

SPORTS

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Page 9

Volleyball team rolls over Irish

By Trevor Parks

Senior Reporter

The Nebraska volleyball team is through two-thirds of a schedule that has it playing three ranked teams in eight days, but the Cornhuskers look like they haven't even been challenged.

After disposing of No. 6 Texas Saturday, the Huskers moved on to defeat No. 13 Notre Dame 15-1, 15-11, 15-6 in front of 3,235 fans at the NU Coliseum Tuesday night. In doing so, Nebraska improved to 22-1 and ran their winning streak to 21 matches and straight-game streak to 63.



Nebraska's sweep of the Fighting Irish was the first time Notre Dame lost in three games all season. The 18 points scored by the Irish were also a season low.

The previous low was 31 points at Stanford.

Coach Terry Pettit said Nebraska played at a high level for about a game and a half but struggled at times.

"In some of those plays, we had the opportunity to run some points but we didn't," Pettit said. "Notre Dame's good, and I think at this point we're better."

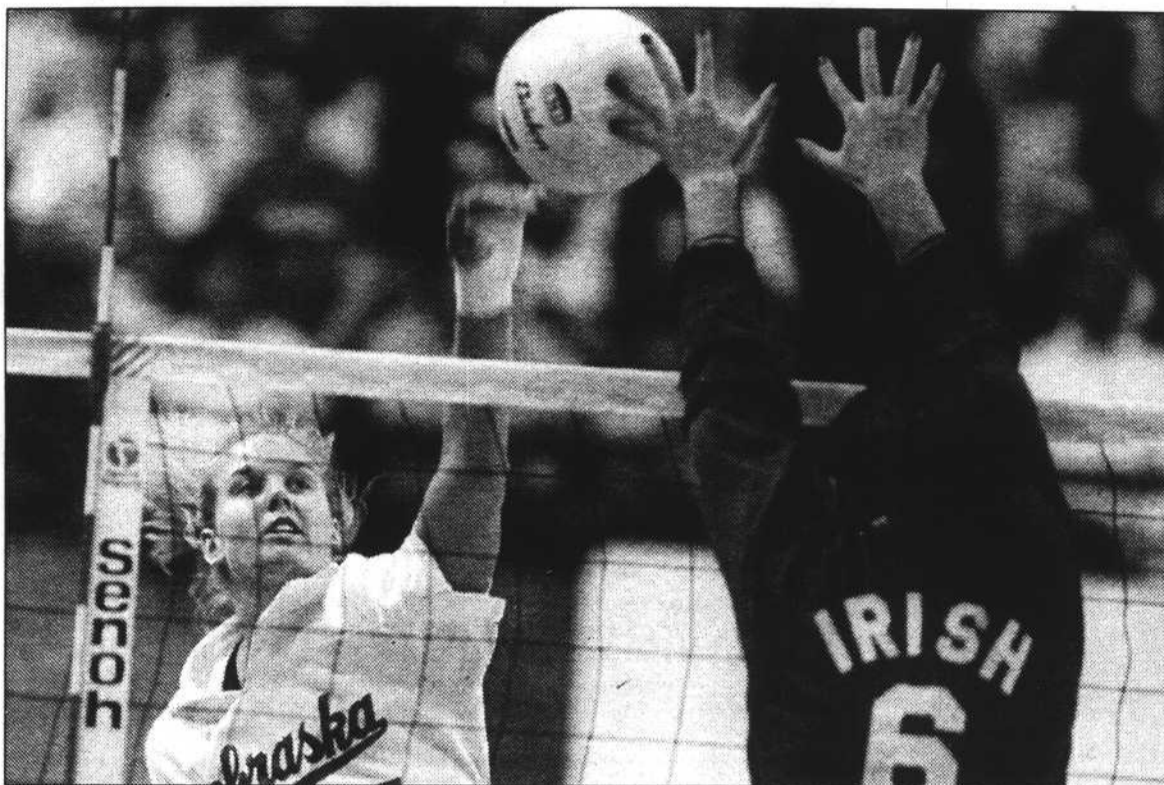
Nebraska jumped out quickly in the first game. After the Irish pulled within 2-1, the Huskers had to work to score the final 13 points of the game. Eight of Nebraska's points in the game came as a result of Notre Dame errors.

With the score 14-1, the Irish held off six game points before a Billie Winsett kill ended the game. Nebraska had a hitting percentage of .489 in the first game.

Notre Dame led for most of the second game before Nebraska rallied with the score 11-8. Christy Johnson brought the score to 11-9 with a service ace.

A Kate Crnich kill made the game 11-10. Then Lisa Reitsma took over. Reitsma, who had a match-high 21 kills and had a hitting percentage .457, knocked down three consecutive kills to give Nebraska a 13-11 lead. A Lindsay Treadwell shot went

See VOLLEYBALL on 10



Nebraska's Lisa Reitsma blasts the ball past Notre Dame's Angie Harris. Reitsma had a match-high 21 kills against the Fighting Irish.

Jon Waller/DN

McFadden fights pain to make impact

Junior blocker returning to form after surgeries

By Mitch Sherman

Senior Editor

Jen McFadden's eight kills, three digs and four block assists Tuesday night are not going to earn her any All-American honors this season.

And the 6-foot-2 middle blocker's numbers this season pale in comparison to her statistics as a freshman in 1993, when she was named the Big Eight newcomer of the year.

But McFadden isn't discouraged. In fact, she is pleased with her progress.

After establishing herself as a force in the middle of the Cornhusker front row for a year and a half, the junior from

Dubuque, Iowa, tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her right knee last Oct. 25 in a match against Illinois.

She had surgery in November, and for the next four months her rehabilitation was hampered by a lingering back injury. In March, McFadden went under the knife again, this time to repair nerve damage in her back.

She has spent much of this fall on the bench. During Tuesday night's sweep of Notre Dame, she played in the back row for the second time this season.

"I think Coach Pettit is displaying a lot more confidence in me by leaving me out there in the backcourt," McFadden said. "That boosted my confidence."

As McFadden's knee gets stronger, her presence on the court bolsters Nebraska's front line, Pettit said.

"When Jen is on the court with Ali (Weston) and Lisa (Reitsma),

we have three power players," Pettit said. "That makes a big difference."

McFadden, who hit .375 Tuesday night, has played in only 16 matches and 41 games this year. The past two or three matches, however, have been her best of the season, she said.

"It hurts, but I can get through it now," McFadden said. "I came to the realization that it is either all go or no go. If it is going to happen again, it's going to happen again."

Pettit said he hoped to use McFadden even more as the Huskers prepared for 27-0 Florida on Sunday and the NCAA Tournament next month.

McFadden said she would be ready.

"Honestly, when you are out on the court," she said, "you are so focused and so intense that you really don't feel it. Afterwards, it hurts."

Exhibition win boosts Huskers

By Gregg Madsen

Staff Reporter

Aggressive defense and a balanced offensive effort sparked by hot 3-point shooting led the Nebraska women's basketball team to an impressive exhibition win over Athletes in Action Tuesday night at the Bob Devaney Sports Center.

Senior Kate Galligan nailed four free throws in the last 14 seconds of the game to ice

the 67-60 win.

The victory will not count, but sophomore co-captain Anna DeForge said it was important nonetheless.

"By winning, I think we started off really well," she said. "We're trying to get past last year, by winning this game against a lot of former All-Americans, this is really a big confidence booster for all of us. This will bring us up to another level at practice."

Husker coach Angela Beck also was pleased with her team's effort, but said her team still had plenty to im-

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ANNA DEFORGE

Husker co-captain

prove on before opening regular-season play against Gonzaga in the Lincoln Cable Vision Classic on Nov. 24.

"They ran a little bit of a zone defense against us, and we weren't really prepared for that," Beck said. "They also pressured us quite a bit, and I thought we did a decent job. The first half we played pretty good, but unfortunately we struggled the second half, and I hope that's not indicative of fact that we're not going to be able to play a full 40 minutes every night."

The Husker outside shooters benefited from the attention that 6-foot-4

senior center Pyra Aarden received in the paint. With former Vanderbilt All-American Heidi Gillingham dominating the middle all night long for Athletes in Action, DeForge and the rest of the Husker backcourt players were left open to shoot the outside shots.

"What happened was, they weren't respecting us," DeForge said. "They were all concentrating on Pyra, so when we got it into Pyra, she just kicked it out and we shot away."

The Huskers shot just over 50 percent from behind the 3-point arc. Senior guards Lis Brenden and Galligan both had two 3-pointers, and DeForge and sophomore Jami Kubik each had one.

"Luckily we were hitting right now, but actually we are looking for Pyra a lot more this year," DeForge said. "Pyra's going to be our force. We want the post game before we want the outside shooting."

DeForge, the Huskers' top returning scorer, led the way for the Huskers with 19 points and 10 rebounds. Kubik tossed in 13, and Galligan and Brenden each had 12. Aarden was limited to six points.

Nee says talented team ready to launch season

By Mitch Sherman

Senior Editor

Of the six new players on the Nebraska basketball team this fall, two may never know what it's like to come off the bench as a reserve.

When the Cornhuskers open exhibition play against Spalding America at 7:30 tonight at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, true freshman point guard

Tyrone Lue and junior power forward Bernard Garner are scheduled to start.

Lue, a 6-foot, 165-pounder from Mexico, Mo., has shown

more than enough court leadership and quickness in three weeks of practice to earn a starting spot,

QB Frazier braces up for Kansas

By Trevor Parks

Senior Reporter

The last time quarterback Tommie Frazier led Nebraska into Lawrence, Kan., the Cornhuskers barely escaped with a win.

After that experience, Frazier said No. 1 Nebraska wouldn't take the No. 10 Jayhawks for granted as they did two years ago.

"We went down there with the attitude that we were going to blow them out and we didn't," Frazier said. "They made us play the whole 60 minutes. I think we took them a little lightly the last time we played down there, and I don't think that's going to be the case this year."

The Huskers escaped that day with a 21-0 win after the Nebraska defense stopped Kansas on a two-point conversion attempt with 52 seconds remaining in the game. The Huskers were undefeated, and a loss against the Jayhawks would have prevented Nebraska from playing Florida State for the national championship. This year, the same scenario could happen.

In the 1993 game, the Jayhawks were trying to play spoiler for the Huskers, but Saturday, 8-1 Kansas could tie Nebraska for first place in the Big Eight with a victory.

Frazier said the Jayhawks had been focused on winning all season.

"They don't have any big-name players, but the guys they do have go out there and work together," Frazier said. "That's all any coach can ask for on a team like that because all players are working on the same cylinder."

But Nebraska also is hitting on all cylinders. The Nebraska offense is averaging 593 yards a game and 55.3 points a game. The Kansas defense is allowing 391 total yards a game and 179 yards rushing a contest.

Since last week Frazier has battled soreness in the same leg he suffered blood clots in a year ago, and he said the doctors told him his pain wasn't related to his blood clot problem. Frazier said he should be 100 percent for Saturday.

Frazier said this team knew what needed to be done to make it to the Fiesta Bowl to get another shot at a national title.

"We know that we have two games left in order to reach our destination," Frazier said, "but we still have to go out there and stay focused on Kansas."

Husker coach Danny Nee said.

"For a freshman, he has come along really well," Nee said. "He is a good player, somebody who can make us better from the first time he steps up the court."

Lue will be flanked in the frontcourt by senior Jaron Boone, who at times last season was forced to handle the point guard spot in relief of Tom Wald. Senior Erick Strickland also will start, along with senior center Chris Sallee.

Junior Mikki Moore will miss at least tonight's game because of an unspecified disciplinary reason, Nee said.

"I don't expect us to be in February form," Nee said. "It's going to take some time for this group to mesh together. This is the first step."

Nebraska will play host to Team Pella on Nov. 16 before opening

See HOOPS on 10

