should see the return of middle blocker Jen McFadden. McFadden didn't practice last week or play in the Wyoming Invitational, but Pettit said she should see playing time this weekend.

Pettit said he was proud that McFadden could return to the team after having knee and back surgery last year.

"I think the fact that she missed the last seven or eight days was the fact that we were too aggressive," Pettit said. "We're just going to be very cautious so that in late October early November she will be a major part of our plan."

Homan said Nebraska would keep the pressure on the Colonials even if McFadden, who didn't play against George Washington last year, was out of the lineup.

"All of their players are a year older and more mature," Homan said. "They are a very balanced hard-working team, and when you play them, there is not a second when you can relax."

## Vtyurina wants team to get exposure

By Trevor Parks  
Senior Reporter

Svetlana Vtyurina is looking at this weekend's Arby's Classic as a great volleyball holiday.

No, she doesn't think playing No. 1 Nebraska will be a vacation. She said it would be a great chance for the George Washington volleyball team to get noticed around the country.

Last season, the Colonials did get noticed after playing Nebraska. The senior outside hitter had an amazing game against the Cornhuskers in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

The native of Moscow, Russia, set an NCAA Tournament record with 48 kills in the match. The Cornhuskers eventually won the match 17-15, 15-9, 15-8, but in the first game, the Colonials had a game point at 15-14.

Vtyurina said the match against Nebraska was incredible.

"That was one of the most excit-

ing matches of my career," Vtyurina said. "I love the crowd there because they are a positive volleyball crowd, and I'm hoping this will be another great match."

But the 9-3 Colonials are a different team from last year's team that finished 32-4, Vtyurina said. Seven newcomers have been trying to fill the void left by the loss of three senior starters.

Vtyurina said the freshmen had learned quickly and with a young team, Vtyurina has had to become more of a leader.

"The freshmen might be a little bit hyper, and they could be a little scared," Vtyurina said. "Our team is different from last year because we're younger, but that brings us some different qualities."

"My leadership comes from being a senior and not by choice. I think it's been good for me to be the leader for the young players."

As for changes, Vtyurina said she

spent the summer getting into better shape, which already has shown on the court.

George Washington coach Susie Homan said she had noticed a difference in Vtyurina's play.

"She is in better physical condition than she was a year ago, and like any senior, she is a year wiser and a year more mature," Homan said.

Vtyurina set an NCAA record for kills in a match on Sept. 14 with a 56-kill effort against Georgetown and is only 406 kills shy of breaking the NCAA career kill record. After 12 matches this season, she has 331 kills

Vtyurina said she was not the Colonials' only offensive weapon, though.

"I can't say we are one-dimensional, but when we get into tough situations, the ball will be set to me," Vtyurina said. "I figure if a team has a player like me why not use them?"

## Pacific

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ning the score up.

"Last year, Coach Osborne took us out after the first couple series, and was able to get the second, third and fourth teams in there when the game was relatively close, and it was a game-like situation."

Pacific enters the contest 1-2, losing to Fresno State 56-24 last week. Its one win was a 23-10 victory over Oregon State.

Osborne said defeating Pacific was Nebraska's first priority, with improvement following close behind.

## Smith

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lost. He led the National Football League in sacks from 1992-94 with 41.

Smith said it was difficult at first for him to get used to playing with and against NFL players, but now he's the one that the younger players look at. From 1993 to 1995, Smith played with future Hall-of-Famer Joe Montana and is now playing with Marcus Allen.

"In my first game I played, it was against Dallas, and my first tackle was against Tony Dorsett," Smith said. "It didn't affect me about who he was until I got up and realized I just tackled Dorsett."

But over the years Smith has developed into a Hall-of-Fame candidate himself. The four-time Pro-Bowl player has 12 tackles this season while leading the Chiefs to a 3-0 record and the AFC West lead.

Smith said he didn't know how many years he would play for the Chiefs, but he wanted to accomplish one more goal with them. He wants to win a championship.


Smith never won a national championship with the Huskers, so Smith's envy would end with a Super Bowl ring.

"I guess my main concern is that they practice hard and improve some this week, and not decide to put things in neutral," he said.

NOTE:

— Osborne announced Thursday that Damon Benning would start at I-back against Pacific. Benning missed the last two games with a pulled hamstring.

Defensive tackle Larry Townsend and I-back Clinton Childs won't play Saturday, Osborne said. Childs, who rushed for 143 yards a week ago, will not play because of a strained knee he suffered in the game.



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