

Huskers defeat OU despite poor stats

By Trevor Parks
Senior Reporter

Forgive the Nebraska volleyball team for being a little upset after sweeping Oklahoma Saturday night.

The top-ranked Cornhuskers, 12-1 and 2-0 in the Big Eight, defeated Oklahoma 15-9, 15-2, 15-2 in front of a season-high crowd of 4,239 people at the NU Coliseum, but Nebraska still knows there is a lot of room for improvement.

Senior Billie Winsett, who had 10 kills, said she was disappointed the team didn't dominate the Sooners as they should have.

"If we made all the adjustments that we made from the Colorado match, we should have won 15-0 all three games," Winsett said. "If we control our side of the net and execute like we know that we can, teams shouldn't touch us in the Big Eight."

That was the case most of Saturday night against Oklahoma, which fell to 11-5.

In the first game, Nebraska jumped out to a 12-0 lead. The Huskers scored four points to start out the game, with two of those coming on kills by Winsett.

Nebraska went on another run in the first game, scoring five straight points with Kate Crnich serving.

Sooner coach Miles Pabst said when his team came to the sidelines, trailing 7-0, he saw fear in his players' eyes.

Trailing 12-0, Oklahoma rallied to score nine of the next 10 points, pulling to within four points at 13-9. Nebraska held on and won the game when Allison Weston blocked a Patrice

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TERRY PETTIT
NU volleyball coach

Arrington hit. Weston led Nebraska with a match-high 17 kills.

Pettit said the Huskers played well, except for the stretch where the Sooners outscored Nebraska 9-3 at the end of the first game.

"We have the ability to go out and not play well and win," Pettit said. "The challenge for the team is not just winning. But when you beat teams fairly handily, you have to take every opportunity to try to get better."

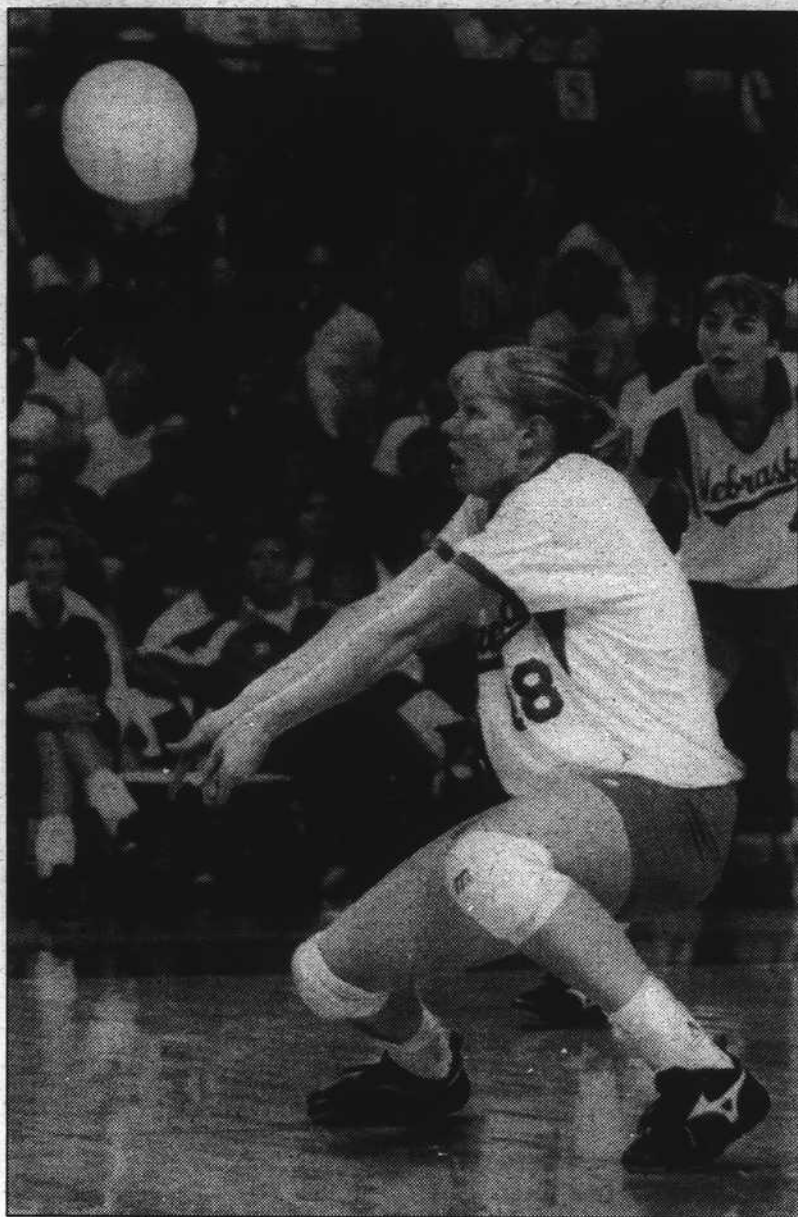
Statistically, the Huskers may have much to improve.

Nebraska had a hitting percentage of .267, the Huskers' second lowest percentage of the season. The .267 percentage was well below the season average of .351. The lowest was a .219 performance against Stanford.

Redshirt freshman Stacie Maser struggled, hitting -.143. Crnich had only three kills on 11 total attacks for a percentage of .091. The Huskers had nine service errors after coming off a match at Colorado when they had three.

The Huskers weren't the only ones with hitting problems. Oklahoma had a hitting percentage of -.009, making 30 errors and having only 29 kills.

But in the second game and third games, Pettit said Nebraska did show improvement. The Huskers rolled, winning both games by the score of 15-2.



Scott Bruhn/DN

Nebraska's Allison Weston prepares to dig a ball in the Huskers' three-game sweep of Oklahoma Saturday night. Weston had a match-high 17 kills.

SPORTS OPINION



Mitch Sherman Green earning his place as football hero

The state of Nebraska found a new hero Saturday.

He stands 5 feet 11 1/2 inches tall. Weighs about 208 pounds. 18 years old. Plays I-back for the football team.

The red masses of Memorial Stadium first saw Ahman Green two weeks ago against Arizona State. Saturday against Washington State, they embraced him.

When the true freshman from Omaha Central High School, who ran for a career high 176 yards, took a handoff from Brook Berringer near the end of the fourth quarter and dragged the entire Washington State defense 12 yards for a first down, the crowd sounded its approval.

On the next play, when Green took a hard helmet in the shoulder and laid on the turf near the Cougar sidelines, 75,000 Husker fans held their breath.

But in a few seconds, Green — who earlier in the game suffered a slight concussion — was on his feet. And this time, he signalled his approval and thanks to the crowd, pumping his fist in the air, announcing that he was OK.

In many ways, Green was better than OK on Saturday.

"Ahman showed a lot today," Nebraska coach Tom Osborne said. "He's got that step. Three or four weeks ago, he couldn't have done this."

Cornhusker coaches have known for a while that Green was going to be special. When he was a junior in high school, Green attended Nebraska football camp. He ran the 40-yard dash in 4.36 seconds, a time that would rank as the third fastest in Husker history.

When he tested on Aug. 4, Green didn't do quite as well. He ran a 4.47. His vertical jump was only 38.5 inches, at the time the best ever by a Nebraska I-back. His 10-yard dash was 1.49 seconds, the fourth-fastest time ever.

Even more impressive was Green's performance index, which calculates a player's times and scores based on a formula that takes into account his weight. Green's index, 2,997 points, was the second-best score ever recorded by a Nebraska football player.

Let's remember, this guy is only a freshman. What is he going to do to defenses in a couple of years? Washington State coach Mike Price doesn't want to know.

"I had a couple of friends from Nebraska," Price said, "and they said, 'Hey, you don't want that guy playing.' He is really going to be something."

Through five games, none of which Green has started, he has run for 525 yards and seven touchdowns.

Against Washington State, he ran for more yards on three first-half carries than most teams gain against the Cougars. Also on Saturday, Green, who is averaging more than 10 yards a carry, passed Lawrence Phillips on the freshman rushing charts.

Another 63 yards and he will be No. 2 on the freshman rushing charts. Calvin Jones, also a former Central Eagle, holds the all-time record with 900 yards in 1991.

"I am in college football," Green said, "getting the big hits, the big runs. It feels great."

It's not too bad to watch either. Sherman is a junior news-editorial major and the Daily Nebraskan assistant sports editor.

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Cross country places at invite

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's cross country team finished eighth and the men's team finished 14th at the Minnesota Invitational at Minneapolis Saturday.

The top finishers for the women were freshmen Gina Ivory and Heather McMahon. Ivory finished 38th with a time of 18 minutes, 27 seconds, while McMahon placed right behind her in 39th place with a score of 18:28.

Brady Bronsall, the captain of the men's team, finished in fifth place with a time of 24:59 to lead the Husker men.

Wall leads team in Albuquerque

From Staff Reports

The Nebraska women's golf team shot a final round 311 to finish in 11th place at the Dick McGuire Invitational in Albuquerque, N.M.

Leading the Huskers was senior Heidi Wall, who finished in a tie for 32nd place. Sophomore Rachelle Tacha finished right behind Wall in a tie for 34th place.

Senior Michelle Patterson finished in a tie for 51st, junior Maureen Regan finished in a tie for 60th, and senior Molly Mullin finished in a tie for 66th.

The 18-team tournament field featured the top 12 teams in the nation, with UCLA winning the team title by four strokes over Texas. The individual champion was Amandine Vincent, also from UCLA, who won with a score of 142 over three rounds.

Nebraska's next competition will be at the Diet Coke Invitational at Las Cruces, N.M. The first round of the three-day tournament is Sunday.

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